

The Pulpit Rock

October 2020

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

Find out more about us at:

nahantvillagechurch.org

Facebook: The Nahant Village Church

To our beloved Nahant Village Church Community,

If you are like the Leadership Team, you were very surprised to hear the news of Rev. Megan Snell's sudden resignation. We are sure that you are feeling many of the feelings that we are, sadness, anger and confusion, but also happiness. We were so enthusiastic two years ago to welcome Rev Megan into our NVC family and begin a new spiritual journey together. And what a good two years we had with her! Now, we are left with our other feelings. We are grieving and sad at the loss of our spiritual leader and a person that many of us consider a friend. We are confused. Why? Why did she leave? Why so sudden? Did we do something wrong?

The Leadership Team has worked hard over the past month to try to get some of the answers to these questions. We have met with several professionals from the UCC to help get some of these answers. We had an Exit Interview with Rev Megan which was facilitated by the UCC. The Leadership Team wants to share with you what we have discovered over the past month.

As hard as it is to accept, you need to know that Rev Megan has made the right decision in leaving. She had several life events come together, with a calling from God to head in a different direction.

We have turned over every stone, and we asked if it was us? Did we at the Nahant Village Church do something wrong? Here is the good news. We can assure you; Rev Megan did not leave because of us. We are not in a position to share the specifics of her life events, as they are personal, but please trust us when we tell you, her sudden resignation had nothing to do with the Nahant Village Church. At this time, we would like to ask you to join us in accepting her resignation, as difficult as it may be.

In the meantime, we are so fortunate to have Rev Teri Motley, and Rev Patricia Long step in and help us through this time of transition. The Leadership Team has already submitted our Interim Profile, and we have received several Profiles back from interested Interim Pastors. We will keep you updated as we move into our interim period.

A final thought as we end this letter; with so many transitions going in our lives, personally and collectively, we who belong to this faith community take refuge in God's promise: I am with you always, Be not afraid.

Peace and Blessings,

The Leadership Team: Jennifer McCarthy, Chairman; Joseph Benson; Nancy Cantelmo; Bill Crawford; Marrit Hastings; Maria Welsh

Bridge Ministry Team

Here is the contact information for our Bridge Ministry Team:

- Rev. Patricia Long – revpatsylong@gmail.com or 781-941-6663
- Rev. Teri Motley – terimotle@me.com or 603-983-5091
- Chair of the NVC Leadership Team – Jen McCarthy – edwarthy@hotmail.com or 781-316-7309

Online Worship Services

During the past month we transitioned to our Bridge Ministry led by Revs. Patricia Long and Teri Motley. They have been assisted by a team of volunteers who video taped the Sunday worship services, put all the pieces together (including music and wonderful photography), and then made it available online. Our apologies for some of the difficulties we encountered with the sound. We are learning and improving with the passing of each week. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to make these online services happen – Jen McCarthy, Amy Dow, and Chris Stevens, as well as our AA Kyle Seline. Contact Jen if you wish to volunteer to be part of an upcoming service at edwarthy@hotmail.com or 781-316-7309.

Something New Starting in early October, worship services will now be broadcast at 10:30 am every Sunday via Zoom. Be on the lookout for Zoom specifics from Jen or E-News. This broadcast will help to make us feel a bit more together as we participate in the worship service. For those of you who are unable to join at the regular worship time, you can use the other link in E-News to watch it on YouTube. We welcome any feedback re the new 10:30 gathering for worship.

Not Able to Connect Online?

We realize that many in our congregation do not have internet connections or computers and therefore cannot participate in our Sunday worship services. Please let us know if this is the case. If you'd like, we will be happy to drop off or send a hard copy of the weekly sermon to your home, as well as other information contained in the weekly e-news. Contact Marrit Hastings at calhast@hotmail.com or 781-581-5691.

Outdoor Worship Service

Weather permitting, we hope to hold one or two in person worship services outdoors during the month of October. The outdoor service will be held on the property of Libby Olson who owns the yellow house adjacent to the Church. The first one is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 led by Rev. Teri Motley.

Stay tuned for further details.

Gather

Fellowship and Learning Opportunities

Study & Discuss

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays 10am- 11

All are invited to join our Tuesday morning Bible Study Zoom led by Rev. Teri Motley. She plans to explore the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday, which may or may not be the ones on which Patricia or Teri will preach. Bring your questions, musings, and life experiences to share as we open Scripture for each other.

All are welcome!

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays 5pm- 6:30

A continuation of the great start that we had in the Lenten Supper Club. This is a Whole food, Plant based Dinner, Discussion, Bible Study, Exploration. Guest lectures and group activities, deep discussion. Powerful prayer time. Online until we can Dine together in person. Those who are just "beginning" are welcome. We meet via Zoom on Fridays from 5-6:30 pm. Samantha S. is our primary group facilitator.

