



The Pulpit Rock

January 2021

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*

CHRISTMAS EVE



Passing the light: Nicholas Carremero

“What a beautiful Christmas Eve Service! NVC brought us all together in the warmth of God’s light even when we are all so far apart.” The service was wonderful and involved numerous players. Special thanks go to Rev. Teri Motley for organizing this service and to Peter Freisinger and all of the musicians who participated. We also want to thank Herb Motley who video taped and edited all parts of

the service, our Deacons,

the scripture readers and many others who did things behind the scenes. Our audience came from afar – Honolulu, Arizona, New York. The singing of Silent Night by Ute Gfrerer and the passing of the candle light were a fitting end to this meaningful service. We thank the dozen or so individuals/families who participated in this ritual. The Light was brought into the World and may it shine brightly in the coming year.



Passing the Light: Tommy Carremero

As one parishioner put it: “Thank you for warming my heart this Christmas.” Well said!

A NEW YEAR AND NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

We ended the year by expressing our gratitude to our two Bridge Ministers – Rev. Patricia Long and Rev. Teri Motley – for being our spiritual leaders for three and a half months. They were a wonderful team. Both of them are returning to their private lives, and we wish them all the best!

As we enter the New Year, we extend a warm welcome to Rev. Jeffrey MacDonald who is new our part-time Interim Minister/Consultant. We look forward with anticipation to his ministry. Below and on the following page, you will find a brief bio on Rev. Jeff’s background.

REV. G. JEFFREY MACDONALD

The Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald (Jeff) is a UCC pastor, journalist and church consultant. He draws on skills honed over 30 years in journalism to uncover, analyze and report what enables vitality to flourish in mainline Protestant congregations that have no full-time clergy. Drawing on research, he helps congregations develop systems to boost ministry impact while lowering expenses.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, COFFEE HOUR, AND GET TOGETHERS WITH REV. JEFF

Rev. Jeff is a Marblehead native who now lives in Swampscott but still roots for Marblehead at Thanksgiving football games. After an early career writing for daily newspapers in North Carolina and Vermont, he earned a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 2000. Since then, he's been back on the North Shore practicing freelance journalism and part-time ministry. He's covered major news events, such as the Sandy Hook massacre for *The Christian Science Monitor* and the Boston Marathon bomber trial for *USA Today*. These days he writes mostly for niche publications that document what the Holy Spirit is doing in mainline congregations, such as *The Living Church* and Duke University's *Faith & Leadership* magazine.

Rev. Jeff has served in part-time pastorates in Amesbury and Newbury, where in 2015 he helped launch a food pantry that now serves up to 200 guests per week. He currently serves as the part-time Interim Pastor of First Congregational Church in Kensington, NH and he's on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Area of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. He's authored two books. *Thieves in the Temple: The Christian Church and the Selling of the American Soul* (Basic Books, 2010) explores the challenge of shaping strong moral character in an age of consumer-driven religion. *Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving Without Full-Time Clergy* (Westminster-John Knox Press, 2020) analyzes what's happened at 20 mainline congregations where vitality increased after switching from full- to part-time clergy. When not pastoring or writing, Jeff enjoys vegetarian cooking, sailing and walking the shoreline trail from Swampscott to Nahant.

As noted, Rev. Jeff is serving as a part-time Interim Minister in two churches – a UCC Church in Kensington, NH and Nahant Village Church. Because of this dual commitment, he will not be able to join our congregation on Zoom for our Sunday worship services as our Bridge Ministers did. Rev. Jeff's first worship service at NVC will be broadcast on January 17 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom and posted on YouTube. Thank you, Rev. Teri for leading worship on January 10th.

There will be a virtual coffee hour following the 10:30 worship service so that parishioners can get together informally via Zoom. Interested in leading the weekly coffee hours? Contact Jen McCarthy (see contact info on the last page). This is a great opportunity for someone to become more actively involved in the life of our beloved Church.

A weekly Zoom gathering is planned so that the Congregation and our Interim Minister have an opportunity to get to know each other. Rev. Jeff has suggested the following options:

- Mondays at 7 PM
- Wednesdays at 4 PM
- Wednesdays at 5 PM

We need your help in deciding which time slot works best for most of the people who are interested in these get togethers. So we ask you to respond to a brief survey which can be accessed by clicking the link below.

[Survey Link](#)

You also can make your wishes known via e-mail to Jen McCarthy (see contact info on the back page) or by mail to PO Box 77.

We look forward to hearing from you. Also, if you have not already done so, please provide us with your contact information and preference in getting communications from the Church (via e-news or mail).

OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED

- Leading the virtual coffee hour following the Sunday worship service
- Signing up for scripture reading (contact Jen with your availability for January, February and March)
- Participating in Bible Study (Tuesdays – 10-11 am) and/or Genesis Supper Club (Fridays – 5:30-6 pm) – for more detailed information see below

BIBLE STUDY

(Tuesdays 10-11 am via Zoom)

Rev. Jeff will meet with Bible Study participants during the month of January during this transition time. All are welcome. There is no requirement to attend every week. If you want to join, the Zoom link is 838 6095 4980 (Meeting ID) 09108 (Password). We thank Rev. Teri for leading this group during the bridge ministry period.

GENESIS SUPPER CLUB

(Fridays 5:30-6 pm via Zoom)

The focus of this group is on healthy mindful eating and how the Bible talks about food and eating. The group meets via Zoom but you can also join by phone. The online gathering has proven to be a wonderful way to support one another during this challenging time. If you'd like to drop in or join the group, the Zoom link is 881 0920 8580 (Meeting ID) 01908 (Password). please contact Jen McCarthy for Zoom login or telephone information. Thank you, Samantha for leading this club.

