



The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908
where everyone is welcome



January 2019

4th Community Breakfast 8:00 am

6th Epiphany Sunday

10:30 am *Worship/Communion*
Soup Sunday

10th Memory Cafe Musical Event
with Rev. Laura

13th 1st Sunday after Epiphany

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

20th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship Service

26th Silent Movie Night

5:30 pm Potluck Supper
7:30 pm Ella Cinders

27th 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship Service



1st Community Breakfast 8:00 am

3rd 4th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am *Worship/Communion*

10th 5th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship

17th 6th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship

24th 7th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship Service

Blessings for the 2019 New Year

Simply sitting still, quietly attentive to your breathing, tends to evoke less agitated, less thought-driven modes of awareness. When we allow for this shift in energy, a new capacity to realize our oneness with God begins to emerge.

During Epiphany, we are invited to follow Mary's lead to "ponder everything in our hearts." Can you simply sit with being quietly attentive to your breathing?

So much has happened in the last year at NVC. Fascinating and creative people have joined us, and beloved people have left us. Our choir continues to grow as does our Village Ringers. We raised more money at the Christmas Fair than we have for a long time. The Holy Spirit is alive in our midst!

Perhaps this season of Epiphany is an opportunity for us to be calmly and quietly aware of Christ's light right here among us.

Please come to worship in the chapel this month. Our time together is precious!

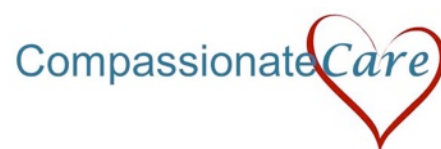
Sincerely, Rev. Laura



Bible Study Thursdays

at 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome.



The Compassionate Care Group will be meeting after worship on the first Sunday of the month with the pastor, to share updates about folks in need of visitations, calls, or other help from the Pastor or members of the Compassionate Care Group. If you know of anyone in need of our care, or are interested in joining or assisting us please let Rev. Laura or Chris Alexander (781-864-5367) know. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Worship Themes for January 2019



January 6 - Epiphany Sunday

Theme: Another Way
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6;
Matt 2:1-12

Jan 13 - 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Theme: Like a Dove
Scripture: Psalm 29;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 20 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Theme: Let My People Go
Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

Jan. 27 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Theme: Stained Glass Windows
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

A message from your Co-Moderators

As we enter the new year, we contemplate new beginnings.

Yet, as we do, we neglect to remember...

That we are always connected with God, the Divine.

That every moment is a holy moment.

That peace, stillness, delight, creativity, and love are always present.

That we can quietly slow our breath to quiet our inner workings.

That God, the Divine Spirit, awakens in us every day.

That...

Our family is not only the group we were born into...

Our Family includes: the Human Family....

...A poor mother of three living in Africa,

...An elderly French homeless man in Paris,

...A newborn infant in Nigeria,

...Orphan children in Mexico,

...A Tibetan monk in India,

...Our neighbor.

Let us all remember what we have in common, what draws us closer together... that every person we see, meet, hear, touch, or walk past is a member of our human family.

We are not alone in this world.

No matter where our paths cross, we are all connected.

In this New Year, may we remember how connected we all really are.

Blessings and Light in 2019

Respectfully yours,

Rich Stevens and Maria Welsh

Offering Envelopes

If you have not already done so, you may pick up your offering envelopes in the Companion Way. Many of you will note that the number assigned to you is different. We ordered fewer envelope sets this year as a cost saving measure.

The Church Nursery

Over the past few years, the nursery (room adjacent to the kitchen and library) has become a messy storage room of items left over from flea markets and fairs. As part of the Christmas fair take down, considerable work was done to discard items not worth saving and sort and neatly pack and stack what we may be able to sell at future fundraising events. Thanks to Marrit Hastings and Robbie McGowan for tackling this undertaking.

