



# 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



Dear Friends,

I had such a fabulous time celebrating Advent and Christmas with you all.

We had a completely full church for the Christmas Eve worship service and I have heard from many of our visitors, friends, and neighbors about the sacred experience of singing and praying together that evening. Thank you all for being a part of that worship.

In January we turn towards Epiphany and new chapters. We follow God's light as we explore new ideas and events together as a church. One thing that I hear from many UCC church goers is that they wish to know more of the Bible and to read it together. Responding to that longing, I invite you to join us for worship on Sundays, where we will be reading/preaching straight through the Gospel of Mark (chapter by chapter) beginning in January and leading up to Lent. I promise you that you will have a greater sense of Biblical literacy and faithful wrestling with scripture at the conclusion of this preaching series.

I pray that you all welcome in the New Year with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas still residing in your hearts.

Epiphany Blessings,  
Rev. Megan

## New Members Classes at the Nahant Village Church

Are you new to the church (in the past two years)? Are you interested in learning more about the church and what it means to be a member? Church membership is like going from being a guest at a party to becoming a host. It's about knowing the

background details of how the church runs, what is stored in which church closet and where we are going in mission and service in the years to come. If you are ready to take the next step and make the Nahant Village Church *YOUR* church home contact Rev. Megan Snell at this e-mail [rev.megansnell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.megansnell@gmail.com) to register for New Members Classes.

Classes will be held on these dates:  
Sunday, January 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.,  
Sunday, February 23, 12:00-2:00 p.m.,  
Sunday, March 22, 12-2 p.m.

Classes will conclude with dinner, dessert and faith stories at the parsonage on Sunday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m. All who wish may choose to formally join the church on Pentecost (Sunday, May 31, 2020). Whether you've been a part of NVC for two weeks or two years, you are welcome to join in the New Members Classes.

## Stay Connected

### Sign Up for Weekly E-mail

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.

### Sermon Podcast

You may link to the sermon podcasts from the lower half of the NVC Home page or by clicking on the "Worship" tab from the Home page.

### Bible Study

Join Rev. Megan and the Bible Study Group in her office on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

### Rev. Megan's Drop In Hours

Tuesdays from 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the church, or by appointment.

### 5th Epiphany Service

10:30 am Worship/Communion  
CCG Meeting following worship

### 9th Memory Cafe

Nahant Library at 10:00 a.m.

### 10th Community Breakfast 8:00 am

### 12th Worship Service

10:30 am Worship  
1:00 pm Serve at MBT

### 19th Worship Service

10:30 am Worship

### 26th Worship Service

10:30 am Worship  
CCG Card Writing after  
worship in Swansburg Hall



### 12:00 p, New Member Class

### 2nd Worship Service

10:30 am Worship/Communion

### 7th Community Breakfast 8:00 am

### 8th Silent Movie Night

5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner  
7:00 p.m The General

### 9th Worship Service

10:30 am Worship

### 16th Worship Service

10:30 am Worship

### 23rd Transfiguration

10:30 am Worship  
12:00 pm New Member Class

## Mark Your Calendars

### Connections, A Memory Café

Thursday, January, 9th at 10:00 a.m.

at 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 of the Memory Cafe are the Nahant Public Library, the Nahant Council on Aging, and the Nahant Village Church.

### Compassionate Care Group (CCG) News

The Compassionate Care Group did programs at the Jesmond NH in Nahant and Hathorne Rehab (Danvers, Ione Hansell) in December. The residents of the Jesmond especially enjoy our visits. Ione and her companions were happy to see us and appreciated our visit. The Compassionate Care Group will meet on **Sunday, January 5** after worship. If you are interested in joining the CCG or wish to suggest someone to be on our list, please let Rev. Megan or Chris Alexander know. Card making/writing will be held on **Sunday, January 26** after worship in Swansburg Hall. You are invited to make and/or write cards for folks on our list. We ask you to keep this ministry of the NVC in your prayers.

