



# The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church, 27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908  
*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ  
where everyone is welcome*

## NEW BEGINNINGS



Photo credit Maddie McGarvey for The Lily

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with much joy and excitement that I write this my first pastor's note for the Pulpit Rock! Shortly after this newsletter goes out, we will share our first Sunday worship together on February 12th as we begin ministry together in the dynamic Nahant Village Church on the spectacular peninsula of Nahant. I am joyful and excited for a number of reasons. One is because this note being drafted and published means we are almost together in what has paradoxically seemed like both a long wait and a quick happening. Nancy and I visited and met with you way back in mid-October when autumn was just getting underway and front yards in Nahant had only just sprouted Halloween decor. Since then, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Years and MLK holidays have all rolled on by -- and yet it's barely been three-and-half months. During that time Nancy and I have scurried to put our house on the market, sell it, pack and move, wrap up the Ohio ministry and say good-bye to a good church full of good people doing good work in Ohio.

I am also joyful and excited because not only does being in Nahant bring us closer to our daughter Tristan in Vermont, it brings us back near the ocean with a progressive church, a church that after many conversations with the search team, the conference

and many of you I am convinced is also a good church full of good people doing good work in Nahant with God by your side. We gave careful and prayerful consideration to all of the above as we discerned God calling us to Nahant Village Church -and has done so beyond a reasonable doubt!

Once we arrive, I will want to hear from all of you about the church and ideas you have for the future. As it is right now, I have discerned five important things that I hope we can start right away--with lots of support. First, from what I am told, we need a new set of bylaws for the 21st century. I agree that new bylaws are needed right away for the church to accomplish the many things I've heard NVC hopes to do, Bylaws are a must, I understand there has been a lot of headway already with the Bylaws Team and I look forward to working with them and the rest of you to complete the task in the weeks ahead.

I also learned that there is interest in creating a summer peace camp for the local children, I have past experience in that regard, but it can only be done with lots of help from volunteers willing to serve as directors, teachers, snack providers and adult supervisors along with teen and college age counselors. The program I am familiar with and highly recommend is an interfaith community peace camp called Peace Village. (You can find out more about Peace Village at this link: <http://peacevillageglobal.org/> )

After Ash Wednesday I also hope to start offering opportunities for local discussion of progressive theology with classes held on a weeknight at the church.

## **FEBRUARY 2023** **Scripture Readings**

### **Feb. 5 Worship/Communion**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Matt 5:13-20/1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)

*Theme: Restoring Beauty*

### **Feb. 12 - Worship**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Pastor Scott's first Sunday**

Matt 5:21-37/1 Cor 3:1-9

*Theme: From the Heart*

### **Feb. 19 -Worship**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Matt 17:1-9/2 Peter 1:16-21

*Theme: Dazzling Reign*

### **Feb. 26 - Worship**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Matt 4:1-11/Ps 32

*Theme: Abundant Grace*

## **Calendar**

### **Nahant Community Breakfast**

Friday, Feb. 3 , at 8 a.m.

### **Caregivers "Connections**

Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m.

Support for caregivers of people living with memory loss.

### **Free Spaghetti Dinner**

Friday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

### **Bible Study (via Zoom)**

Tuesdays at 10-11 a.m.

*See the insert for Zoom meetings  
and contact information*

I plan to start with a six weeklong Lenten class that discusses the remarkable book *The Last Week* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg (see details on page 3). After Easter my thought is to continue the progressive theology outreach by mixing it with justice work holding a late spring six-week discussion on racism using the book *America's Original Sin* by Evangelical pastor Jim Wallis. These outreach projects are already in the works, however, I would like your thoughts on them and especially on a summer long weekly talks about God where we just meet to discuss questions and ideas about God (this includes religion, church, Jesus, the Bible, etc. etc.). I have led discussions on both books and Talks About God (TAG) in the past and have found them to be well attended and appreciated. Early on in my discussions with the Pastoral Search Committee I understood that the first church services that grew into NVC were first held in the summer of 1821. Since we are just now coming out of the pandemic it seems 2023 is a good time to pick up the ball and celebrate 200 years of church in Nahant. We can include the peace camp and classes noted above as a part of the celebration, but I am hoping we can form a committee of people interested in local church history to also highlight NVC history in The Pulpit Rock, in Sunday bulletins, and maybe even with short 200-year anniversary moments on Sundays and a community event or two.

Finally, I have heard that community theatre has been a part of Nahant's history. I have been involved in theatre ministries for decades and would love to discuss the idea of starting one in the next year or so at NVC. I have a background that includes full scale work on dramas, musicals, and Shakespeare so this is a ministry we could do serious work with if enough people are interested. In Ohio a ministry like this I led raised over \$100,000 for a local homeless shelter as it connected youth to the community through the performing arts -- so it can be quite a substantial ministry.

