



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

**April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent/
Communion**

Isaiah 43:16-21

*Theme: "When We Get In the
Way"*

**April 13 - Palm Sunday/Sixth
Sunday in Lent**

Luke 19:28-40

Theme: "Is it Time for a Parade"

April 20 - Easter

John 20:1-18

Theme: "You are Never Alone"

**April 27 - Second Sunday of
Easter**

Acts 5:27-32

*Theme: "Seeing Things
Differently"*

Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, April 4, 8 a.m.

Caregivers Group

Tuesday, April 15, 11 a.m.

Maunder Thursday,

April 17, 7 p.m.

Sunrise Service

April, 20, 405 Nahant Rd.

5:45 a.m.



Dear Village
Church
Friends:

I want to begin
this note by
sharing a few
verses from the

Gospel of Matthew 10:28-31: *"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."*

Notice the phrase "Do not be afraid"—appears twice in just these few short verses. Someone has discovered that there are 365 "fear not's" or "do not be afraid" in the New Testament ... suggesting that there is one for every day of the year.

In this "do not be afraid" Jesus uses an image of the tiny sparrows. The almost insignificant bird that was sold for a penny in the market place. If God cares even for the sparrow, how much more must God care for you? Even the almost forgotten and useless sparrow is dear to God. God cares for us!

We know all about fears, don't we? Things happen every day that scare us, that make us feel insecure, and that make us wonder and become anxious. When we experience pain,

tragedy, disappointment or death of a loved one—we often become afraid. When we experience the unknown, or when we fail or when we are confronted by the unexpected—we often become afraid. We may become apprehensive, or feel a sense of panic, or become over-whelmed. We wake up in the middle of the night shaking with heart pounding and a vague sense of screaming.

Fear is a very human response and everyone has fears—even those who may call themselves fearless. We cannot deny fear. Sometimes it is a very necessary feeling, even a good and healthy feeling. We make a doctor's appointment when we fear something is going wrong (or at least we know we should make the appointment).

Yet one of the greatest gifts and resources of our Christian faith is that we can overcome fear. Think about the experience of the disciples. The 10th chapter of Matthew begins with "these twelve were sent out." Up to this point in the story, Jesus had been the "doer" and the disciples had been little more than helpers. But now Jesus was sending them out "on their own" to do God's mission. Then almost as an after-thought, Jesus added, *"Oh, you may run into some problems and some people are going to oppose what you will be doing."* ... *"And if you should get arrested—well, we'll worry about that when it comes."*

Those disciples were scared.

They had good reason to be afraid. To them Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, God is with you and God cares!" Jesus knew the fear that his disciples were feeling and he reassured them. Jesus knew that God was with him. When Jesus talked about sparrows, he was preaching to them. When we are afraid, God knows all about us, especially our fears.

Those words can ring in our ears and lay heavy upon our fearful hearts. When we feel pain, tragedy, disappointment or separation we can know that God is with us. When we experience the unknown, or when we fail or when we are confronted by the unexpected we can know that God is with us. When we become apprehensive, or feel a sense of panic, or become overwhelmed with terror we can know that God is with us. When we wake up in the middle of the night trembling with fear we can know that God is with us ... and that God cares.

We are never alone! When we are afraid, God knows our fears! When we fear, God cares!

Grace and Peace,



ANNUAL REPORTS ARE OVERDUE!



Is your annual report overdue?
You better get it to Chris Stevens
ASAP

DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER

Palm Sunday — April 13, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday — April 17, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise — April 20, 5:45 a.m.

Easter Services — April 20, 10 a.m.



WHAT IS MAUNDY THURSDAY?

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus washing his disciples feet, an incredibly humble act.

This year on Maundy Thursday, we will gather, remembering the somberness of Jesus' last night through an observance of the Office of Tenebrae. This is a moving service when the candles are extinguished signifying "darkness" for all humanity with the crucifixion of Jesus.

"Tenebrae" is the literal Latin translation for the word "shadows" and the service portrays the fading light of the world as Christ is killed. The ancient rite comes from the early Christian Church and was first observed during the fourth century. The service will include reading from Scripture, a brief pastoral message from Rev. David L. VanArsdale, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is a very meaningful and inspiring service that begins at 7 p.m.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

NAHANT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Friday April 4, 8 a.m.

MEET & GREET YOUR CANDIDATES FOR SELECTMEN



Michael Manning



Patrick O'Reilly



David Wilson

Come to the Community Breakfast and meet and greet the three selectman candidates, Michael Manning, Patrick O'Reilly and David Wilson. The format will be a 10-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute Question and Answer period. Town elections are April 26 with early voting starting April 22 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Town Hall) so this is your chance to find out about the proposed platforms of the three candidates.