Let's all make an effort to keep this room neat so that it can be used for private conversations or consultations or for young people to have their own private space. Contact Cal and Marrit Hastings if you have items for future events that require storage and they will try to find a suitable location for them.



Nahant Community Breakfast Toward an HIV Vaccine

Friday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

Combining Scientific Research with Social Good at the Heart of the African Epidemic, with Support from the Nahant Community by Drs. Bruce Walker and Nancy Cantelmo

It is now almost 40 years since the first case of what was to become the AIDS epidemic was identified. Dramatic advances in the development of drug treatment make this now a treatable illness, but globally only half of those in need of these medications receive them, and they must be given lifelong. Moreover, even with the increasing availability of treatment, the situation in resource poor settings remains desperate. This is particularly true among young women who are at extremely high risk of infection due to lack of empowerment, poverty and economic dependence. In areas of South Africa, 10% of young women become infected each year, with peak infection rates above 50% by the age of 25.

Drs. Bruce Walker and Nancy Cantelmo, both Nahanters, will talk about a unique program in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa called FRESH. FRESH stands for Females Rising through Education, Support and Health, and combines a pathway out of poverty for young women at high risk of HIV infection, while at the same time providing key insights that are helping to guide HIV vaccine development.



Please join us for an update on the AIDS epidemic, a discussion of the FRESH program and how the Nahant community has been helping to provide support in the quest for a solution to one of the most pressing global health challenges of our time.

Bruce is the Director of the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard University Center for AIDS Research in Cambridge. Nancy is a retired surgeon who recently traveled to South Africa and visited the program in Kwazulu Natal.

The free breakfast starts at 8 a.m. All are welcome. Please spread the word and bring a family member or friend.

