



The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908
An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
where everyone is welcome



3rd Tides Fundraiser 6:00 pm

4th Community Breakfast 8:00 am

6th 17th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am *Worship/Communion*
 CCG meeting after worship

13th 18th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am Worship Service

20th 19th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am Worship Service

27th 20th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am Worship Service
 Following the service:
 Card making and/or writing
 by Congregation in
 Swansburg Hall



Greetings Friends!

This fall is off to a wonderful start here at the Nahant Village Church. After a summer filled with small group conversations, I picked up on some consistent themes regarding what the Nahant Village Church values and how this congregation would like to operate in the community. I'd like to use this month's Pulpit Rock letter to talk about a couple of new things we are doing in order to best live out our values of being an inclusive community for all people. This fall we are focusing on children and visitors. But, over the course of the year, we will address how we can be more welcoming to all people including: seniors, those with disabilities (physical and mental), and more.

This fall we will be working on several initiatives to make our community life and worship more **child-friendly**. Our worship services will be running no longer than 50 minutes, so that wiggly toddlers can better enjoy the time in worship with us. You'll also find me engaging the children in worship in a variety of ways (holding the offering to bless it, for example). New changing tables and high chairs will be appearing along with a helpful guide for worshipping with children. For each sermon series, there will be an associated Children's bulletin with coloring, prayer prompts and other ways for children to engage in our theme with us. If you have kids, please know that we welcome their engagement, wiggles, and commentary! If you don't have kids, get to know the ones we have in

church. Learn their names, smile at them, ask them about themselves, and tell them a story about your own life. It is through these actions that we build up the next generation of disciples.

This fall we will be working on becoming a more **visitor-friendly** church! I know that the Nahant Village Church loves to welcome people into our community. To help us do so we will all be wearing name tags so that we can build deeper relationships with newcomers. You will also find a new visitor card in the pew backs which invites visitors to share some information about themselves so that we can follow up and welcome them fully. If you have a friend who might be interested in checking out our church, direct them to our newly updated website with links to podcast recordings of each Sunday's sermon. Throughout the fall, I will be sprinkling in some best practices regarding church revitalization and growth based on my years as an instructor on the topic with the Center for Progressive Renewal.

This is just the beginning, church! These new initiatives are based on prayerful conversations that I had with many of you over the summer regarding your top priorities. But, I know there are more voices to be heard and ideas to be shared. Please make an appointment with me if you would like to talk more about these new initiatives or if you have an idea for how we can live out our values of welcome and inclusivity more fully.

Peace,
Rev. Megan



1st Community Breakfast 8:00 am

3rd 21st Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am *Worship/Communion*

10th 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am Worship
 1:00 pm Serve at MBT

17th 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 Gratitude Sunday Service
 10:30 am Worship

24th Reign of Christ
 10:30 am Worship
 Following worship:
 Card making and/or writing by
 Congregation in Swansburg

28th Thanksgiving Day

Save The Dates For These Upcoming Special Events

The Tides Fundraiser October 3, 6:00 - 9:00 a.m.



Join Us At The Tides On October 3 To Help Make This Event A Smashing Success For Our Church! Raffles, Beautiful Baskets, Gift Certificates, Collectibles, And Much More!

The Tides Donates 10 Percent

Of The Total Sales During The Fundraiser To The Nvc, So Come And Eat Dinner!

Call Jen McCarthy At 781-316-7309 For Information Or To Donate A Raffle Item.

Connections, A Memory Café Thursday, October 10 at 10 a.m. the Nahant Public Library.

If you know of anyone concerned about memory loss, please spread the word about our efforts to make Nahant a more dementia friendly community. Sponsors are the Nahant Public Library and the Nahant Council on Aging.



The Compassionate Care Group (CCG)

On the last Sunday, of each month, materials will be available in Swansburg Hall during Coffee Hour, for people in the Congregation to write cards for those on our "Care List". Cards can then be placed in the Card Box, unsealed, to be addressed and stamped by the CCG members. There will also be materials available to design and make cards. All ages are welcome to participate!

Greeting cards and the Card Box will be available in the Companionway on other Sundays.

