



# 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

**March 2 - Transfiguration  
Sunday/Communion**

Luke 9:28-36

*Theme: "Visiting the  
Mountaintops & Living in the  
Valley"*

**March 9 - First Sunday in Lent**

Luke 4:1-13

*Theme: "The Call of the Wild"*

**March 16 - Second Sunday in  
Lent**

Luke 13:31-35

*Theme: "When We Do Our Best"*

**March 23 - Third Sunday in  
Lent**

Luke 13:1-9

*Theme: "Never Give Up"*

**March 30 - Fourth Sunday in  
Lent**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Theme: "Our Story"*

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

Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

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



Dear Village  
Church  
Friends:

I want to begin  
this note by  
asking you to  
think of a time

when you felt totally out of place or  
when you sensed you were  
emotionally lost. I am willing to  
guess that some of you think almost  
automatically about a time when you  
were in the hospital. I have visited  
people in the hospital and many seem  
lost and "out of it." I have been in the  
hospital twice in my adult life for  
knee replacement surgery. For most  
people the hospital environment and  
everything that is happening to them  
makes them feel uncomfortable and  
anxious. That's a natural feeling,  
because for most of us, a hospital is a  
very strange place and the staff work  
diligently to make us feel  
comfortable.

Now, go back and read Ezekiel  
34 and the Prophet's powerful  
words. Instead of the formal  
repetition of "Thus says the Lord  
God." Ezekiel used words like "I  
myself." The first person pronoun "I"  
was used 13 times in the chapter.  
Instead of "the people of Israel" we  
find the personalized "my sheep" and  
"my people." The prophet also used  
active and powerful verbs: *search,*

*rescue, bring, feed, tend, bind up, and  
strengthen.*

The listeners of this Word of  
God were the Hebrews during the  
period of the exile. The leaders of the  
nation were held captive in a foreign  
land. The country had been  
destroyed. The people's cry to God  
was "what now, all is lost, ... and  
who cares anyway?"

***The Shepherd cares! – was  
God's response.*** It is God – the  
Shepherd – who searches and  
rescues, who binds us and  
strengthens. God's message to those  
who were feeling desperately outside  
of the fold and outside of what would  
be called God's chosen people was "*I  
will seek the lost, and I will bring  
back the strayed, and I will bind up  
the crippled, and strengthen the  
weak, and the fat and the strong I will  
watch over; I will feed them in  
justice.*"

To the "lostness" of our lives  
the Good News of Jesus Christ  
comes. God sent Jesus Christ into our  
world to reaffirm hope: "*I am the  
good shepherd. know my own and my  
own know me, just as the Father  
knows me and I know the Father.  
And I lay down my life for the sheep.  
I have other sheep that do not belong  
to this fold. I must bring them also,  
and they will listen to my voice. So  
there will be one flock, one  
shepherd.*" (John 10:14-16)

*During our Lenten Season may we all sense and come to a new affirmation that God cares through the Village Church, our Church family.* God cares through you and me! It is God – the good shepherd – who searches and rescues, who binds up and strengthens. Our church family is here to receive people in need. Our church is here to accept and support people who have been weakened by life experiences. Our church is here to provide opportunities for people like you and me to reach out to another in need.

Grace and Peace,



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**March 5, 7 p.m. in the Chapel**



Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The visual environment will be solemn and stark. Purple is the most traditional color throughout Lent. Rough, coarse textures such as burlap—sackcloth and ashes—suggest the character of the day and season.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. The ashes may be mixed with a small amount of olive oil for Imposition of Ashes.

**SAVE THESE HOLY WEEK DATES!**

**Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.**



Join us for this Service of Tenebrae with Communion in the Chapel with Dr. David L. VanArsdale. We will gather and remember the somberness of Jesus' last night. 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 service will include reading from Scripture, a brief pastoral message and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is a very meaningful and inspiring services please join us.

**Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m.**



**Sunrise Service, April 20, 5:45 a.m.**

Early Easter morning we will meet in Bob Risch's front yard at 405 Nahant Road and celebrate the rising of the Son with Word and Song for our annual Sunrise Service. It will be followed by our traditional continental breakfast back in Swansburg Hall.



**Easter Sunday Service,  
April 20, 10 a.m.**

Join us in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dave VanArsdale for our traditional Easter Service.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

## NAHANT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Friday March 7, 8 a.m.



Image by jcomp on Freepik

You are cordially invited to the Friday, March 7 breakfast that will feature a presentation on **Citrus Farming in Portugal** by Nahant Resident Kristin Lee. She purchased the citrus farm about 41 years ago and will discuss the many challenges of farming in that region, including the irrigation system, and the impact of climate change.

Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. with the presentation beginning around 8:15. Please mark your calendar for what is sure to be an informative presentation, absolutely wonderful camaraderie and a hearty breakfast. And invite friends and family to join you.

Elders who need a ride to the breakfast can make arrangements a few days in advance by calling the Tiffany Room at 781- 581-7557.

## EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THE HOMELESS

We are collecting sleeping bags, blankets, gently used clothing (shirts, pants & jackets), shoes (sneakers & boots), backpacks, tarps, hats, gloves, and socks for distribution to the homeless in surrounding communities. The items will be given to Mission for Hope, a non-profit organization established in 2018 by Leighton O'Connor, who is a resident of Nahant. Once a month, O'Connor and his team put the items in a Jeep or truck and drive to a specific location. Recently they made a stop outside My Brother's Table in Lynn. In addition to the items listed above, they also provide hygiene kits with money donated to the organization. If you'd like to participate in this way, you can send a check to the church (PO Box 77) with Mission of Hope in the memo line, or directly to Mission for Hope (20 Castle Road).

Donations of clothing, blankets, etc. may be dropped off starting March 1 through April 4. The church is open from 9-12 and 1-3 Monday through Thursday and from 9-12 on Fridays. The items will be picked up at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Nahant Community Breakfast which will feature a presentation by the founder of Mission for Hope Leighton O'Connor. Questions regarding this drive for the homeless should be directed to O'Connor who can be reached at 978-985-9121.





## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Are you wondering what's up with that search committee?

Here's the skinny — Our profile to search for a Designated Term Pastor has been posted to the UCC website. Moderator Jen McCarthy has assembled a Search Committee that consists of Rex Antrim, Robin deStefanio, Lisa Haley, Christine Stevens, Beth Walls and herself. Several profiles had come in by press time. The Search Committee is reviewing each profile independently and together and preparing to start interviewing candidates.

A Designated Term Pastor is called to serve a church for a specific, predetermined period of time, usually with a defined purpose like church revitalization, or transition, and with the potential to be considered for a settled pastor position after the designated term is complete. We are looking to enter into a three-year agreement with the Designated Term Pastor. It is a process so please be patient and know that we'll keep you posted on the journey.

## NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council met on February 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom because of the weather. During the meeting each Committee and Board representative updated Council as to what they are working on and discussing. We worked with Rev Dave to share information about Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!**

To all Committees and Boards

Just a reminder that your report for the Annual Report is due at the beginning of March. If you haven't submitted your report yet, please check in with Chris Stevens in the office.

Thank you,  
Jen McCarthy  
Moderator



## NVC'S MUSIC PROGRAM

It is with regret to announce that the person we had hoped would be our next Music Director decided to take another position. The Music Committee has started a search by contacting the various Boston music schools and conservatories. If you know of a pianist or organist who is a skilled accompanist and skilled in various styles of music, please contact with Linda Hall ([lindahall.aware@gmail.com](mailto:lindahall.aware@gmail.com)) or Ute Gfrerer ([i@ute-gfrerer.com](mailto:i@ute-gfrerer.com)).

Through Easter, our worship services will feature two guest organists and other musicians. They are (in the order in which they will be at NVC):

**Carol Dixon** - a retired organist who was Organist/Director of Music at the Congregational Church in Topsfield and Trinity Episcopal Church in Melrose.

**Lisa Haley** – an accomplished folk singer/guitarist who also plays flute and handbells and a member of our church.

**Katherine Ou** – an organist who has performed solo recitals in many states, as well as substitute church engagements throughout the Boston area.

**Tanya Blaich** – a pianist and faculty member of New England Conservatory's Collaborative Piano Program.

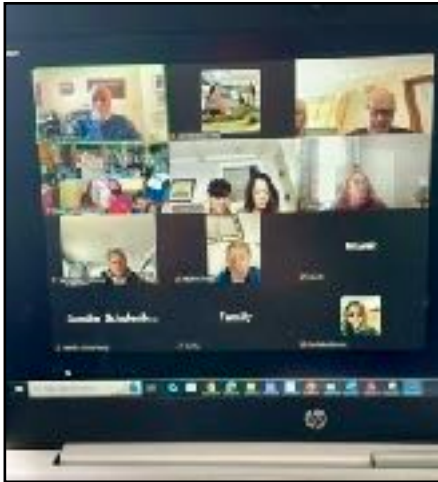
We hope you will join us during this season of Lent and Easter to welcome these musicians and hear



Chris Stevens — 3  
Carol Crawford — 4  
Marrit Hastings — 17  
Lynn Spencer — 26  
Susan Gilbert — 28  
Nancy Antrim — 29

# 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>



A parking ban might have kept us home but it didn't stop Church from coming!  
 Thanks Rev. Dave and to everyone for being so flexible in this crazy winter season!  
 Being together online is better than not being together at all!  
 AMEN!