Thanks for reading this far into my first NVC pastor's note.

I hope you can tell I really am very excited about this call and about working with you all on things like the projects I mention above as well others we develop and work together on with God beside us.

I will see you all in just a few weeks!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Rev. Scott Elliott

## ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be an Ash Wednesday  
Service Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.  
All are welcome

## THE LAST ONE

**D**ear Nahant Village Family and Friends,

Well, this is the final *Pulpit Rock* message from your 'temporary' preacher. When I first heard about *Pulpit Rock*, I asked, "where is this pulpit rock?" thinking it must be the name for one of those giant craggy stepping stones that protect your island.

Per the rules of church transition, Stephanie and I will no longer attend NVC after I conclude my last sermon on January 29. This is done to allow your new shepherd to guide you without distractions. This also means that I will not be a resource for you to discuss church related issues or an ear to which you might complain. I hope this makes sense. Know that Stephanie and I will miss you and the loving community that is Nahant Village Church (and, of course, your rocky beaches!).

Proper thank you's always start out with disclaimers about forgetting anyone and this one is no different. Now, a tremendous thank you to NVC for taking a chance on an un-degree'd wanna-be preacher willing to discuss The Good News in nearly empty buildings or at the local park. Thank you to all the children, especially the older ones who raised their hands to join in the children's messages when I lifted my eyes to hills (Psalm 121) and no children could seem to be found. Special thanks to Jen and Chris for trying to follow me up and



down the aisle with their phone cameras and for welcoming me at the start of and throughout my time with you. Amy, Marrit and Cal, thanks for keeping me in line, musically and otherwise. Our organists, Peter and Bill, thanks for joyfully working with a tone-deaf preacher. An extra thank you is due to Cal for recently gifting me one of his delicious cranberry pies and Roz for her whoopie pies (and Andy for being my reminder of God's gifts). There are many more steadying voices (Bill C., Maria, Nancy and Calantha) who assured me that NVC was where God wanted me to be at those times. And, a thank you to Reverend Patricia for mentoring and encouraging me to keep preaching and for sharing her pulpit knowledge with me. Stephanie and I will always treasure the warm welcomes and ongoing love that is such a vital part of NVC.

Over and over, I asked you to complete this sentence, "when the pandemic ended, my church did \_\_\_\_". You have now filled that blank in with: "my church found a new shepherd."

As with my last *Pulpit Rock* message, I remind you that you have a new blank to fill in: "When my church found a new shepherd, I did \_\_\_\_\_." Since no human owns this or any church (or has final say over it), let me suggest one correction: change 'my' to 'our' as in: "when our church found a new shepherd, I did \_\_\_\_\_." Amen? Amen!

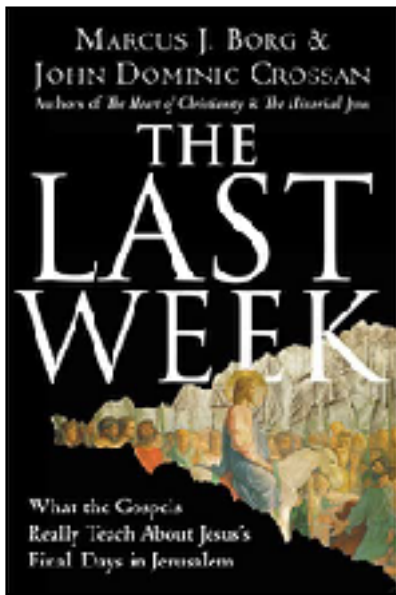
Peace through Christ,  
Your grateful preacher, Rusty, and his wife, Stephanie

### **AND WE THANK YOU!**

It definitely has taken a village to run the Nahant Village Church. We would like to thank all of the people who have shared their time and talents over the past couple of months with us. We really couldn't do it without you. Thank you so much for coming forward to volunteer. You are truly appreciated! We also would like to thank Preacher Rusty and Rev. Patricia for the many ways they have served us ... in silence, with joy, by the sea, by the pulpit, wandering the aisles, and always from the heart. We will forever be grateful.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS



## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Our new pastor, Rev. Scott Elliott will be leading a one-hour book study, Wednesday nights, during Lent from March 1 to April 5, at 7 p.m. There will also be a Lenten soup supper hosted by volunteers starting at 6:30 p.m. for those who would like to share a meal before the discussion.

