

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

Sept. 2021 Scripture Reading

Sept 5 Worship & Communion

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125

Theme: Be Opened

Sept. 12 Worship Service

Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalms 19

Theme: Who Are You, Jesus?

Sept. 19 Worship Service

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalms 1

Theme: First in Caring

Sept. 26 Worship Service

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124

Theme: Courage for
Community

Calendar

Worship Service

Sundays, 10:30 am in person and
remote service via e-mail blast

Community Breakfast

to be rescheduled at a later date,

Rally Day

September 12- Postponed

Annual Meeting

September 19 - following
worship

Nahant Village Voices

Saturday, Sept. 11, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Bible Study (via Zoom)

Tuesdays @ 10:00 - 11:00 am

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays @ 5:00-6:30 pm

*See insert for Zoom meeting and
contact information*

INTERIM MINISTER'S CORNER

Be the Church:
Encouragement
from Our Departing
Interim Minister

Dear members and
friends of Nahant
Village Church,



As you might have heard, my ministry among you will end August 31 when my contract with Nahant Village Church expires. Rather than accept a new two-month contract for 10 hours per week, as proposed by the church, I opted to focus instead on work I do for a variety of clients in the areas of consulting, ministry and writing.

With each transition comes opportunity to reposition and take a fresh approach. As NVC begins its search for a new pastor, I encourage you to keep a few guiding principles in mind.

Be engaged. NVC has in the past relied too heavily on a pastor to single-handedly deliver results, such as increasing membership, without robustly claiming the role that all congregants are called to have in deepening faith practices, sharing the Good News and making disciples. Know yourselves as faith practitioners, not religious consumers, and you'll not only impact the world for the better. You'll also find the peace and joy that comes with dedication to the Way of Jesus.

Be visionary. The congregation – not the pastor, not the governing board – carries decision-making authority to

set direction for a local church in the United Church of Christ (UCC). The congregation should participate early in identifying NVC's values, priorities and strengths; and in charting a course. The board and pastor are charged with helping the congregation execute its own, God-inspired vision. They can't do that unless the congregation takes time to prayerfully discern a vision and make it known to lay and ordained leaders. I urge you to carve out time and space for this ongoing work of visioning.

Be advocates. With power comes responsibility. In the church, that means members must not merely lobby for their own personal preferences. They must consider what the wider community needs from the only Protestant Christian church in Nahant and carry that banner into settings where decisions are made. As you exercise this level of spiritual maturity, you'll grow in conviction, clarity and purpose.

Be accountable. Just as eating a healthy diet requires restraint and nourishes the physical body, church discipline involves embracing boundaries that allow the spiritual body to flourish. NVC has not been disciplined about living by its bylaws, raising up new lay leaders or clarifying what it means to be a church member. Neglecting church discipline might feel liberating for a while, but like a diet with no limits, it becomes debilitating and heightens stress over time. NVC needs to break its habit of avoiding accountability mechanisms.

—Continued—

True freedom is found by embracing healthy limits, which lead to clear expectations and mutual understandings.

Be covenantal. As a UCC congregation, NVC is part of a denomination with supports and codes to foster healthy church life. I urge you to lean in and trust in this wisdom. Seek an ordained, experienced clergyperson who can rightly administer the sacraments,

bring theological training to bear and be accountable – not only to the congregation but also to a network of churches collaborating to ensure quality of leadership. Don't be tempted to maximize flexibility by jettisoning standards. Hold yourselves to a meaningful bar so that the

blessings of the wider Christian tradition of which we are a part can again take root and grow.

Thank you for the opportunity to minister among you in this strange, pandemic time. I'm grateful that I could get to know many of you and wish it could have been more. Though

the virus often prevented us from being together in person, we've nonetheless shared a meaningful journey. We've been blessed. May the Holy Spirit give you clarity and courage for the portion that lies ahead.

