



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*

2024

Scripture Readings

Dr. David L. VanArsdale

Preaching

Dec. 1 Worship/Communion

First Sunday of Advent/Hope
Candle

Luke 21:25-36

*Theme: "God's Gift ... Joy is
Coming"*

Dec. 8 Worship

Second Sunday of Advent/Peace
Candle

Luke 3:1-6

*Theme: "God's Gift ... Preparing
to Receive"*

Dec. 15 Worship

Third Sunday of Advent/Joy
Candle

Luke 3:7-18

*Theme: "God's Gift ... Expecting
News"*

Dec. 22 Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Love
Candle

Luke 1:39-55

*Theme: God's Gift ... Mary's
Song"*

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve- 7 p.m.

Lessons & Carols

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Luke 2:1-20

*Theme: "God's Gift ... Hope to
All"*

Dec. 29 Worship

First Sunday after Christmas Day
Luke 2:41-52

Theme: "Not a Bad Beginning"



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

For centuries people have celebrated the longest and darkest night of the year in hopes that the heavenly powers would bring back the long sunny days of summer. Is it any wonder then that sometime during the fourth century Christians decided to fix a day in December as the date to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

None of the Gospels give us any hints as to the exact date of Jesus' birth. It is a date when the world can celebrate the coming of "The true light, which enlightens everyone" This light is what the Gospel of John calls the true light!

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so, that light might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." (John 1:6-9)

What was this true light is **God's Gift** about which John came to testify. We know that the True Light was meant to be Good News for all. The light of Jesus is to be found wherever women and men respond to the grace of God

and called to a life of goodness, justice, and love.

We also know that the **Gift of God** is, in fact, true! It is a light that reflects what is true: goodness, purity, justice, dignity and love. The Gospel writer, John, tells the birth story in his own poetic terms. He is saying that when Jesus was born, when his first cry sounded, when Mary nursed him at her breast and when Joseph stood around (rather useless like most fathers), when all these very human things were happening, "*the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*"

Nothing like this had ever happened before! It is the True Light that comes in Jesus Christ, that comes to our world and now comes to you and me.

In beautiful language, the *Gospel of John* tells us about the strange character that we call John the Baptist. "*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*" His only job was to testify and witness "*to the light,*" John was not the light, but only the "*carrier of the message of God's Gift to Us.*"

In what John did he helped to define the job of the Christian Church and the job of every believer. John was not the light or the message, only the carrier of the message. Like John, we are called to be "carriers" of **God's Gift** and "carriers" of the message. When Jesus said, "*You are the the light of the world,*"

He was not suggesting that we really are the light as much as we are the “carriers” of the message ... *God’s Gift to Us!*

Just think for a minute about a job I did every year when we had our own home. It was my task to set up outside candles that we use to decorate front entry door at Christmas, our sign of true light. I had to check them out thoroughly because they had aged over our years. I would put my finger in the bulb socket to get the dust out ... before I plugged in the cord. Then I plugged in the cord to the nearest receptacle and I screwed in the bulb and the light suddenly came on.

What made the light come on? Was it that I didn’t test it with my finger? Was it the cord? Was it the bulb itself? I couldn’t see anything different. You know, it was because the cord had become the carrier of electricity.

So, how do we become “carriers” of the message ... the true light that shines in our lives? We probably ought to begin with the acknowledge-ment that we do most of our carrying of the message when we are not trying to be religious. *God’s Gift to Us* is reflected in laughter, in eyes that look upon another with kindness, in gifts of music and song, in unexpected generosity when a need is seen, in a simple helping hand, in a gracious word, or in a sincere heart-felt prayers. The true light of Christ can be carried in the Christmas spirit that last all year long. The true light that comes in Christ can be reflected at any time in my life or in your life.

Grace and Peace,



ADVENT SUNDAYS & CHRISTMAS EVE



There are four Sundays in Advent beginning on December 1st. Each week during our 10 a.m. worship time, we will celebrate the theme of the week, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and light a candle on our Advent Wreath.

Overall theme for Advent: *God’s Gift*

How do you measure the value of a present? How do you judge its worth? By its size? By its weight? Do you judge it by its cost or perhaps by its usefulness? During this Advent Season we will explore the meanings of God’s present to us ... God’s Gift.

This is how God showed God’s love for us: God sent the only Son into the world so we might live through the Christ. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son as a gift. If God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other.

