

The Pulpit Rock

May 2020

The Nahant Village Church

27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908

An open and affirming congregation of the
United Church of Christ
where everyone is welcome

Find out more about us at:

nahnatvillagechurch.org

Facebook: The Nahant Village
Church

Beloved Church Friends,

We are in a strange and unprecedented time. I miss seeing you, praying with you, and singing with you in our in-person worship. I miss getting to hear about you and your friends and family during coffee hour. And, I bet there are so many things that you are missing right now too, as we all stay at home for the safety of ourselves and others. It is ok to feel sad, anxious, or angry in these days. Some of you may be grieving in this time. God's love for you transcends those feelings. God meets you in those feelings with compassion, peace, and grace. If you haven't before, I recommend reading the Psalms and noticing the range of feelings as the author laments the trying times in life.

Perhaps some of you have discovered some joy during these days of staying home? I've become acquainted with a cardinal who visits outside a particular window at the same time each morning. I've also slowed down and committed to eating every meal at the dining room table. Have you found yourself more in touch with nature? Have you taken up some new habits more aligned with how you'd like to live your life going forward? During times of radical change, we can be jilted from our everyday lives in unfortunate but sometimes helpful ways. Some of us may see these changed days as a catalyst for introspection and a renewal of commitment to various parts of our lives. Others may find it hard to get through each day-- and either way of being is certainly legitimate.

For those who feel led to use this time as a way of growing as a disciple of Christ, I invite you to join one of our weekly gatherings via Zoom. You can participate through the Zoom app on your computer or smart phone. Or, you can use the call-in number to participate like a telephone call. Each week we have: a Virtual Coffee Hour, a time of informal checking in. Mental Health Support Group- for those who live with mental health conditions. Bible Study- presently we are reading Ephesians. Check In/ Prayer Time- a half hour to check in and pray with each other. Spiritual Book Group- we are starting A Glennon Doyle book this month. Genesis Supper Club- a vegetarian supper club exploring faith and food. There are so many ways to get involved and deepen your relationship with your church and Christ.

And of course, tune in on Sundays on our website nahantvillagechurch.org for our weekly worship videos. This month in worship, we will be talking all about growing in discipleship.

I pray that each of you knows that you are not alone, even as we are physically distanced. Please reach out to me if you are in need of prayer or a material need. I look forward to the day when we will be back together in person and I wish each of you much health and well being.

Eastertide Blessings,

Rev. Megan



A big thank you to those who have mailed in their weekly or monthly offerings or made donations via our website or the Give+ app. We also are grateful for the Easter Offering donations that have been made. All these are crucial for the support of ongoing outreach and operations of our church.

You can send donations:

- via check to
Nahant Village Church
PO Box 77
Nahant, MA 01908
- Or mobile giving, through downloading the Give+ App and selecting The Nahant Village Church (zip code 01908)
- Or, through our online giving platform, Vanco, home page of website, top right corner:
nahantvillagechurch.org

A Letter of Gratitude Following Holy Week:

Dear Rev. Megan,

I want to thank you for your directing, editing, and producing the videos of the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services. I was moved to tears by many of the scenes.

Your use of palms while driving throughout Nahant....showing many familiar places.

You put flowers on our NVC wooden cross for Easter morning, as those who attend Easter Sunrise service would have done.

Your Easter morning scenes of the Nahant Village Church...flowers on the altar...NVC building with the flowers decorated Easter cross in front of it at the Easter worship service.

I didn't realize how much I missed it, until I saw your videos!

I love the way you used visuals to introduce the next segment of the service,..so we knew what was coming next in worship.

In your suggestion of using a variety of Communion "body"...from Cheerios, to tacos, to homemade bread to tortillas, etc. and "blood" from apple juice to orange juice to cranberry juice...You created real moments for us to experience, feel, and share Communion while we are quarantined at home.

You created a holy NVC reality with what anyone may have had at their home. That is so important to us who are so separated from our community of friends and our community at the Nahant Village Church.

You gave us many reminders of how God is with us even if we're not with you and with each other at the Nahant Village Church. You produced it visually, and with your words, and various suggestions—from how to breathe, perhaps meditate, pray, and about our connectedness with each other.

You looked into the camera and gave us a worship service and communicated with such sincerity, qualities of leadership, quiet confidence and comfort. We all need that. We appreciate you forgiving us that.

In your worship videos, you created, included, and produced, many visuals of Nahant, from scenes we would see while walking or driving to ocean waves, town buildings, and the NVC to remind people who aren't going anywhere that we are all still together, and that the Nahant Village Church is still a place for us.