Your brother in Christ,

The Rev. Jeff MacDonald

Interim Minister and Consultant

GREETINGS

FROM RALPH 'RUSTY' CHADWICK

Nahant Village Church, Family,
Friends....And Soon-To-Not-Be-
Strangers,

Remember the early days of your life when you would dread the return to school yet be excited about it at the same time? Yes? No? Well, the church year in New England brings such a return. Somehow, many think that summer is a time to take a break from church, and, truthfully, when Stephanie and I have been on vacation, we have not always attended church. Yet twice this summer, I had great experiences at churches in Lake George, New York and in Greensboro, North Carolina. I am now in regular contact with the pastor who preached in Greensboro. He gives advice to



me about preaching and how to work to become a pastor since I am not ordained but working to return to theology school. Your church needs to find an ordained pastor. That someone will be found. That someone will shepherd you to walk in the Lord's paths.

But now, we hope to come fully back to church for the traditional 'Rally Sunday'. It is time to get back with 'it'. What is 'it'? Well, to enjoy the Sabbath by coming to church to worship and praise your Creator. Then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to follow the commands of His Son to help feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and those in prison. And, above all, to love one another, starting in your own home, in your daily routine, and those you do not yet know.

To help focus our worship, our readings and discussions will use those readings in the Lectionary. The Lectionary is the manual that assigns various scripture readings to each day of the week. It may seem helter-skelter but, over a few years, if you read each reading, you will read most of the New Testament and much of the Hebrew Scriptures. Do not be overwhelmed, focus first on just the Sunday readings (and be warned that I will not always use each reading!). A lectionary link for September is here: <https://www.sneucc.org/files/files/documentsdailylectionary/sept+2021.pdf>

Please use it to prepare your hearts to not only come to worship aware of what will be read, but, to strengthen your ability to love and serve one another. And...you know how I like to ask you to participate in the sermon by asking questions? That is another reason to read ahead. One of our goals is to strengthen and teach one another, and not have one person do all the talking. Amen?

Be busy in God's work but remember, our Savior valued time away from the crowds and times for quiet reflection. Make time for prayer before you spread God's Word and Love.

Peace through Christ,

Roger 'Rusty' Chadwick

Your Sunday Preacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Once again, God has guided us along a new path for the Nahant Village Church to follow. We have recently learned that Rev Jeff MacDonald will not be continuing with us as our Part Time Interim Minister when his current contract expires at the end of August. The Leadership Team has been working with Rusty Chadwick to continue his leadership in Sunday Worship. Rusty has agreed to continue with us until at least the end of January 2022. The Profile Committee is finalizing their work, as we continue our search for a settled minister. The Leadership Team had a very positive meeting with Rev. Alex Will Shea, the Assistant Area Conference Minister from the UCC, to explore our options. He was excited to learn about our relationship and positive experiences with Rusty Chadwick. Rev. Alex will continue to support the Leadership Team, as well as Rusty, in the upcoming months. It is important that our Congregation understands that Rusty Chadwick will not be able to be considered for the Settled Pastor position as our Profile goes out on our search for candidates. God has been faithful to us and the Nahant Village Church for so long. As God guides us in this new direction, we pray that God gives us comfort, peace, and clarity as we travel along together.

With excitement for our future,

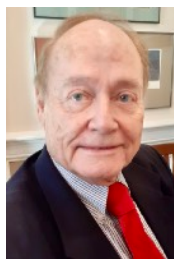
The Leadership Team

Jennifer McCarthy, Nancy Cantelmo, Maria Welsh and Bill Crawford

REACHING OUT

On the first Sunday of each month a special collection is taken for our Communion Offering Fund. This fund was established to extend a helping hand to NVC parishioners and other needy individuals or families who reside in Nahant. So if you know of anyone with a need that NVC may be able to help with, please pass this information on to anyone on the three-person committee that reviews and decides on such requests. Committee members are: Nancy Cantelmo, Marrit Hastings, and Jen McCarthy. This committee will be expanded to include our settled minister once on board. All requests are treated in the strictest confidence. This fund is another way we extend a helping hand to our parishioners and neighbors in Nahant. Donations to this fund are gratefully accepted.