The final candle of Advent is the Christ Candle, which will be lit during our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service which will be held in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. It is shaping up to be a wonderful service with Lessons, great music and of course the Passing of the Light while singing Silent Night.

*Everyone is welcome at these services
so please join us!*

DID YOU KNOW...



All our services are recorded,
and you can go onto our
website,
www.nahantvillagechurch.org
and watch them

CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 21st

Roz Puleo and the Nahant Police Department is once again planning the Annual Christmas Parade. The Parade will start on Cliff Street. Each year we open our doors to the participants and serve hot chocolate, water, soda and coffee. If you would like to help in the kitchen please contact Chris Stevens.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

JUST A REMINDER!

There will be no breakfast in December because of our Christmas Fair. The next breakfast will be on Friday, January 3rd with a presentation by Senator Brendan Crighton and newly elected Representative Sean Reid. So mark your calendar and plan to come for some lively interaction with our state reps.

SPEAKING OF THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dec. 7, 9 a.m - 2 p.m.

It is just about here! And yet there are still ways for you to help. You could create something sweet or savory for our bake table; offer to man a table for an hour or two; offer a fabulous treasure for the silent auction!

Most importantly you can tell your friends and family about the fair and invite them to come — with you of course!

We have more than a dozen local artisans participating, along with our famous bake table, the ever popular jewelry table, greens galore and of course there will be lobster rolls for lunch! Eat in or take them to go! It is always a fun and fantastic day. Please come and join us. It is our largest fundraiser of the year and helps us to continue our work in the community and keep the doors open on Sundays.

Thank you for sharing yourself with us!
For more information or questions call Chris at 781-581-1202 or Jen at 781-316-7309.



Nancy Antrim manning the Greens Table at the 2023 Christmas Fair. The fair is also a great place to run into can catch up with neighbor's and old friends! Be sure to join us on the 7th!

MUSIC, JOY & HOLIDAY CHEER CONCERT

**Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m./NVC
Sunday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m./NCC**

Join us for a Holiday concert full of wonderful music with the Nahant Village Ringers, The Nahant Children's Choir and The Nahant Seaside Sirens, a female vocal group.

The music will include many of your favorite holiday songs such as "Oh come all ye Faithful," "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald Angels sing" and many others, both old and new.

The children have been working especially hard on some new Christmas songs and are eager to sing them for you.

Along with the beautiful Bell Choir music you will also hear songs in 3 part harmony presented by the Seaside Sirens that will surely touch your heart and leave you filled with joy, peace and light.

Do not miss this concert in honor of Christ's birth. Help us celebrate with music and community. This is a free event and best of all ... You can sing along if you feel like doing so!

There will be two performances for residents to chose from: The first performance will be held Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Nahant Village Church in the main sanctuary.

The second performance will be Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. at the Nahant Community Center on Valley Road.



SUPPER WITH SANTA!

Friday, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.

Supper with the big guy is on!

Please join us Friday Dec. 20 starting at 5:30 p.m. in Swansburg Hall for Supper with Santa. Dinner will be followed by crafts (including cookie decorating!).

While that is going on families will be invited to filter up to the chapel to meet with Santa in person and take lot's of photos. The evening will end with a story read by the big guy himself.

Dinner will include pizza, mac & cheese, hotdogs, salad and more.

The event is free and open to children of all ages and their families. We do ask that you RSVP so we know how many to plan for.

Last year was a blast and we expect this year to be no different — particularly if you are there!

Call Chris at 781-5781-1202 or Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or email

secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org to RSVP.

We can't wait to see you!



Santa made time last year to drop by NVC for dinner with kids and their families and he's promised to do the same this year. And he can't wait to meet you all again!



Birthdays

Chris Rogers - 1

Amy Dow - 3

Pauline White - 10

Sally (Fowle) Augustine - 22

Chris Alexander - 29

Flo Sigourney - 29



SCRATCH CARD TICKETS WANTED

Turns our best selling Christmas raffles have been the ones made up of scratch off tickets so we're going big with those for this year's Christmas Fair. Next time you have the chance please pick up a scratch card or two (or three), any denomination (\$1, \$5, \$10 or whatever). We'll fashion them into wreaths and what not for the raffle table. You can drop them off in the office, with Jen McCarthy or

Chris Stevens.

And thank you!

