



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*

2025



Scripture Readings

Dr. David L. VanArsdale
Preaching

**Feb. 2 - Fourth Sunday after
Epiphany/Communion**

Luke 4:21-30

Theme: "What Comes First"

**Feb. 9 - Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany**

Luke 5:1-11

Theme: "Go Out into the Deep"

**Feb. 16 - Sixth Sunday after
Epiphany**

Luke 6:17-26

*Theme: "Having Faith for a
Cynical Time"*

**Feb. 23 - Seventh Sunday after
Epiphany**

Luke 6:27-38

Theme: "Love Your Enemies"

Nahant Community Breakfast
Friday, Feb. 7, 8 a.m.

Caregivers Group
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m.

Taco Tuesday with NVC
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 5:30. - 7 p.m.



Dear Faith
Church
Friends:

There is an old
story from the
Hebrew Talmud
about a rabbi

named Zadach.

Rabbi Zadach went walking in
the forest one day. Being prone to
absentmindedness, he soon became
lost. (So, do you suppose he really
lived in Nahant or maybe Lynn?)

He tried to find a way out of the
forest, but only became more lost.
You can imagine his great joy when
he heard voices in the forest and,
through some underbrush, he found a
group of people. He exclaimed, "I'm
glad I found you; I'm lost!"

The group's faces sobered and
they responded, "But we are lost too.
When we saw you come through the
trees, we had hoped you would know
the way and could help us." To which
the good Rabbi responded joyfully,
"This is not a problem; let us together
look for a way out, for each of us
knows erroneous ways but together
we shall find our way out of the
forest."

We struggle to find our way
through life and the important part of
our struggle is to find God! Many of
us have had our struggles to believe
and yet we have faith. Many of us
have had our moments when we have
wondered, questioned, rebelled, and
had serious doubts. There is joy in

knowing that we are not alone in our
struggle, but like the Rabbi and his
friends, we continue to have the need
to find our way ... to find our way to
God.

The Apostle Paul used words
familiar to his audience when he
quotes from two Greek poets. "*In
God we live and move and have our
being*"; *as even some of your own
poets have said, 'For we, too, are his
offspring'.*" (Acts 17:28)

To the seekers in his day, and
now to the seekers of our day, Paul
describes how God has placed a spark
within each person to yearn for
knowledge about the presence of
God. Everyone has a need to seek
God, to reach out to God, to be
touched by God, and to find their way
to God. It is God's intention that
people should be spiritual and have
religious yearnings. Paul saw the
attempts and aspirations of the
Greeks as a kind of blind groping and
he sought to give new direction to
their seeking.

Our struggling and groping "to
find our way" may mean simply
looking around, seeing God in our
world, and even finding God within
ourselves. We find God in those
everyday but very meaningful
relationships with friends. We find
God in family events and in the joys
and sorrows that we share with loved
ones. We find God in our worship, in
our quiet times, and when we are
alone. We find God in the changing
seasons and walking one of the

nearby beaches. In so many ways, we can experience the presence of God by seeking, reaching out, or looking around wherever we are in life.

Take the simple story of a mother and her four-year-old daughter out for a drive in the country. They were enjoying the scenery. Suddenly the little girl asked, "Did God color the world?" "Yes, God did," replied her mother. The girl said rather admiringly, "God certainly stayed in the lines." We can find God in the little things of life. We find God ... by seeking God in everyday events. Take the time to listen to the music in the lives of those who are near and dear to you. Make the effort to sit quietly and see the great beauty that is present in God's natural world. Do some daydreaming and reflect on the true joys that have been a part of your life.

Remember Rabbi Zadach and the joy he found in being with others? May we never forget as we seek to find God ... that others, others here among this gathering of faithful seekers, are on that same journey. It is all about sharing in the journey together at the Village Church. Together, may we discover that God is nearby. Together, may we find that "In God we live and move and have our being."

Grace and Peace,



Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
-Psalms 96:11-12

MEET OUR NEW ORGANIST

DANIEL PADGETT

Daniel Padgett has served as a staff accompanist at numerous institutions including Emerson College, Merrimack College, New England Conservatory, and most recently at the Berklee College of Music. He currently holds an organist position at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Revere and frequently subs at other area churches.

Upcoming engagements include performances with the Lexington Symphony, the Sarasa Chamber Ensemble, violinist Shelby Trevor, baritone Phil Lima, and the Lynnfield 'Pioneer Singers'. Daniel has multiple albums of original compositions available on all streaming platforms, among them 'Aurora' released in August of 2024.

He holds degrees in music from Florida State University and the Longy School of Music of Bard College. Daniel is thrilled to be embarking on a new adventure with Nahant Village Church!