During the month of November, CCG will be visiting three nursing homes to provide worship services with the theme of gratitude. Anyone is welcome to join us.

If you know of anyone in need of our care, please let Rev. Megan know directly. If you are interested in joining the CCG please let Rev. Megan or a member of the group know. Please keep this ministry of Nahant Village Church in your prayers.

Peace be with you,

Christine Alexander, (coordinator), Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, Claudia Orleans, Samantha Scolamiero, Christine Stevens and Betsy Winkler.



Nahant Community Breakfast Friday, October 4, 8:00 a.m.

Bridge the Divide – Respectful Conversations

Please join us for the start of this new initiative aimed at addressing the dramatic decline in civil discourse over the years—not only politically but also as it concerns town issues. More importantly, we want to raise awareness of the importance of engaging in civil conversation—to speak and listen to one another in productive ways.

This initiative is a collaborative activity. This month, the Nahant Public Library is holding a town-wide read of *Empire Falls*, Richard Russo's Pulitzer winning novel, followed by a book discussion immediately following the Oct. 4 breakfast. The Library also will have a showing of the 2005 HBO movie at a later date. Children at the Johnson School will be making banners to support this initiative aimed at making our town and world a "kinder" place.

Worship in October will focus on Civil Discourse and Communications, learning best practices from our Christian faith for communicating across divides. In late October or early November, plans are to hold a workshop on "bridging the divide" with tips on what we might be able to do about it.

So please join us to be in community with one another and practice listening and speaking with love, grace, and justice in mind.

Silent Movie Night

Friday, February 8, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

The movie that will be show is **The General** starring Buster Keaton with live piano accompaniment by Rob Humphreville. The movie was made in 1926 and it is considered one of the greatest movies of all time. Here is a plot summary:

One of the most revered comedies of the silent era, this film finds hapless Southern railroad engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) facing off against Union soldiers during the American Civil War. When Johnny's fiancée, Annabelle Less, is accidentally taken away while on a train stolen by Northern forces, Gray pursues the soldiers, using various modes of transportation in comic action scenes that highlight Keaton's boundless wit and dexterity.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or \$15 if bought in advance and purchased before December 31, 2019. The movie is preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m.



Civil Discourse/ Communications

During the month of October our worship and sermons will be focused on the topic of communication and civil discourse. In our worship we will learn about what Jesus taught regarding communication. And, we will learn best practices from our Christian faith for communicating across borders. Join us to be in community with one another and practice listening and speaking with love, grace, and justice in mind.

Sign Up for Weekly E-mail from NVC

Would you like to receive weekly E-mail notices about the activities and services at NVC? If so, sign up on the NVC Website or e-mail your contact information and permission to Secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

Monday Facebook Live Prayer

Rev. Megan speaks live on the Nahant Village Church Facebook page on **Monday mornings at 11:30 a.m.** with church announcements, poetry, and prayer. Start your week off on a positive note and tune in each Monday to watch live or watch at any point during the week. This is a great way to share what's happening at Nahant Village Church with neighbors and community members.

We invite you to “like” the NVC when you visit us on Facebook.

NVC Podcast

You may link to Rev. Megan’s podcasts from the lower half of the NVC Home page or by clicking on the “Worship” tab from the Home page.

Nahant Village Church Placemats



We are currently working on updating the NVC placemats used in Swansburg Hall for the Community Breakfast and other events. If you know of any business or person who would like to sponsor an add on the updated

placemat, please contact Marrit Hastings or send an e-mail including the name and contact information to secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

Thank You Herman Weiss for the Beautiful Music

It is with great regret that the Music Committee of the Nahant Village Church announces the departure of our Music Director, Herman Weiss, as of October 2019. We are appreciative for the four years he spent with us, during which he demonstrated the

incredible breadth of his musical skills and knowledge. Whether he was playing on the organ, piano or keyboard, or directing the choir, his music added another spiritual dimension to our worship. In addition to leading our choir members on Sundays, he provided us with especially wonderful music during Advent, Christmas and Easter, with the addition of talented instrumentalists and professional singers.

Herman has expressed his appreciation to the Nahant Village Church for his time with us. We wish Herman all the best in his next position and we will all certainly miss him.