A WARM WELCOME TO BILL THOMPSON, OUR NEW ORGANIST



The NVC Music Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new Organist/Church Musician starting at the beginning of September. Bill is a lifelong organist and choir director having accepted his first position at the age of 16.

Since then, he has served churches large and small in various locations. He studied organ throughout high school and at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. He also studied voice for four years in preparation for training choirs.

Church music has always been a sideline for Bill who spent most of his career in Television and other aspects of the visual media. He worked at WGBH and WBZ here in Boston and served two years in the Peace Corps in Columbia as a producer-director in Educational TV.

He and his wife, Bernadette (Bunny), recently moved to Swampscott from Atlanta, GA in order to be near their son and his family.

Bill is excited to be serving NVC and has grand plans for growing the music ministry with God's help and NVC's. Details to follow.

Please introduce yourself to Bill and extend a warm welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR

We were hoping to bring back Coffee Hour after our weekly worship services starting in September. Unfortunately, with COVID numbers on the rise again, we have decided to postpone this event for now. We will revisit this decision in a couple of weeks and see if we are able to start the Coffee Hour again in October. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible during this time of uncertainty. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

NAHANT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Unfortunately, our plan to resume **the monthly breakfasts on September 10** was put on hold for a while due to the surge of Delta variant cases of COVID-19. We will reassess the situation on an ongoing basis and hope to be able to bring back this popular event as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

RALLY DAY

The NVC Rally Day scheduled for Sunday, September 12 **has been postponed**

NVC 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, September 19 at 11:30 a.m.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, September 19 both in person and via ZOOM. If you did not receive the notice that was mailed in late August (which also included proxy vote instructions), please contact Susan at secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

To connect via Zoom:

- Meeting ID: 843 9160 1657
- Pass Code: 01908

LOOKING FOR IDEAS

Immediately following the annual meeting, the Leadership Team will be seeking ideas for outreach and fundraising that are fun, doable, and help to support our church.



CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATES

The annual Christmas Fair has been the main fundraiser for our church, raising thousands of dollars to help support our budget. Currently, we do not have one or two volunteers to chair the event. The chair oversees organizing volunteers to run the different parts of the fair. Due to COVID we anticipate that the Fair may have a whole new look this year and that is fine, and we look forward to hearing some of your ideas. We would really like to have our Annual Christmas Fair, but if someone doesn't come forward to chair the event, it may have to be cancelled. If you would like more information, or to step up to help or share ideas please contact a member of the Leadership Team. Following our Annual meeting on September 19, we will discuss fundraising, including the Christmas Fair, so please come ready with ideas!!!



KEEP OUR SUPPORT FOR

MY BROTHER'S TABLE STRONG

My Brother's Table in Lynn has been our Church's most important mission outreach. Today problems of hunger and poverty are greater than ever. Approximately 20% of Lynn residents live below the poverty level, and 1 in 5 people are considered food insecure, meaning that they do not have the resources to guarantee adequate access to proper nutrition. My Brother's Table is open 365 days a year and offers free meals to everyone who comes to its door, regardless of race, color, creed, or sex. In 2020 close to 800,000 meals were served.

Who are the guests at My Brother's Table?

- 50% have finished 12 years of schooling
- 70% have a disability
- 60% come to My Brother's Table every day
- 90% have been homeless at least once in their lifetime
- 25% are working or have worked in the past year.

It is important to note that My Brother's Table is funded entirely by private donors and businesses in order to insure the privacy of guests and to serve the greatest number of people in need. The organization does not accept Government grants and is not a United Way affiliate.

Given the tremendous need, we want to continue or, even better, increase our support this year. In the past, it was our tradition to sponsor a meal at My Brother's Table in odd months of the year. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted this tradition. To compensate for this, the Church last year increased its financial support to \$2,300 -- \$1,500 from contributions made by our parishioners, and \$500 from the Church's general budget.