Give Daniel a wonderful Village Church word of welcome.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Feb. 7, 2025

Please join us for the next breakfast on Friday, February 7 at 8 a.m. The presentation will be about Star Island, a retreat 10 miles off the coast of New Hampshire/Maine which is part of the Isle of Shoals. For over a century, Star Island has provided a welcoming and vibrant community where people come to have fun, find inspiration, enjoy nature, and connect with one another. Star Island is a private property, yet all are welcome to visit for a day, spend the night, or attend one of the many all-inclusive conferences that take place from May until September. Here is just a sampling of offerings from Star Island: nature, arts, enhancing body/mind health, multi generational family vacation with a purpose, and religious professional development/enrichment. Being part of a conference is the best way to experience the magic of Star Island.



The speaker will be Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, Island Minister/ Beloved Community Development Project Manager. She will talk about Star Island's programs and opportunities.

So spread the word to family and friends and plan to come for a hearty breakfast, an informative presentation and wonderful camaraderie. All are welcome to this free breakfast.

Elders who need transportation to and from the breakfast can call the Tiffany Room a few days in advance of the breakfast. Their number is 781-581-7557.

CHA CHA CHANGES COMING TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM



The New Year will bring changes in our music program. Bill Thompson will be leaving us at the end of January after being our organist for almost four years. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the Hammond Rodgers Digital Organ that is housed in the Chapel. We thank him for his years of service and dedication to our Church.

Our association with Bill will continue as an organ teacher and possibly as a guest organist. Bill started this unique music ministry in 2023, teaching a young budding musician how to play the organ here at NVC. It was wonderful to have this youngster participate in some of our worship services.

We wish Bill all the best.

Moving forward the Music Committee's vision is to bring different music to our Sunday services. We have a lot of talented musicians in our community and would like to involve them in offering more musical diversity, passion and joy through sharing their particular talent.

To that end, at least one Sunday a month will be dedicated to "special music," this will include Jazz, Gospel, choir and instrumental music.

If you are a musician yourself or know of somebody who would like to participate, please contact the church or Ute Gfrerer, the Head of the Music Committee, directly. We do have a little stipend for your efforts or you could also donate your services if you would like.

If you have ideas please them with the Music Committee ; Ute Gfrerer (chair), Amy Dow, Linda Hall, Marrit Hastings, or Rev. Dave.

The Village Ringers also will be introducing some changes in the coming months. Some of the ringers are perfecting the art of bell tree ringing, as well as practicing solo and duet pieces with piano accompaniment. If you read music and are interested in trying out bells, we'd love to give you a brief demo. Our group is small and enthusiastic and hopes to expand its membership.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

At our Trustees meeting on January 14, 2025, we reviewed the proposed 2025 budget and made some amendments and set a date for the annual budget meeting.

That meeting will be on February 23 in the chapel following worship.

The proposed budget will be mailed out to Nahant Village Church members soon.

The Building and Grounds Committee did a walk through of the parsonage and came up with a list of projects there for repairs and improvements. Work has begun on that to get it ready for the next tenants.

I brought to the attention of the Trustees my concerns about the condition of the floor in the basement classrooms below Swansburg Hall. I have noticed that the floor seems to have dropped, and after checking under the floor we confirmed that all the subfloor and framing need to be replaced, with the exception of the room at the far end, which was repaired in the 1980's with volunteer work.

Replacement of the subfloor and framing is logistically challenging because of the tight crawlspace. We will come up with a plan for that. The good news is that it doesn't affect the structural integrity of the hall and rooms upstairs.

It was suggested that the Nahant Village Church increase its social media exposure since that is how the word gets out these days (for most people of a certain age). This will get our message out in real time and on a continuing basis of our activities, and spread the word that our church is available as a venue for weddings, funerals and other functions.

We discussed the position of a bookkeeper for the church and will proceed to advertise through social media.



Bill Crawford — 10
Melinda Hatfield — 18
Andy Karl — 18
Paul Richardson — 19
Patti Aswad — 28

TACO TUESDAY ON TAP

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bored? Going a little stir crazy with all this blustery weather? Need a reason to get out?

We got you!

Come to our first community dinner of the new year, Taco Tuesday of Feb. 11. All you need to bring is your appetite, we'll provide the tacos, a mock-a-rita and the fellowship! Bring a friend — heck bring 10! We'll be waiting for you!

Free
Taco
Tuesday

NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH

FEB. 11
5:30 - 7 P.M.

RSVP @
781-581-1202 OR

SECRETARY@NAHANTVILLAGECHURCH.ORG

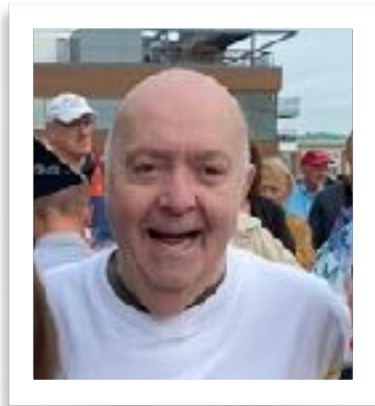


WHAT'S GOING ON

We have two new social media sites!
 Check us out on Instagram at @nvc_nahant
 and BlueSky @nvc-nahant.bsky.social
 And as always you can find us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>



We said good-bye to our organist of some four years, Bill Thompson. Bill has had a wonderful career as an organist — landing his first gig at age 16. He said he looks forward to whatever adventure comes next and is thankful for his time here with us. Many Blessings Bill. Thanks for all the music 🎵



Big thanks to Han Parish who faithfully bakes an apple pie for Coffee Hour every Sunday! She makes the best apple pie! And also to Rob Alexander for faithfully bringing cheddar cheese to go along with it. Your thoughtfulness has not gone unnoticed.