*Christine Alexander, Coordinator, Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, Teri Motley, Samantha Scolamiero, Betsy Winkler and Rev. Megan.*



### Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, January 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

**"It is not our Differences that divide us.  
It is how we choose to deal with them."**

The January breakfast will be held on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> (not the 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the New Year holiday). The presentation will be given by Dave Joseph, Senior Associate of Essential Partners, an organization that was started about 30 years ago as the Public Conversation Project. Drawing on 15 plus years of peace-building, mediation and communications work in the US, Europe, Africa and Asia, Dave will speak about the challenges of strengthening community in an increasingly polarized world. He will address head-on the challenges of building trust and relationships when so many forces are working against those goals we profess to support. Dave will share a number of stories of how to engage across differences about controversial/critical issues in ways that preserve relationships and community, rather than fracture them.

This is a follow up to the initiative "Bridge the Gap—Respectful Conversation" that was initiated in October by the Nahant Village Church in collaboration with the Nahant Public Library and the Johnson Elementary School. Banners created by JS students can be seen all over town urging us to create a kinder and more caring community and environment.

We hope to follow this presentation with a workshop to help us become better communicators. More details will be provided as plans for that workshop are being worked out.

The free breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and concludes about 9 o'clock. Please plan to come for a hearty breakfast, an informative presentation and wonderful camaraderie. All are welcome. Spread the word and bring a family member or friend.

Arrangement for transportation of elders to and from the breakfast can be made by calling the Tiffany Room a few days in advance of the breakfast at 781-581-7557.

### **Silent Movie Night**

**Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 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.

The movie is preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m.

## Christmas by the Sea Gratitude



On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Nahant Village Church hosted another successful Christmas Fair. Although there were other activities in Nahant that day, we enjoyed steady traffic and exceeded our budget goal.

The Christmas by the Sea Fair would not have been successful without the contributions and hard work of many of our members and friends. The fair co-chairs were Marrit Hastings and Jen McCarthy, who worked very long and hard to organize the fair for weeks. We are thankful for the many donations we received from individuals and businesses. We also thank all those who visited the fair from Nahant and local communities and who shopped with us that day!

Special thanks go to:

**Baked Goods:** Maria Welsh\* Lenore Brauner, Roz Puleo

**Boutique:** Maureen Edison\* Maureen Locke, Dalia Shilas, Claudia Orleans

**Christmas Elves and Children's Activities:** Samantha Scolamiero\* and her friend, Caryl

**Fair Set up and Breakdown:** Marrit and Cal Hastings\*, Andy Puleo, Andy Karl, Clinton Norton, Jen McCarthy, Angie Johnston

**Gift Table:** Betsy Winkler\*, Pam Motley, Olivia Brant, Donna Gramolini

**Greens:** Robbie McGowan\*, Martha McGowan Griffin, Claudia Orleans, Wendy Buening, Pat McArdle, Nancy Cantelmo, Margaret Alexander

**Jewelry:** Amy Dow\*, Lissa Stempek\*, Elisabeth Foukal, Jackie Meuse, Elaine Barker, Joanie Lanzerio

**Kitchen Food Preparation and Sales:** Jen and Scott McCarthy\*, Rachel McCarthy, Susan Edwards

**Publicity:** Susan Gilbert, Jen McCarthy, Maureen Edison

**Raffle/Silent Auction:** Marrit Hastings\*, Herb Motley, Angie Johnston, Nicole Battaglia, Edie Richardson Bill Crawford

**White Elephant:** Christine Stevens\*, Nancy Carey, Hannah Gilman

**Wreaths:** Swampscott Boy Scout Troop 53

This list is not totally inclusive, and we thank all others who helped make this a successful Christmas by the Sea!!! May the friendly spirit and the joy of our church and the community working together continue into the New Year and beyond!!

**God Bless You, One and All!!**

\*Indicates Table Chair

## *Thank you*

My dear dear friends at NVC, I am still glowing from the thoughtful and lovely recognition of my 25th Anniversary of my ordination. I had forgotten the exact time we first met but Nancy words brought it all back to me. Nancy, thank you for your kind and generous words!

The bell choir moved me to tears, you sound wonderful! The rest of the music was for Advent but my, how I love to hear you. Peter and Rich, the piece: What Child Is This was over-the-top! Rev Megan I so appreciated your blessing, and I love passing the baton of Pastor off to the likes of you! Thank you also for reaching out to my dear family. As I mentioned during the fine service, the greatest honor you can offer me is to share in our call to bring love and light beyond NVC and into our families and the world. I shall never forget that you remembered.

