

The Nahant Village Church

27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908

An open and affirming
congregation of
the United Church of Christ

Find out more about us at:

nahantvillagechurch.org

Facebook: The Nahant Village
Church

November 2020

*You are welcome at Nahant Village Church
no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on your life or faith journey,
for each one of us is a beloved child of God*

Outdoor Services

Two outdoor worship services were held on October 18 and 25th, led by Rev. Teri Motley. It was the first time that many of us have been able to see each other for over six months, and it was a wonderful way to say goodbye to summer and welcome the fall season. The weather was near perfect.

Many thanks to the organizers and participants in those services: Herb and Teri Motley, Peter Freisinger, Jen McCarthy, Christine and Rich Stevens. The outdoor services were held in the driveway of our neighbor Libby Olson. We greatly appreciate her willingness to let us use this space. About a week before the first outdoor service, a storm knocked down a big tree next to her garage. Thanks to Libby's quick action, the tree was promptly cleared to make room for the late October our worship services.

In a way, our Church transformed the Olson driveway into a modern-day tabernacle. Libby Olson's brother, Tim Callard, brought this perspective: "Before Judaism had a temple building in Jerusalem (built by King Solomon in the 10th century BCE), Jews worshipped in a portable tent wherever they happened to be, and after the Jerusalem temple was destroyed for the second time in 70 CE. Judaism became once again a temple-less religion, with many synagogues scattered around the Mediterranean area wherever Jesus happened to have settled. "



Pictures taken by Christine Stevens

Thanks to the efforts of Herb Motley, you can now find videos of our two outdoor Sunday worship services on our Church's website: nahantvillagechurch.org.

E-News Notice

We trust that you are receiving the weekly e-News which provides a link to prerecorded Sunday worship services, as well as other information about virtual happenings and people on our prayer list. If you are not but would like to receive this information, please contact Marrit Hastings at calhast@hotmail.com or 781-581-5691.

Feedback re: our On-line Services and Videos

"Thank you for the wonderful videos! I had been watching them with my son, who kept smiling and stayed still from the beginning till the end (he has autism). It is very nice of you to send us those videos, since we can't visit a church service in person. The music was very enjoyable, as well as the services of Rev. Teri and Rev. Patricia, and I liked the Nahant Village scenery so much!" --*comments from Kalina to Peter Freisinger*

OTHER CHURCH HAPPENINGS

RINGING OF THE BELLS – VETERANS DAY

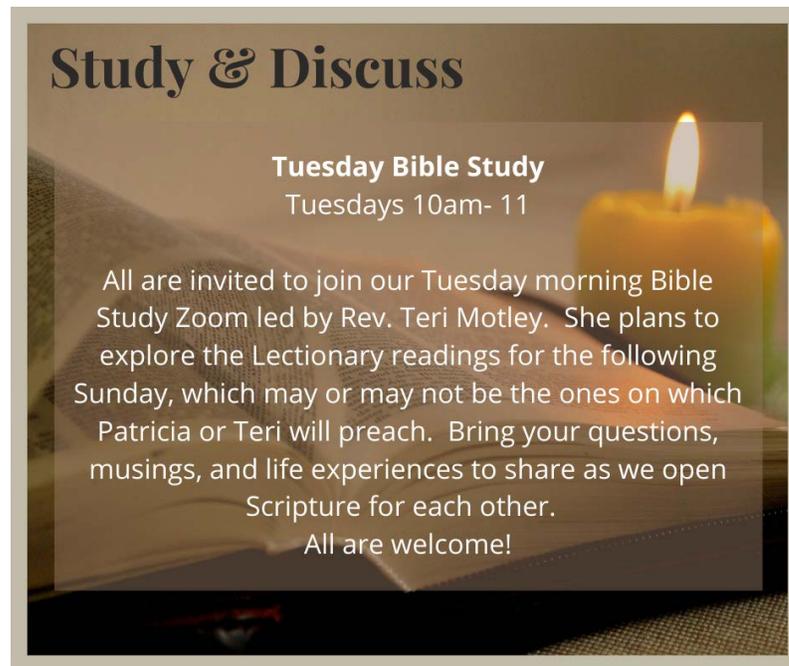
The signing of the Armistice Treaty of Versailles signified the end of World War I in 1918. To commemorate this day, bells tolled from church steeples combined with a moment of silence. Our Church will continue this tradition of honoring our veterans (as it has done in the past couple of years) on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour at the 11th minute with a minute of bell ringing from our Church steeple and silent reflection.