Huge shout out to Police Chief Tim Furlong who drove by NVC the morning of services for Andy Puleo, noticed the walkways weren't yet shoveled and took it upon himself to get it done! You are a blessing to us and the community! Thanks Chief for having our backs — and our walkways 🙏



Frilley Sea Anemones off Nahant



If you thought undersea diving in Nahant was just a summer thing then you haven't met Ryan Park, which would be hard not to do since he's the only one who regularly shows up to worship in a wetsuit. There is no fair-weather-only diving in Ryan's world. He took a plunge Jan. 5 and this is what he saw!

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. You can visit our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on **WORSHIP** under the blue banner, then click on **On Line Worship Services**. You can also find services posted on the church's Facebook page

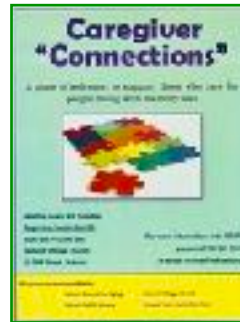
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>

CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025

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, 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 for more information.



Image by lifeforstock on Freepik

WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM NVC?

If you would like a visit for any reason just give a shout, or a call!

781-581-1202

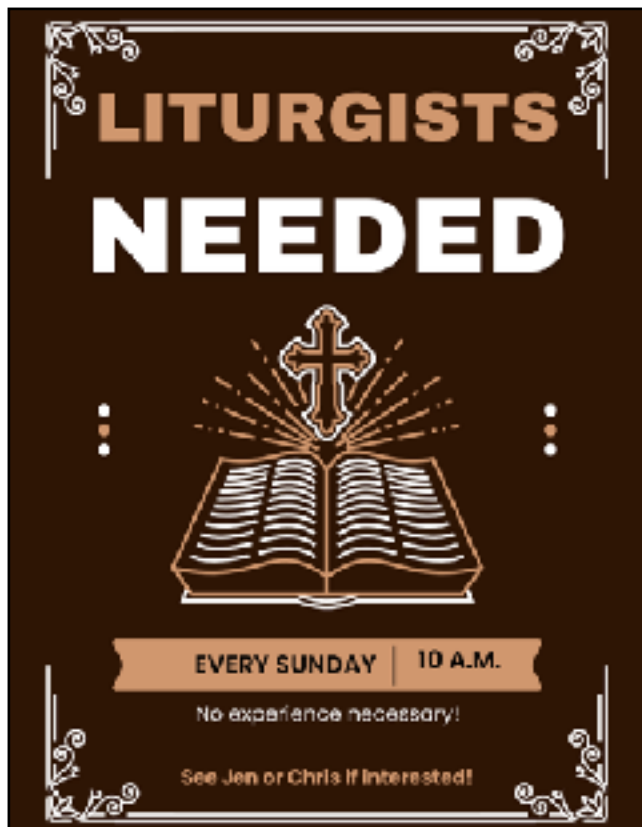
Rev. Dave would love to drop by
& we'd love to see you so don't hesitate to call!



WANT TO FEEL PART OF THE SERVICE

BE A READER!!

If you'd like to participate in the worship service consider being a liturgist one Sunday. No experience necessary! You lead the responsive prayers, read the scripture lesson and announce the hymns. It's easy and rewarding! Contact Jen at 781-316-7309 or Chris at 781-581-1202 if you're interested. Or simply reach out to us at church.





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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9 a.m. -noon/1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - noon.

Phone messages are checked regularly.

In case of an emergency contact Jen McCarthy at
781-316-7309

Church – 781-581-1202

Minister: Rev. Dave Van Arsdale -
pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com

Church Council

Jen McCarthy - edwarthy@hotmail.com
or 781-316-7309
Moderator

Rex Antrim - rexantrim@comcast.net
or 781-856-1067
Trustee

Chris Stevens - cjs_ros2@verizon.net
or 781-254-6827 /781-581-1202
Religious Ed/Office Manager/Sexton

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

Beth Walls - bethmo81@gmail.com
Deacon

Robin deStefano - rdestef@verizon.net
Clerk

Buildings and Grounds

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

Amy Dow - ikors92@yahoo.com
617-378-8520

Compassionate Care - 781-581-1202
secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org

You are invited to ...

Sunday Worship Service in the Chapel
Sundays @10 a.m.

or to 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.

Caregiver “Connections”

Third Tuesday of the month

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

Village Ringers

Mondays @ 5 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

Trustees

Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

NVC Library

Church Council

Third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

NVC Library

Membership

If you'd like to become a member of the church
contact Rev. Dave at
pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com or Jen McCarthy
at 781-316-7309