The book we will be discussing is "The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

The soup supper and book study are both open to the public and suitable for older teens and adults. The book may be purchased (new or used) online-- free books are available upon timely request for anyone needing help with the purchase price. Sign up in the Companion Way, call the office at 781-581-1202 and speak to Chris, or call, text or email Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com) to register or fill out the Sign Up Genius at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fadaf28aafc1-lenten#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fadaf28aafc1-lenten#/)



## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Friday February 3, 2023

8 a.m.

Come hear Jim Walsh speak on "Meeting the Challenges of Affordable Housing in Nahant" an issue that touches all Nahanters. Change is coming. The question is, "How can we change in ways that



Image by [rawpixel.com](http://rawpixel.com) at

leave our community intact.

Jim has served on various committees in Nahant for almost 40 years, including the Valley Road School Study Committee, Nahant Housing Authority, the Finance and Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Cultural Council, Board of Selectman and the Democratic Town Committee.

If you are an elder and need transportation to and from the breakfast, please make arrangements with the Tiffany Room a few days in advance either by signing up or calling 781-581-7557.

We hope to see you on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for a hearty breakfast, a challenging topic for discussion, and wonderful camaraderie. Spread the word to family and friends. All are welcome.



### JANUARY BREAKFAST SPEAKERS

Nahant's finest Police Chief Timothy Furlong, Sgt. Stephen Schultz and Lt. Matt Moreau stopped by the Men's Group Breakfast

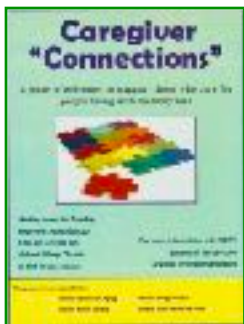


## CAREGIVER “CONNECTIONS”

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Nahant Village Church -  
Swansburg Hall



The Caregiver Connections Support Group was formed to provide individuals who care for those with memory problems a forum to share experiences and to support each other. This Support Group meets monthly on the **third Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** The Caregiver Support Group is sponsored by Nahant COA, Nahant Public Library, and Nahant Village Church. An experienced representative from Greater Lynn Senior Services will also participate. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from participating. Contact Mary Miner of the Nahant COA at [mminer@nahant.org](mailto:mminer@nahant.org) for more information.



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

10 - Bill Crawford

18 - Andy Karl

19 - Paul Richardson

28 - Patti Aswad

### SAVE THE DATES!!!

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023 — Rev. Scott's first Sunday

Friday, Feb. 17, 2023 — Deacon's Spaghetti Dinner

Wed., Feb. 22, 2023 — Ash Wednesday Service

Friday, March 3 — Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, March 10, 2023 — Silent Movie Night at NVC

Thursday, April 20, 2023 — Tide's Fundraiser

## A GREAT DAY

Parishioners, on Sunday, January 8th were blessed to be a part of the baptism of Han Parish. She and her husband David also used the event to officially join the church.

Han came to U.S. on Labor Day in 1987.

She arrived from

Shenyang City,

Liaoning Province,

China as an international student and worked her way

through college. In China Han received a degree in

foundations of mechanical engineering, but admits that

3-dimensional drawings were hard for her. In the U.S.

she received a degree in Business Management with a

concentration in accounting from UMass Boston after

20-years of part-time studying.

Degree in hand Han became a revenue cycle analyst and

has worked for an accounting firm since Dec. 2010.

She met her husband David, at a dating club in Brighton

in 2001. David is, semi-retired and manages properties

as needed. The pair moved to Nahant in 2020, enjoy

seven grandchildren and loves to make new friends.

When asked why being baptized was important Han

said, “just like we all take showers every day, my spirit

needs to be renewed.”



## NVC IN ACTION



The Buildings & Grounds team, Cal Hastings (chairman) and Amy Dow with an assist from Ray Hurd — got to work in mid January moving two sets of washers & dryers to make way for the Elliott's who arrived at the end of the month. With one set on the second floor and one in the basement — it was no easy feat — Nice

### RESTART OF CHOIR FOR LENT AND EASTER

Let's raise our voices together in song

Looking ahead, we plan to restart the NVC adult choir for participation in Palm Sunday and Easter worship services, which are April 2 and April 9<sup>th</sup> respectively. Anyone who has sung in a choir in the past is invited to join. again.



The adult choir will rehearse weekly starting on the last Sunday of February (26<sup>th</sup>) for one hour starting at 11:45 a.m. As soon as music is selected for each of these services, you will receive copies to help you become familiar with the music. You also will have an opportunity to record your specific part in each piece for use in between rehearsal times.