SEARCH UPDATE

The Leadership Team is working closely with the Southern New England Conference of the UCC to identify candidates for Interim Ministry at NVC. To date, we have received four profiles of candidates and reached out to possible other candidates. The Leadership Team (which also serves as the Interim Search Committee) prayerfully continues its search.

Recently, a second search committee was formed to focus on the selection of a Settled Minister. Members of this committee are: Olivia Brand, Bill Crawford, Any Dow, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, Flo Sigourney (in an advisory capacity), Christine Stevens, and Maria Welsh. A small subcommittee has been formed to review the Church Profile used in the recruitment of a Settled Minister. This profile was developed a couple of years ago and revisions may be necessary. Once finalized, this profile will be sent to the UCC so that we can search simultaneously for an Interim and Settled Minister. The subcommittee members are: Bill Crawford, Marrit Hastings, and Christine Stevens.

Bible Study Feeds the Soul and Keeps us Centered



Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11 AM via Zoom. We dig into one or two passages, sharing our personal faith journeys as we do. All are welcome – no preparation is needed, except having a Bible close at hand. Even that is not absolutely necessary, because I can always print the passage in the chat box. If you want to join us, send me an e-mail at terimotley@me.com or call me at 603/903-5091 and I will give you the Zoom link.

No matter what else is going on in the world, the Bible is our author.

Blessings, Rev. Teri

Biblical Resources Available for Request

Prepare Your Heart for Christmas :

Limited copies of this special edition of Our Daily Bread entitled The Peace & Promise of Christmas are available upon request. This booklet is inspired by Bill Crowder's book Before Christmas. You'll find ten reflections telling the story behind the greatest story ever told as you eagerly anticipate celebrating our Savior's birth.

Upper Room -- where the world meets to pray

A few copies of the bimonthly publication with daily prayers cover the months of November and December are available for distribution.

Contact Marrit if you would like to receive a copy of either publication (781-581-5691 or calhast@hotmail.com). They are sent out on a first come first serve basis.

Friday Night Genesis Supper Club



This club has been meeting for eight months and welcomes new participants. Our focus is on healthy mindful eating and how the Bible talks about food and healing. In the beginning during Lent, we were intending to gather in person for discussion and dinner which we did several times, but have changed to a Zoom platform during the pandemic. The group decided to continue meeting after Lent ended every Friday night from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Our online gathering has proved to be a wonderful way to support one another during this challenging time. Each week three to ten people meet via the Zoom app or just on the telephone, your choice!

We have lively discussions about the Chapters in the book of Genesis and Daniel that talk about food. "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which on the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed." We also talk about many of the plants mentioned in the Bible and have had guest speakers on spiritual fasting and mushroom hunting. There is also ample time for healing prayers, celebrating joys and concerns. Rev. Patricia Long has begun attending and shared this observation: "I appreciate the spiritual depth and hospitality, and commitment to love I sense in these gatherings. This is a small 'home church' at its best!"

On the eve of our dear Calantha's 99th birthday, we called her and she entered our circle of love via phone. That same evening Joe Benson joined us from his rehabilitation center in Peabody via Zoom. What a treat!

If you'd like to drop in or join us, please contact Jen McCarthy at edwarthy@hotmail.com or 781-316-7309 for Zoom login or telephone information. If you do not have "Zoom" and would like to participate by phone, one of our members can patch you into the call easily. We'd love to have you join our joyous group. Virtual connections have limitations; nonetheless, they also have special benefits.