Starting on the second Sunday in September, we will resume taking a collection in support of My Brother's Table every other month. Thus far, we have collected only \$230 in MBT contributions. So we have a way to go to reach last year's goal. Please open your hearts and wallet or checkbook and contribute generously to this very worthy cause. This is a very concrete way in which we can show our love of our neighbors.

Please make a note in the memo line of your check or on the envelope to indicate that your contribution is to benefit MBT. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



We extend our sympathy to **Donna Hanlon** on the recent loss of her husband **Ron**. Donna was very active in both the Church and community until she sold her house in Nahant and went to live in

Allentown, NH. If you'd like to send her a card, please contact our Administrative Assistant Susan for her address.

And to **Roz and Andy Puleo** on the recent death of their dog, **Rascal**.



Roz Puleo	9/14
Lissa Stempek	9/22
Olivia Brand	9/28



Dear Pastor and Congregation,
Our deep appreciation of your thoughtfulness in remembering The American Legion and The Wall That Heals during your service on July 18, 2021.

Sincerely,
Rev. Toby Quirk

COMPASSIONATE CARE GROUP (CCG)

The Compassionate Care Group continues to provide contact, support and prayers for people in our congregation or community in need of support. If you are able to make a call, send a card or offer a ride on a Sunday, or if you know someone in need of caring support, contact Olivia Brand at olivia.f.brand@gmail.com or phone 717-816-5046 with your area of availability.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to sponsor a flower arrangement for the altar during Sunday worship? If so, please contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or by email at edwarthy@hotmail.com.

Please include the Sunday date for your order and your special message, which will be included in the Sunday Service Bulletin.

LAY SPEAKERS

The Nahant Village Church is looking for lay people to speak to the Congregation (5-10 minutes) about how faith affects their lives or professions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Elisabeth Foukal at eefoukal@comcast.net or 781-581-7537

SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

If you would be interested in signing up to be a reader for a Sunday over the summer, please contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or you can send an email to edwarthy@hotmail.com

THE GENESIS SUPPER CLUB

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

In person and Zoom

Meeting ID: 881 0920 8580 - Passcode: 01908

Zoom Call number-929-205-6099

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

All are **welcome!**

NAHANT VILLAGE VOICES

To find out more about the Village Voices program schedule, contact NahantVillageVoices@angelic.com



NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH
27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call the Church at 781-581-1202, anyone on the Leadership Team, or Rev. Jeff for any urgent pastoral care or other needs. Phone messages at the Church are checked daily and forwarded to the appropriate individual on our Team.

Church – 781-581-1202

Interim Minister

Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald

[revjeffnvc at gmail dot com](mailto:revjeffnvc@gmail.com) or 978-270-0114

Leadership Team

Jen McCarthy (Chair) - edwarthy@hotmail.com
or 781-316-7309)

also Board of Deacons Chair

Nancy Cantelmo - nlc31@comcast.net
or 781-599-3977 or 617-794-6477)
Memorials/Music Committee Chair

Bill Crawford - crawfordwm@verizon.net
or 781-581-0411)
Board of Trustee Chair

Maria Welsh (mariawelsh@ymail.com
or 781-856-5753) –

Treasurer

Marrit Hastings - (calhast@hotmail.com)
or 781-581-5691)

Buildings and Grounds

Cal Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com
or 781-581-5691)

Andy Puleo - andynahant@aol.com
or 617-293-3913)

Compassionate Care

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

You are invited

Sunday Worship Service

Sundays @ 10:30 am

Remote Service

*will be available on the NVC website,
YouTube, and the NVC Facebook page.
We will send an e-news blast this afternoon.*

Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:00 am

Click below to join on Zoom

[NVCBible](#)

Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980

Passcode: 01908

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays @ 5:00-6:30 pm

In person at the Community Garden
behind the Johnson School

or join on Zoom

[GenesisSupperClub](#)

Meeting ID: 881 0920 8580

Passcode: 01908

Nahant Village Voices

Saturday, July 10

Click below to join on Zoom

[NahantVV](#)

Meeting ID: 810 8610 6763

Passcode: NVV

Passcode: 697582 (phone)

We would *Love* for you join us!