To join either activity,
contact Jen McCarthy at
781-316-7309 or
edwarthy@hotmail.com.

Cares, Concerns, and Prayer

Pastoral Care and Community Care can be especially critical in times of great stress and anxiety in the wider community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Bridge Minister Rev. Patricia Long directly at revpatsylong@gmail.com or 781-941-6663.

For prayer requests, please indicate if you'd like the prayer to be included in our e-news, worship video, or Pulpit Rock.

We pray for:

- President Trump and the First Lady, as well as all those affected by the COVID-19 virus.
- Those who are unemployed or underemployed,
- Students (of all ages) and teachers making plans for the fall, as COVID-19 continues
- Polly, Alice, Catsby, Ione, Joe, Youngae, Andy Samantha, Calantha, and Lucy
- Gratitude for God's creation: ocean, sky, animals, flowers
- All healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, cleaning staff and more
- Areas experiencing or having been devastated by wildfires
- Our country
- And for happier times!

Birthday Wishes

We wish all of the following the BEST a day can bring – HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- Catsby Fowle
- Lucy Grimm
- Hollis Hunnewell
- Jackie Meuse
- Teri Motley
- Andy Puleo
- Calantha Sears (celebrating her 99th)
- Nancy Whitman

We also send you our best wishes for the coming year!

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MATTER

A word of thanks to those in our Congregation who have continued their giving by either sending a check to the Church or through e-Giving. As you know, the Church relies almost entirely on the financial contributions of members and friends to continue and further our outreach and ministries. These are unsettling times for individuals as well as for the Church. We are counting on your continued financial support to the extent you can. Any contribution to the Church is important and highly valued – no matter how small or large!

Although the threat and spread of COVID-19 have caused the suspension of our usual in-person worship services and times together, the ministries of our Church continue – and so do the expenses. We want to support our wonderful Bridge Ministry Team of Revs. Patricia Long and Teri Motley, as well as the inspiring music brought into our homes by Peter Freisinger and a variety of soloists. The weekly online services help us stay connected with one another. Our Church would not be the same without them.

You can send donations:

- via check to Nahant Village Church, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
- or mobile giving, by downloading the Give+ App and selecting the Nahant Village Church (zip code 01908)
- or through our online giving platform Vanco, home page of our website, top right hand corner: nahantvillagechurch.org.

In early October be on the lookout for a statement of your financial contributions to the Church during 2020. We are immensely grateful for your financial support. Every single gift is important and makes a difference. Thank you in advance for being “a giving person” and for joining others who financially support the Church. “God loves it when the giver delights in giving”

2 Corinthians 9:7

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

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MY BROTHER'S TABLE

After donating \$1,300 to My Brother's Table since the beginning of the year, we launched an effort to replenish our resources. Thanks to the generosity of several in our congregation, we collected about \$700 in additional contributions. This brings our MBT bank balance to over \$1,000 and it enables us to make another significant contribution to My Brother's Table.

To find out how to help out at My Brother's Table, please connect with Nancy Cantelmo: nlc31@comcast.net.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS IN ACTION

Over the summer, considerable work was done trimming shrubs, trees and bushes around the Church, particularly the rear. At the Church's main entrance, you can now clearly see where the new semi circle path will be located which will make getting in and out of the Church more universally accessible. The plans for improving accessibility are on hold for now due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Major work is also underway in the Parsonage garden. The major focus is on clearing enough brush and plantings close to the house and garage so that the exterior of the parsonage can be repaired and painted during the fall season.

Many thanks to Amy Dow who has been shouldering most of this work, assisted by Cal Hastings. Glenn Sanphy has been a big help bringing clippings and other plant materials to the Town composting area in his red truck.

BLESSING SPACE – LEAVING A POSITIVE FOOTPRINT

We can bless each space we enter, leaving positive energy behind.

Physical space acts like a sponge, absorbing the energy of all who pass through it. The spaces we move through each day have seen man people come and go. We have no way of knowing whether the energy footprints left behind by those who preceded us will invigorate us or drain us. Yet, we can control the energy footprint we leave behind for others. In blessing each space we enter, we bring about a subtle energy shift that affects not only our own experiences in that space but also the experiences of everyone who will enter the space after us.

When you bless a room or an entire building, you leave a powerful message of love and light for all those who will come after you. Your blessings thus have many effects on the environments through which we pass. Old, stagnant energy is cleared, creating a vacuum into which fresh new energy can flow. Imagine God's healing light and loving energy entering. Even a quick mindful thought of love can bless a space.

This type of blessing is cumulative and will grow each time you share it. Bless every home, business, and place you visit for an entire week and feel the effects of your goodwill. Your positive energy will brighten your day as you contemplate your blessing's future impact on everyone in our world and in our environment.

Everything we think, say and do ripples out and affects our world. Let us gently form a positive and loving impression.

Thank you Maria Welsh for sharing this with us, inspired by DailyOM by Madisyn Taylor