We hope that you will join us on the 26<sup>th</sup> after worship. Please contact Marrit at 781-581-5691 or calhast@hotmail.com to let us know of your intent so that we can plan accordingly. In advance, thank you — we look forward to raising our voices together in song so pread the word to family members or friends who may want their voices to be heard

Bill Thompson, Music Director and the NVC Music Committee — Nancy Cantelmo, Chair, Amy Dow and Marrit Hastings



## OUR BELLS KEEP TOLLING

Monthly on the 11<sup>th</sup> day at 11 am the Nahant Village Church bells toll eleven times to raise awareness of the environmental crisis.

## SCHEDULING ACTIVITIES AT NVC

It is great to see more activity at our church, and we anticipate that this will increase in the coming months. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts, please let Christine Stevens know about your plans so that she can enter it on the master schedule. Meetings that are held at the church should be included on the schedule.

Any new initiatives or events to be held at the church need to be brought before the Leadership Team as well as Trustees for their review and approval. This is to ensure that there are no scheduling conflicts and that the planned event is in keeping with the church's overall mission.

If for some reason a planned activity is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the leader/chair of that group or meeting to inform its participants accordingly.

## ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICES

We **Zoom** all of our worship services live each Sunday, so if you can't attend in person, you are welcome to join us on Zoom. Meeting ID 869 1204 8062 Password: 123456.

We also record each service, so you can watch the service later when you have time. You can visit our website [www.nahantvillagechurch.org](http://www.nahantvillagechurch.org) for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on WORSHIP under the blu banner, then click on On Line Worship Services.

## BIBLE STUDIES

Join on Zoom Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m  
A link is available on the NVC Home page at  
<https://www.nahantvillagechurch.org>  
Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980  
Passcode: 01908



## SCRIPTURE READERS

Have you ever wanted to read read scripture during the Sunday Worship Service? If so, please email Jen McCarthy at [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com). We'd love to have you!

## VOLUNTEERS FOR COFFEE HOUR



Coffee hour following Worship has resumed in Swansburg Hall. If you would like to volunteer to oversee the Coffee Hour, which takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Coffee is made and food is provided. Volunteers will just do a light clean up and clean out the coffee pot. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jen McCarthy.



## GENESIS SUPPER CLUB

The Genesis Supper Club is back after a hiatus and meeting in person, Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Swansburg Hall. Everyone is welcome to join for a potluck, gluten free vegan meal (and don't let the word "vegan" scare you). Meeting information is available on the Nahant Village Church Webpage at [nahantvillagechurch.org](http://nahantvillagechurch.org). or contact Samantha at 978-530-7633 with questions.



## NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Call the Church at 781-581-1202 to leave a message. Contact Rev. Patricia Long for urgent Pastoral Care, or Jennifer McCarthy for other church needs. Phone messages at the Church are checked regularly and forwarded to the appropriate individual on our Team.

**Church** – 781-581-1202

**Preacher:** Rev. Scott Elliott

#### Leadership Team

**Jen McCarthy** (Chair) - [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com)  
or 781-316-7309  
also Board of Deacons Chair

**Nancy Cantelmo** - [nlc31@comcast.net](mailto:nlc31@comcast.net)  
or 781-599-3977 or 617-794-6477)  
Memorials/Music Committee Chair

**Bill Crawford** - [crawfordwm@verizon.net](mailto:crawfordwm@verizon.net)  
or 781-581-0411)  
Board of Trustee Chair

**Maria Welsh** - ([mariawelsh@ymail.com](mailto:mariawelsh@ymail.com)  
or 781-856-5753)

#### Treasurer

**Marrit Hastings** - ([calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com))  
or 781-581-5691)

#### Buildings and Grounds

**Cal Hastings** - [calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com)  
or 781-581-5691)

**Amy Dow** - [ikors92@yahoo.com](mailto:ikors92@yahoo.com)  
617-378-8520

**Andy Puleo** - [andynahant@aol.com](mailto:andynahant@aol.com)  
or 617-293-3913)

#### Compassionate Care Circle

**Olivia Brand** - 781-584-8112 or 717- 816-5046

*You are invited*

**Sunday Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary  
Sundays @10:30 am**

**Live Zoom Sunday Service**

**Live Zoom Service**

Meeting ID: 869 1204 8062

Passcode: 123456

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

A link is available on the NVC Home page.

#### **Bible Study**

Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980

Passcode: 01908

#### **Caregiver “Connections”**

Third Tuesday of the month

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

#### **Genesis Supper Club**

Fridays @ 5:00-6:30 p.m.

#### **Village Ringers**

Beginners 4:30 p.m., Advance 5:15 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

#### **NahantVV**

Meeting ID: 810 8610 6763

Passcode: NVV

Passcode: 697582 (phone)

We would *Love* for you join us!