I appreciated seeing, and/or hearing, familiar NVC friends.. from the scripture readers, to Alice and Amy singing to Peter playing, excellent guest musicians and inspiring guest speakers. I appreciated your wearing your Clerical collar for these videos. It was a visual reminder of who you are to me..and to our congregation... that you are our spiritual leader. We appreciate you. And we need you. Bless you and thank you so very much for your extensive work on these Holy Week worship services.

Sending Appreciation, and Namaste,
Maria

The Nahant Village Church Moderator

Social Distancing.... Continued

By Jen McCarthy on behalf of the Leadership Team

During this pandemic, The Nahant Village Church, has been adhering to all the State and UCC guidelines, which includes Social Distancing. We know that it is hard to be apart from our family, friends and church, but for the safety of everyone we need to, so we can help flatten the curve. Until we get the announcement that it is safe for us to be back together, The Nahant Village Church will continue to follow Social Distancing guidelines. For us, this means that we will need to wait a bit longer until we are back together again.

In the meantime, Rev Megan and the Leadership Team are working hard to make sure that everyone in our Congregation, or is involved with the church, is practicing Social Distancing. We understand that people want to help with things related to services and the church, and we are excited about that, but we would like to remind everyone that we will not use any readings and/or musical performances in our e-format Worship Services - that were produced by multiple NVC people working or performing in close proximity - whether on the Church Campus - or elsewhere unless you are a family unit that lives together. We would like to thank everyone for all you are doing now to keep our worship services going each week. We appreciate everything that everyone is doing to help keep all of our family, friends and church healthy and safe.

Pulpit Rock Due date:

Going forward, If you have an article or announcement to contribute to the Pulpit Rock (our church's monthly newsletter), please send it to our Interim Administrator, Kyle Seline at staff.nahantvillagechurch@gmail.com by the 23rd of each month. (For example, submissions for the June PR are due by May 23).

Welcome Our New Interim Administrator- Kyle Seline!

Kyle joins us remotely from Colorado. She is thrilled to get to work with Nahant Village Church!

New Email Address

Our email address has moved! From now on, please email staff.nahantvillagechurch@gmail.com to contact our admin.

Help Spread Cheer in Our Community

Last week in worship, Rev. Megan invited us all to put art and encouraging messages in our windows as a form of Spiritual Practice. When we spread love and kindness, we are embodying God's love for all people. Send us photos of your window art to rev.megansnell@gmail.com for inclusion in upcoming worship videos.

Devotionals for the Pulpit Rock Newsletter

We would like to infuse some spirituality and discipleship into the Pulpit Rock. If you have a story of how God moved in your life, a favorite prayer, a spiritual practice, or a story of how the church helped you get closer to God, we want to read about it! Please email your submission to our Interim Administrator, Kyle Seline at staff.nahantvillagechurch@gmail.com by the 23rd of each month.

Gather

Fellowship and Learning Opportunities

We have many opportunities to gather and connect, including many digital opportunities. If you have any questions, please email revmegansnall@gmail.com or staff.nahantvillagechurch@gmail.com

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays 5pm- 6:30

A continuation of the great start that we had in the Lenten Supper Club. This is a Whole food, Plant based Dinner, Discussion, Bible Study, Exploration. Guest lectures and group activities, deep discussion. Powerful prayer time. Online until we can Dine together in person. Those who are just "beginning" are welcome. We meet via Zoom on Fridays from 5-6:30 pm. Samantha S. is

Online AA Meetings

If you are looking for a way to support your sobriety or are coming to realize that you have a drinking problem, please check out the following links. As always, also feel free to reach out to Rev.Megan at rev.megansnell@gmail.com for additional support and resources.

<https://aaboston.org/> <http://aa-intergroup.org/>

Caring for Our Community

Would you like to help care for our community? You can email Rev. Megan at rev.megansnell@gmail.com to be matched up with some buddy(s) in our community to send cards to, pray for, call on the phone, etc. All are welcome to care for one another and deepen relationships in the process.

Let's Talk

Open Conversation Time
Tuesdays 11am- 11:30

Miss catching up with everyone? Join us via Zoom to chat & pray with Rev. Megan.

Coffee Hour

Join us for a virtual coffee hour! Grab a warm beverage and let's hear from each other via Zoom.

NVC Mental Health Check-In

We will be offering a Mental Health Support Group each Monday evening from 5-6 pm on Zoom. This group is appropriate for those who have ongoing mental health conditions.

Study & Discuss

Tuesday Bible Study
Tuesdays 10am- 11

Miss catching up with everyone? Join us via Zoom to chat with Rev. Megan.