A special thank you to Roz Puleo for her marvelous cake decorating/making skills and for providing this beautiful tribute (picture above) for Herman’s reception on September 22.



Music Committee News



The Music Committee is pleased to announce that Peter Freisinger will be our interim Music Director starting in early October. Peter, a Revere native, is a pianist and conductor who studied at the University of Cincinnati, where he got a DMA in Orchestra

Conducting. He conducts the Freisinger Chamber Orchestra, and is a dance pianist at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and at Urbanity Dance where he plays for “Dance with Parkinson’s.” Most recently, Peter was Music Director at First Baptist Church in Needham. We extend a warm welcome to Peter.

A Stole for Rev, Megan

"The Congregation presented Rev. Megan Snell, new pastor of the Nahant Village Church with this stole during worship on Sunday September 8. Rev. Megan is delighted with this meaningful gift which reminds her of the journey that we are on as a congregation together."

It is a beautiful labyrinth-inspired stole named for the Constellation Vela. Vela is Latin for the sails of a ship. There is unbridled potential for journey's in a ship's sails, even though the traveler may not know exactly how the journey might progress or where it may lead.



Betsy's Rock Project

The hand painted rocks with inspiring messages can be found all around the Church and town, thanks to Betsy Winkler. She came with the idea after a recent Memory Café painting activity at the Nahant Public Library. She put the remaining paint to good use. Many thanks to Betsy for coming up with this idea and for lifting our spirits with these brightly painted rocks.

Successful Fall Flea Market

We had another successful Flea Market netting almost \$3,500. Our thanks go to the many donors, the bakers and workers and to all those who came to buy. Special thanks go to Maureen Edison for her wonderful boutique of lightly worn or new designer clothes and accessories (it brought in almost \$900); and Lenora Brauner, Roz Puleo, and Maria Welsh for doing a fantastic job with the bake sale (which brought in about \$750). Others who were instrumental in making this a successful and fun fundraiser were: Elaine Barker, Olivia Brandt, Alice Cort, Bill Crawford, Amy Dow, Mayra Fox, Lucy Grimm and her daughter Charlotte, Cal and Marrit Hastings, Edie Hunnewell, Mo Locke, Jen McCarthy, Robbie McGowan, Claudia Orleans, Roz and Andy Puleo, Becky Richardson, Calantha Sears, Lissa Stempek, Marsha White, and Betsy Winkler. Also, a big thank you to our AA Susan Gilbert who helped with the PR.

Items that did not sell were donated to The Salvation Army and Savers (an organization that helps over 100 non-profit organizations to support vital community programs and services). Some items were saved for our Christmas Fair.



Moving Forward with Universal Access

The Nahant Village Church Trustees are developing plans to make the Church more accessible to Church members and friends and others using our building. In keeping with our mission to be inclusive for all, the Trustees feel this change is long overdue. Universal access is the goal which means that "all" -- regardless of mobility or other disabilities can fully participate in the life of the Church and enjoy the many community activities that take place in Swansburg Hall. The Church is home to many entities in Nahant providing services, concerts, weddings, funerals, community breakfasts and special events.

The Trustees have reviewed three options from architect Patrick Gurthrie and focused on a single option that seems most respectful to the building and users, with costs and disruption of existing spaces in mind. The result would be modifications of both the Church entrance and the Companionway entrance by regrading to create accessible walks from the street along with improvements at the entrances themselves. Once inside, with the challenge of the many steps and levels from the Narthex to Swansburg Hall, a combination of ramps and a wheelchair lift will offer access to all to the recently renovated restrooms (of one which is handicapped accessible) and Swansburg Hall. Thus, the Sanctuary and Chapel, Swansburg Hall and the restrooms will be universally accessible to all.

The Trustees will be sharing these plans with the Congregation and the Nahant community soon. A capital campaign is being planned for 2020 to raise the funds needed for the universal access improvements. Just as some will recall the 1999 capital campaign which raised funds for the comprehensive building repairs and created the building care endowment. In the same spirit, the 2020 campaign will also raise funds to be added to the Church's endowments to help support the rising costs of our ministry.