As always, transportation of elders may be arranged a few days in advance of the breakfast by calling the Tiffany Room at 781-581-7557. Our sincere thanks to the Council on Aging and its staff for providing this service.

May Breakfast

Also, mark your calendar for the May 2nd breakfast which will feature Town Administrator Tony Barletta who will discuss the Nahant budgets and warrants to be considered at the upcoming Town Meeting, Saturday, May 17th at 12:30 p.m.

But first, we hope to see you April 4. Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. with the presentation at roughly 8:15. Bring your friends!

MISSION FOR HOPE

A big thank you to all who made donations to support Mission for Hope and its work with the homeless. The outpouring was inspiring! The presentation by Mission for Hope founder Leighton O'Connor originally scheduled for the April breakfast has been postponed but will take place at a later date, so stay tuned.



Kevin Bailey — 4
Dunbar Livingston — 5
Dave Parish — 16
Bruce Walker — 18
Ute Gfrerer — 19
Mary Livingston — 22
Carl Jenkins — 24
Rob Alexander — 27

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has received several profiles for a Designated Term Pastor and has conducted a few interviews. Unfortunately none of the interviews panned out but we are ever hopeful that the next one will be the one.

We ask that you keep the committee in your prayers as they continue on this journey. And the committee will continue to keep you posted on the trip.



Marrit Hastings (right) with her sister Dieuwke who was visiting from the Netherlands!

NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

In recent meetings the Trustees have voted to approve the hiring of a bookkeeper to help the new treasurer for the church. This position has been advertised and we hope to have both a bookkeeper and a new treasurer in place by our annual meeting in May. We will also need a new software package that the new treasurer will be familiar with.

We have also approved an effort to increase our presence in social media and a digital advertisement with RMS Media Group, which publishes local news magazines (like 01907) and seasonal wedding issues and such.

We agreed to sponsor Swampscott High School sports with an advertisement on their athletic shirts. This was paid for by two of our Trustees.

In anticipation of repairs to our church steeple and roof we will be getting new estimates.

We have proceeded with upgrades to the parsonage in advance of hiring our next settled minister. This work is proceeding well, and the upgrades will certainly add value to the parsonage and make it a more welcome home.

The Trustees are now aware of repairs that are needed to the framing and floor under the basement classrooms and hall. This will be a major and logistically challenging job. We will be getting estimates for that soon. I want to emphasize that it does not affect the structural integrity of the space above it or Swansburg Hall.

Once again we are grateful for the extended bridge ministry of Reverend Dave VanArsdale. He has been such a steady leader at our church and we appreciate his guidance and ministry.

With thanks,
Rex Antrim



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, April 15, 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.

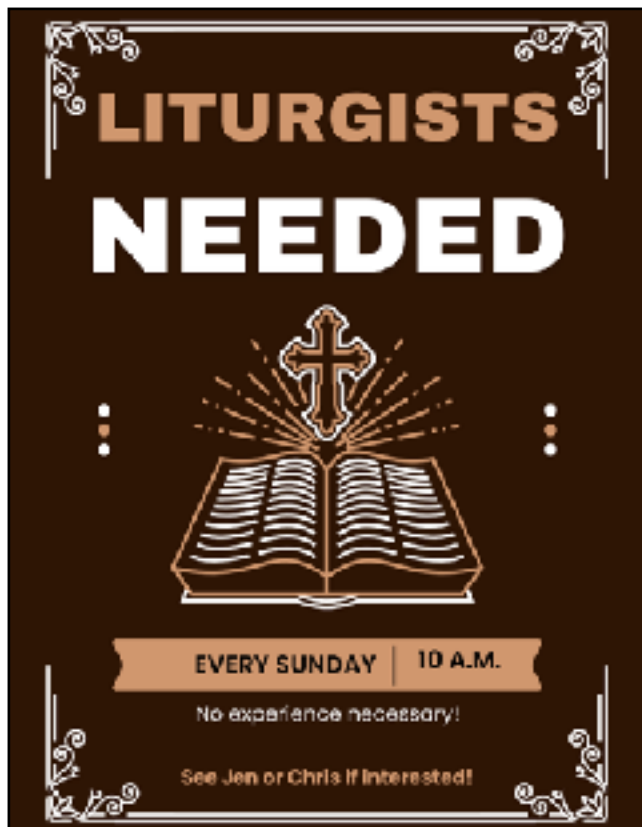


Image by lifeforstock on Freepik

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.



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!





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