CARD BOX

The card box will once again be in the Companion Way, on the table by the windows. If you would like to leave a card for a member/friend of our congregation, just put it in the box. Chris and Jen try to watch it and help pass them out, but you are invited to check the box for yourself as well, to see if anyone has left a card for you. Some of our friends are homebound. Jen and Chris will make sure they get them, so feel free to leave a card for those who can't attend weekly.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Each year we collect money donations to help local families in need during the holiday season. Last year we distributed almost \$5,000 in gift cards. Please help us to do the same or better, there's still time! You can write a check (to Nahant Village Church with White Christmas in the subject line) or visit nahantvillagechurch.org to make a contribution there. And thanks in advance for making the holiday season more joyful for many in our midst.



POINSETTIAS

'Tis the season! We are collecting order forms for poinsettias to decorate our Altar in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The cost this year is \$10 per plant. You are able to have a brief message printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin to dedicate your plant In Loving Memory, In Celebration, etc. Please at the end of the Christmas Eve service take your poinsettias home or let Chris and Jen know what you would like to do with them if you will not be there.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

As a cost saving measure, NVC will no longer provide offering envelopes. There will be blank envelopes outside of the Church Office that you can use for any cash contributions. Please make sure to include your name on the outside of the envelope so that you can be given proper credit for your contribution.

SEARCH UPDATES

We have been working hard on our Profile to find our Designated Term Pastor. We are just waiting on the UCC for a point of clarification and then it should be ready to be posted and we can move forward!



freepik.com photo

PLEDGES

A big thank you to all who have made a pledge for 2025 and invite those who have not yet done so to send one in at your earliest convenience. Knowing the amount pledged will help the Trustees develop a realistic budget for the coming year. We are counting on everyone's support to enable the Church to continue its ministry of healing and hope.

The NVC Stewardship Committee – Marrit Hastings,
Carl Jenkins, and Jen McCarthy.



CHURCH COUNCIL meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30. But is taking Dec. off! However, if you have anything you think Council should be aware of, please contact Jen McCarthy edwarthy@hotmail.com or 781-316-7309

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.

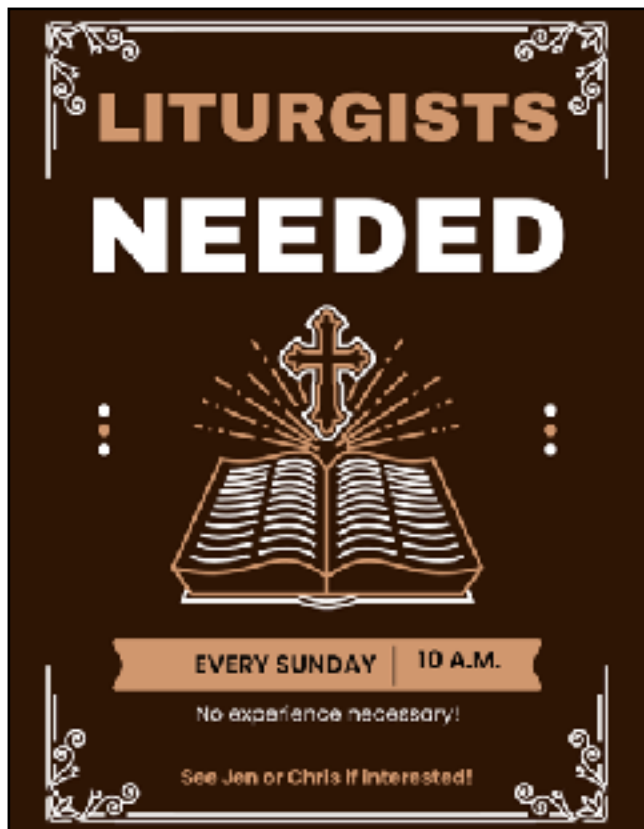
We also record each service. You can visit our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on **WORSHIP** under the blue banner, then click on On Line Worship Services. You can also find services posted on the church's Facebook page

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

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.

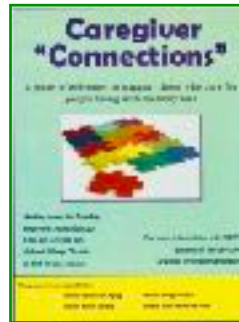


CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

Tuesday, Dec.17, 2024

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





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