For worship services, Bible Study, and the Genesis Supper Club you can also dial in from your phone. Call 1-929-205-6099, then enter the Meeting ID and Password linked to the service/meeting you'd like to attend. You can always check our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for other activities, upcoming events, and up-to-date zoom links.

COMPASSIONATE CARE GROUP (CCG) AND PASTORAL CARE



The CCG reaches out to our Church community with love, prayers and hope during these challenging times. Rev. Patricia Long provided spiritual leadership and guidance for this group during the past three and a half months. The group meets on the first Sunday of the month via Zoom to coordinate reaching out to community members via phone calls, virtual visits, and sending cards. During Advent cards were sent to many in our community with best wishes for Christmas and New Years and providing valuable information on how to connect to the Christmas Eve service. Our thanks to CCG members for this outreach. We also want to thank Flo Sigourney who sends out birthday cards every month. CCG members are: Christine Alexander (Coordinator), Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Donna Gramolini, Marrit Hastings, Rev. Teri Motley, Samantha Scolamiero, and Betsy Winkler. We welcome new members!

“The CCG is a mature and strong pastoral ministry which is a vital support to the part-time Minister at NVC” - Patricia Long

If you need or desire someone to reach out to you or pray for you or know someone else in need, please contact Christine Alexander or Rev. Jeff MacDonald (see back page for contact info). These prayers are especially critical in times of stress and anxiety.

PRAYER LIST



We announce with sadness the passing of **Mary Ione Hansell** on Christmas Eve at age 100. While we mourn her loss, we also cherish her memory. May she rest in peace.

Our prayers this month are for:

- Our country and leaders
- Our first responders and health care workers
- All those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Our Church as we transition to a new part-time Interim Minister
- Dorothy Johnson as she celebrates her 90th birthday in early January
- Joe and Youngae, Polly, Donna, Samantha, Calantha, Catsby, Alice, Polly, Lucy, Muriel and Claudia (Samantha's Mom)
- Others who experience illness or death, or face other hardships during this pandemic
- The family of Ione Hansell

STAYING CONNECTED

On a recent trip to Colorado to visit family, CCG member Olivia Brand reached out to Trudy Joyce who after spending years in



Nahant and at NVC moved to Estes Park, CO to be closer to her family. Olivia and Trudy met up at Denver airport to share a meal and update each other on news in their lives. This fall Trudy had a challenging experience requiring an evacuation from her dwelling because of wildfires nearby.

MISSIONS

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Many thanks to those who contributed to NVC's White Christmas for less fortunate families in our congregation and in Nahant. We distributed \$200 in gift cards each to the families of ten children at the Johnson Elementary School and \$300 each to eight individuals/families in our Congregation.

MY BROTHER'S TABLE A THANK YOU



"Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation. We appreciate your support during these most challenging times. Thanks for helping us to help our neighbors in need!"

During 2020, NVC was able to contribute \$2,200 to My Brother's Table (mostly from donations from members and friends). In addition, NVC provided two meals to MBT prior to the arrival of the pandemic. Our plan is to continue our support in 2021 for this very worthwhile local non-profit that serves so many needy individuals and families. Anyone who wishes to help out at MBT can do so by contacting Nancy Cantelmo (see back page for contact info). Contributions to continue our financial support are always welcome.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE/
TRUSTEES**

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We want to thank all those who made a pledge of financial support for 2021 or made a recent contribution to the Church. As you may know, our Church is supported financially solely by our members and friends. We greatly appreciate your participation in this year's Stewardship Campaign.

If you have not already done so, you can still make your pledge or a contribution by sending it to PO Box 77.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please note that this year, we will not be providing weekly offering envelopes with identifying numbers to parishioners as we have done in the past since these are used mainly for cash contributions while attending worship in person. When in person worship resumes, there will be blank offering envelopes that we urge everyone to use when making a cash contribution. By identifying the donor of this contribution, the Treasurer can track what you give and include it on your year-end contribution statement. These contributions to the Church may be deductible for tax purposes to the extent permitted by law.

Be on the lookout for your statement of contributions to the Church made in 2020 before the end of January. Please do not hesitate to contact Marrit Hastings (see contact information in the next page) if for some reason you did not receive a statement or have questions about its contents.

2021 OPERATING BUDGET

The Trustees are in the process of developing a Church operating budget for 2021. This budget will be presented at the Annual Budget meeting which will be held via Zoom. Details of the budget and the meeting will be provided at a later date.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all. Have an amazing year!

January 4	Trudy Joyce
January 6	Robin deStefano
January 7	Dorothy Johnson (her 90 th)
January 10	Glenn Sanphy
January 11	David Carter
January 14	Edie Hunnewell
January 15	Polly Bradley
January 17	Rachel McCarthy
January 19	Libby Olson

**FUTURE EDITIONS
OF THE PULPIT ROCK**

If you have articles, pictures and other items of interest that you'd like to see included in the Pulpit Rock, send them to Marrit before the end of the month.





NVC 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

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

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

Buildings and Grounds

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

Andy Puleo (andynahant@aol.com or 616-293-3913)

Bible Study

Rev. Teri Motley (terimotley@me.com or 603-903-5091)

Compassionate Care

Christine Alexander (chris2954@gmail.com or 781-864-5367)