*Love you, Rev Patricia Long*

## **Thank you from the Johnson School**

Nahant Village Church, I am truly overwhelmed and in awe each year when I see the generosity and immense support you all give to our students and families at the Johnson School.

Please know that I am, and the families are, so grateful and thankful for what you do.

Merry Christmas and my best wishes for a healthy New Year to you all!

Cheryl DiLisio

## **White Christmas**

Many thanks to all who contributed to our traditional White Christmas intended to bring gift cards to those in need in our congregation and community. This year we were able to deliver 19 envelopes each containing \$100 in gift cards to the Johnson Elementary School to be given to 12 needy families identified by the school nurse. An additional \$2,000 in gift cards were distributed to ten individuals or families in our congregation and community. We trust that these small gifts will bring a glimmer of joy during this Christmas season. In total we distributed almost \$4,000 in White Christmas gifts.

## **A Note from My Brother's Table**

Thank you for supporting My Brother's Table with your generous \$500 donation. Last year, thanks to thoughtful friends like you, we were able to serve over 180,000 meals."

In addition to this monetary contribution, our Church provides and serves a meal every other month at MBT which is paid for from donations received from parishioners. A special collection is taken six times a year for that specific purpose. Several parishioners volunteer their services on a regular basis to support this non-profit organization that meets such a critical need in this area.



### Stewardship and the Budget

A big thank you for participating in the 2020 Stewardship Campaign of our Church. Your support and that of others in our congregation enable the Church to continue its ministry of healing and hope.

To reiterate one of our stewardship moments, stewardship is like a jigsaw puzzle. Every piece is unique and fits in only one place. There are many pieces that may look alike, but in the end, each piece has just one single spot. And, in a puzzle, every piece is as important as the other; no piece is better than another. Each piece also requires its neighboring pieces to work.

So you see, each of us is a piece of that puzzle, and together with our fellow Christians are an integral and equal part of the whole image.

If you have not already done so, there is still time to join the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

As you undoubtedly know, the stewardship campaign is one of the most critical inputs to the Church's annual budget. Last year, pledges constituted almost two-thirds of the Church's Operating Budget income, with the remaining one-third coming from Sunday offerings, special collections at Easter and Christmas, and contributions from friends and Foundations. We undertake significant fundraising efforts – the Christmas Fair, Tides fundraisers, Flea Markets, and others in an attempt to balance the budget. When our budget is balanced, our expenses equal our income in a given year. It is a credit to us all that we have been able to balance our budgets for the past several years without requiring a subsidy from one of our Endowment Funds. We hope to do it again in 2019 and beyond!

The Trustees are in the process of developing an Operating Budget for 2020. And like Stewardship, this also is like a jigsaw puzzle. Every piece of that puzzle is important – whether large or small. And each piece also

requires its neighboring pieces to work. There will be a budget meeting in early February which we urge everyone in the congregation to attend. It will describe our sources of income and expenses and identify any issues or concerns that the Church may face going forward.

Please feel free to address any questions regarding Stewardship and the Budget to any of the Trustees: Bill Crawford (Chair), Amy Dow, Elisabeth Foukal, Cal Hastings and Lynne Spencer.

### Christmas Fair Results

Congratulations to all who helped to make this year's Christmas Fair a resounding success. Preliminary results suggest that we will achieve or exceed the \$10,000 mark for the fair (far more than the \$6,500 that was budgeted for 2019).

Table by Table contributions are shown below:

Bake Sale	\$1,699
Boutique	\$ 725
Crafts/Gifts	\$ 904
Greens	\$ 483
Jewelry	\$ 924
Raffle	\$1,044
Silent Auction	\$2,593
Snack Bar	\$1,333
White Elephant	\$ 382

We also received monetary contributions, as well as money for a table rental and a portion of the proceeds of that table's sales.

So again, our heartfelt thanks to all who worked so diligently or helped to make this another successful Christmas Fair. **A job well done!**