Samantha Scolamiero, Club Coordinator

taken on the eve of her birthday by her daughter Melinda Hatfield



COMPASSIONATE CARE GROUP (CCG)

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

Rev. Patricia provides spiritual leadership and guidance to the Compassionate Care Group which was started in 2018 to prepare for having a part-time minister. Rev. Patricia meets with the CCG on Zoom once a month to coordinate reaching out to community members via phone calls, virtual visits and sending cards. The members are: Christine Alexander (Coordinator, Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Marrit Hastings, Rev. Teri Motley, Samantha Scolamiero, and Betsy Winkler.

If you need or desire someone to reach out to you or pray for you or know someone else in need, please contact Rev. Patricia Long (revpatsylong@gmail.com or 781-941-6663) or Christine Alexanders (chris2954@gmail.com or 781-864-5367).

“It is in caring for others that we can realize our greatest potential as human beings” (source unknown)



- Our country
- For those recovering from the wildfires and storm damage
- Peggy Silva and her family as they mourn the loss of their loved one, Bob Silva
- Donna Gramolini
- Ione, Catsby, Polly, Alice, Lucy, Muriel and Calantha
- Joe and Youngae
- Andy Puleo as he recovers from surgery
- Dottie Johnson
- Leslie as she grieves the sudden loss of her husband
- For those affected by COVID-19
- For our Police, Fire, EMT's, doctors and nurses

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Patricia Long – Nov. 3
Donna Gramolini – Nov. 4
Rich Stevens – Nov. 21
Norman Laliberte – Nov. 25

Happy Birthday to all and have an amazing year ahead!

And a big thank you to Flo Sigourney for sending out Happy Birthday cards on behalf of NVC!

Future Happenings

PLANNING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

We are beginning to plan for Advent and Christmas virtual worship and need your help. All of us would like this worship to be meaningful and beautiful, so we welcome any thoughts you have about elements of Advent and Christmas Services that particularly moved you in the past.

Also, if you have pictures, no matter how old, of past Christmas and Advent services, Christmas Pageants, Christmas Fairs, in this Church or the Methodist Church that existed before the merger, or of any part of the Church Building at Christmas, we would like you to share them with us. We will digitize the pictures (if they haven't been digitized already) and return them to you.



picture taken by Jen McCarthy

Moreover, if you have tapes or recordings of services and especially Christmas music, please share them with us as well. We can make arrangements to have them digitized as well.

And finally, if you are tech savvy and would like to help us put together gorgeous and beautiful church services, we invite you to be part of this process.

Please contact either one of us or a member of the Leadership Team

Blessings and Peace

Rev. Patricia Long – revpatsylong@gmail.com – 781-941-6663

Rev. Teri Motley – terimotley@me.com – 603-903-5091

SEEKING YOUR HELP

As the Church goes into the new world of virtual and digital worship, The Leadership Team is putting together a committee to look at IT needs of the Church. Their focus will be on figuring out what equipment and people power is needed to improve the quality of our virtual worship services. Jen McCarthy, Christine Stevens, Amy Dow and Herb Motley all have been involved in producing past video services, and we are extremely grateful for all the leg work that they have done and the numerous hours they have spent. The Leadership Team believes that this is not a sustainable arrangement in the long run and is forming this committee to look for a solution.

A great deal has been learned in the past couple of weeks about video recording and live streaming worship services – a UCC Super Saturday workshop on the topic and an interview with Carlos Aoun who video taped the November 1 worship service. We plan to consult with UCC's recently appointed and first Digital Minister, Rev. Eric Elley. We are inviting people with technical skills and experience to help us along that road. We need skills in recording, editing, and transferring files between platforms, such as YouTube and FaceBook. If you are such a person, or if you know such a person who is not now part of our Church but might be interested in helping us, call or email Herb Motley at 617-943-5657, or herbmot@gmail.com.