Beth Walls shared her experiences at Star Island during last month's Community Breakfast. Ask her about her time there — she'll tell you it's worth the price of admission!

The Sock Drive was an absolute success! We collected over 250 pairs of new socks to contribute to the drive initiated by Pam Maverlion at Grace United Methodist Church in Lynn. Not only did we exceed our expectations but Pam said they soared above theirs as well. Grace United hoped to collect 2,150 pairs of socks, one for each unsheltered person in Lynn but ended up with over 2,300 pairs.  
 A huge heartfelt thank you to all who participated!



Thank you to everyone, Roz, Robin, Rich, Jane, Nancy, Mark, Linda, Flo, Donna, Pauline, Amy, Lisa, Jen & Chris, for coming together on such short notice and helping to churn out 200 PB&J sandwiches and packed lunches for My Brother's Table. MBT got new stoves installed last month but it meant a day with no hot meals. A call out to the community for extra meals-to-go spurred us into peanut butter action! It was an awesome, if sticky, effort 😊





## 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](http://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

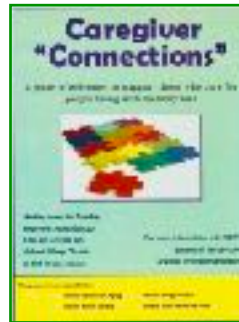
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>

## CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

**Tuesday, March 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](mailto: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

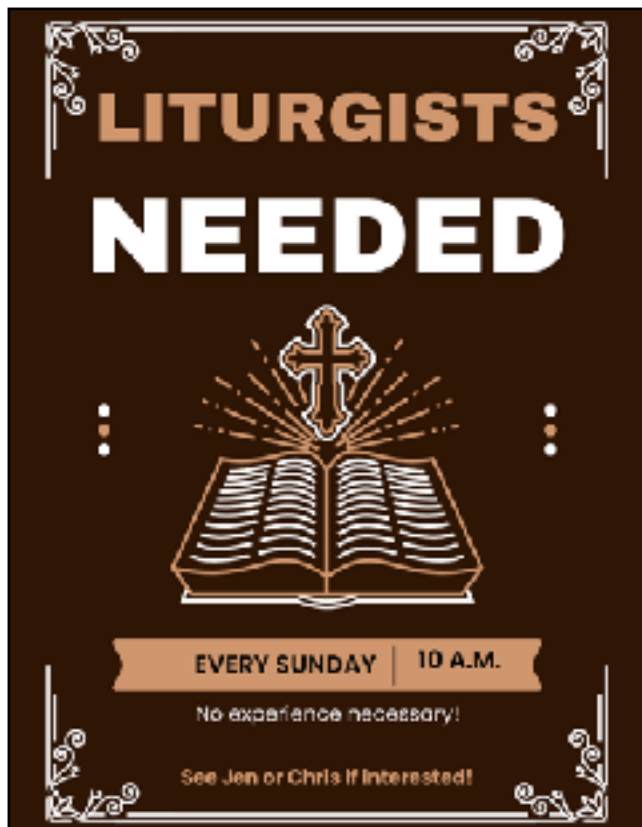
Rev. Dave would love to drop by  
& we'd love to see you so don't hesitate to call!



## 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](mailto:pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com)

**Church Council**

**Jen McCarthy -** [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com)  
or 781-316-7309  
Moderator

**Rex Antrim -** [rexantrim@comcast.net](mailto:rexantrim@comcast.net)  
or 781-856-1067  
Trustee

**Chris Stevens -** [cjs\\_ros2@verizon.net](mailto:cjs_ros2@verizon.net)  
or 781-254-6827 /781-581-1202  
Religious Ed/Office Manager/Sexton

**Marrit Hastings -** [calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com))  
or 781-581-5691- Treasurer

**Beth Walls -** [bethmo81@gmail.com](mailto:bethmo81@gmail.com)  
Deacon

**Robin deStefano -** [rdestef@verizon.net](mailto:rdestef@verizon.net)  
Clerk

**Buildings and Grounds**

**Cal Hastings -** [calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com)  
or 781-581-5691)

**Amy Dow -** [ikors92@yahoo.com](mailto:ikors92@yahoo.com)  
617-378-8520

**Compassionate Care** - 781-581-1202 \_\_\_\_\_  
[secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com) or Jen McCarthy  
at 781-316-7309