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

~~~Volunteer Opportunities~~~

Soup Sunday



We will once again hold our annual Soup Sunday's starting January 6, 2019. Soup Sunday helps to fund some of our Missions with in-kind donations being collected on the days that we have Soup Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering to make a

soup please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Companion Way or contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or by email edwarthy@hotmail.com

Connections, A Memory Café

The third Memory Café will be held on Thursday, January 10th from 10 to noon at the Nahant Public Library. As a sponsor of this initiative, volunteers at our Church will be providing refreshments (fruit and finger food) for this event. In addition, we are honored that Rev. Laura has agreed to bring her guitar and lead the attendees in song during this event. If you'd like to volunteer (either by bringing food or coming to the event), please let Marrit know. Also, if you know of anyone concerned about memory loss, please spread the word about our efforts to make Nahant a more dementia friendly community. Other sponsors are the Nahant Public Library and the Nahant Council on Aging.



Silent Movie Night

Saturday, January 26

Potluck Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Movie at 7:00 p.m.

The movie that will be shown is **Ella Cinders**, a 1926 American silent comedy film directed by Alfred E. Green, starring Colleen Moore and co-starring Lloyd Hughes. Live piano accompaniment will be provided by Rob Humphreville. Rob accompanies silent movies all over New England and has been singled out several times by the *Boston Globe* for his inventive improvisations. Silent Movie night is rapidly becoming a Nahant tradition.

The movie starts at 7 PM, preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30. Tickets are \$20 unless they are bought before the December 31st deadline. This is a NOT TO MISS event.



Another Restoration Project

The Church received an unusual gift as part of the Christmas Fair -- a beautifully crafted creche that were made years ago by a women's group at a Unitarian Church. As you can see from the picture, the gold has faded and some of the figures are in need of repair. Restoration will need someone who has an artistic touch -- spray painting the creche simply won't do it justice. If you would like to get involved -- perhaps with others in or outside our congregation, please let Marrit know. There is no rush to get this project underway -- but our goal is to have it ready as a splendid display next Christmas Eve.

Report from the Search Committee

Since January 2017, the Transition Team has worked diligently to compose the UCC Local Church Profile. Our profile was finally completed in August, 2018 and sent to the Search and Call Committee of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the UCC. With the work of the Transition Team completed, the NVC Search Committee was then formed, consisting of Margaret Alexander, Nancy Cantelmo, Bill Crawford, Marrit Hastings and Jen McCarthy.

In response to our Church Profile, we received and reviewed Ministerial Profiles from 19 candidates, beginning in early September. The Committee has interviewed seven of those candidates, five in person and two, who live at a distance, via tele-interview. These interviews were conducted between October 17 and December 3, 2018. We have decided to continue our discussions with two of these candidates. The Search Committee will be seeing them in a neutral pulpit, at local UCC churches, in the next few weeks.

A number of candidates have commented on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of the NVC Local Church Profile. We are thankful and appreciative for all the help we received from Christine Alexander and Maria Welsh of the Transition Team, and from the congregation and the Nahant community to complete this document. We ask for your prayers as we move ahead with our search for a settled minister for the Nahant Village Church.

THANK YOU

Many thanks

To Trudy for once again providing her delicious cookies for the Santa Parade on December 22.

2018 Christmas Fair

A big thank you to all who helped to make this year's Christmas Fair a fun-filled and successful event. After deducting expenses, our fair income was slightly more than \$10,000 – about \$3,500 more than we had hoped for. It took a village to make this happen – so a big thank you to all who played a part in this success.

Here is a breakdown of net Christmas Fair income to date by table, listing the table chairs:

Bake Table	\$2,052	Lenora Brauner and Maria Welsh
Boutique	\$ 737	Maureen Edison
Crafts	\$1,069	Christine & Margaret Alexander
Greens	\$ 835	Robbie McGowan and her sister Martha
Jewelry	\$1,515	Amy Dow, Jackie Meuse and Lissa Stempek
Raffle	\$1,026	Cal and Marrit Hastings
Silent Auction	\$1,136	Herb Motley (with more income expected)
Snack Bar	\$ 418	Jen, Scott and Rachel McCarthy and Sue Edwards

In addition, we received \$800 in outright contributions to the Fair, as well as \$680 for the rental of four tables to outside vendors (some of whom also provided a share of their income). The table rentals to vendors was a first for the fair. It was well received and brought new people to the fair. The famous lobster rolls once again were a big draw – the snack bar ran out by 11 a.m. to the dismay of many latecomers. It is important to point out that the snack bar did far more business than shown here. Snack bar income was offset by considerable expenses (particularly for the lobster meat). There were other minor expenses: for the wreaths for the main Church entry (bought from the Boy Scouts), and a fee for an artist who did face painting for kids. Mrs. Claus also made an appearance, handing out lots of candy canes. Last but not least, we owe a big thank you to Andy Puleo and the Hastings who took charge of the fair set up and take down, with the help of Robbie McGowan.

Once again, KUDOS and blessings to all for a job well done.

Our special thanks to the following businesses that supported our Christmas Fair by donating raffle items or gift cards/materials that helped defray expenses: Adriatic Restaurant/Salem, Elizabeth Grady, Home Depot/Salem, Jambu Jewelry/Marblehead, JMichaels Salon/Malden, Market Basket/Lynn, Price Rite/Lynn, Roberts Cleaners/Lynn, Rosa Brothers Barber Shop/Swampscott, and Stop & Shop/Vinnin Square.

Thank You for the White Christmas Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, we were able to gift \$1,460 to eleven families. Eight of the families were identified by the Johnson School. It was wonderful to share a little Christmas cheer with these families

A Very Grateful Thank You from the Rev. Laura and the Staff

With so much appreciation in our hearts, the staff and I received your end-of-the-year gifts. Your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you so much from all of us.

Thank You to our Musicians and Singers

Thank you so much to the Nahant Village Church Choir, and to our Choir Director and Organist, Herman Weiss; soloists, Ute Gfrerer and Alexis Pinero-Benson; trumpeters, Kevin Tracy and Tyler Hauer; and The Village Ringers for their contribution in making the Christmas Eve service magical.