Missions

WHITE CHRISTMAS

A few weeks before Christmas is a time when the Church collects White Christmas gifts for needy families in our Church and the wider Nahant community. In the past, we have been able to help numerous Johnson Elementary School families and others. We plan to continue this tradition in 2020, particularly since so many people are going through hard times due to the pandemic's economic impact. Instead of collecting gift cards, we ask that you make donations by check (with White Xmas in the memo line). You can also make White Christmas donations via our website: nahantvillagechurch.org. Sending gift cards or cash in the mail may not be safe and secure. The Leadership Team will purchase gift cards and handle the distribution as it has done in the past.

If you want to add someone or a family who lives in Nahant or who is a Church parishioner to the White Christmas list, please contact Marrit Hastings at 781-581-5691 or calhast@hotmail.com. Thank you for your generosity and for spreading the Christmas spirit.

IN THE NEWS -- GOOD WORKS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Churches raise enough to erase about \$26M in medical debt"

This was the headline in a recent Daily Item. The article reported on more than 100 UCC congregations across southern New England who helped raise enough money to erase a total of \$26,2 million in medical debt for thousands of families across the Northeast and more than 12,000 first responders and medical workers nationwide. This was a debt-forgiveness campaign that raised more than \$200,000. This was a very tangible way, particularly in the midst of a pandemic, to respond to UCC's call to make God's love and justice real.

Unfortunately, NVC learned about this opportunity too late to participate. Be sure that we will be on the lookout for similar UCC campaigns allowing NVC or individuals to get involved and make a difference in the lives of those in need.

NVC does this on a smaller scale through its Communion Offering Fund which provides the following types of assistance to needy individuals or families in our Congregation and the Nahant Community: fuel, rent and utility payments, scholarship debts, emergency repairs, as well as gift cards for food. Contributions can be made to the Church with Communion Offering in the memo line. Again, if you know of someone in need, please provide this information to Marrit Hastings at calhast@hotmail.com or 781-581-5691.



Financial News

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The NVC Board of Trustees launched the 2021 Stewardship Campaign in late October with a mailing to members and friends. This campaign takes place every fall to raise funds for Church operations and to provide all its services and outreach to the community. We rely ENTIRELY on the generosity of our members and our friends.

We hope that you can make a gift or pledge, adding support to the ongoing missions and ministry of our beloved Church in Nahant. Any contribution to the Church is important and highly valued – no matter how small or large!

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The NVC Stewardship Committee

Bill Crawford, Amy Dow, Elisabeth Foukal, Cal and Marrit Hastings, and Lynne Spencer

Contributions can be made via:

- Check to Nahant Village Church, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
- Mobile giving by downloading the Give+ App and selecting Nahant Village Church (zip code 01908), or
- Our online giving platform VANCO, home page of our website, top right-hand corner at nahantvillagechurch.org.

Village Ringer News

For the first time since March, a small group of bell ringers was able to gather for a rehearsal. Several members decided to hold off rejoining until a later time when concerns over COVID spread and infections have diminished. Even though we will not have the full bell choir to play, there are several things in the works that we hope to share with you soon. Quartet members are working on several pieces of music that will be recorded for upcoming worship services. So stay tuned! The quartet members are: Amy Dow, Elisabeth Foukal, Lisa Haley, and Rich Stevens. Direction of the bell choir is shared by Amy Dow and Marrit Hastings.

WORDS OF THANKS

To Paul Richardson for fixing the electric candles in the sanctuary candelabras that were left in disarray after an unexpected visit by a squirrel. Many years ago, Paul was instrumental in getting the Church to adopt the electric candles and to put the system together in such a way that the candelabras can both be used with candles and electric light bulbs. This was done when Paul served on the Board of Deacons. Thank you, Paul!



To Amy Dow and Cal Hastings for their continued hard work in the parsonage yard.

To Bridge Ministers Patricia and Teri for helping us out and providing spiritual leadership while we search for an Interim Minister.

To our Leadership Team and others for all they do and have done to keep our virtual doors open during these challenging times.
