



# The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908  
where everybody belongs

## January 2018

- 7th 1st Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Communion Sunday*  
10:30 am - Worship  
11:30 am - Fellowship/Soup  
Sunday
- 9th Trustees' Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 11th Worship at Jesmond 9:30 a.m.
- 14th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
10:30 am - Worship  
11:30 am - Fellowship  
Serve at My Brother's Table
- 16th Transition Team 3:00 p.m.
- 20th Silent Movie Night/Potluck  
5:30 pm - Potluck Supper  
7:00 pm - The Gold Rush
- 21st 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
10:30 am - Worship
- 28th 4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:00 a.m. Parents, Children  
and Spirit  
10:30 am - Worship
- 30th Transition Team 3:00 p.m.

## February 2018

- 2nd Community Breakfast 8 a.m.
- 4th 5th Sunday after Epiphany**  
*Communion Sunday*  
10:30 am - Worship  
11:30 am - Fellowship/Soup  
Sunday
- 8th Worship at Jesmond 9:30 a.m.
- 11th 6th Sunday after Epiphany**  
10:30 am - Worship
- 13th Transition Team 3:00 p.m.  
Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Dear Friends and Neighbors,  
Can you believe we are entering 2018? Time seems to be slipping through our fingers. Each day, or each week, we learn of another horrible attack or death of innocent people. And each time we hear the news, TIME becomes more precious. We realize that time is fragile. Time spent with family, friends, and lovers is holy. Time dedicated to kindness and caring of others is priceless.  
Time is sacred.  
Chronological time belongs in the human realm. We determine age, accomplishments, rites of passage, failures and successes through chronological time. Life and death is often associated with how much time we have lived and how long before we die.  
God's timing is really different. Epiphany is the beginning of experiencing God's time in the world.

Jesus is a child who receives gifts from traveling Magi at the beginning of this season. He is swept away by his family when they learn that his life may be threatened, and they become refugees living in Egypt. At some point in the chronological time frame, he returns to Judea and grows into a 30 year old man who shows up at the Jordan River to be baptized with other Jewish women and men.

This God-incarnate, who lives with and for all human beings, is both tied to the chronological order of aging as well as to the divine timing of agelessness. He is both here and coming, living and resurrected, a child and adult at once.

Trusting God's timing in all things is a complicated practice. We want God to respect our grip on chronological time and participate in our lives according to our timing. Perhaps this year, 2018, we will discover the difference between God's time and ours. There is much to learn from this kind of faith journey. What time are you in?

May God bless you as we begin the new year.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Laura Biddle

### Worship Themes for December

#### January 7

**First Sunday after Epiphany**  
Sermon: To Follow God's Guidance  
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6;  
Matthew 2:1-12

#### January 14

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
Martin Luther King Service  
Theme: To be fully known  
Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
John 1:43-51



#### January 21

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Theme: Fishing for People  
Psalm 62:5-12; Mark 1:14-20

#### January 28

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
Theme: An unclean spirit  
Psalm 111; Mark 1:21-28



## A message from your Co-Moderators

Jesus is born...

Now what?

Presents have been opened and guests have gone home.

Spring is a long way off, and now it's time to settle in for the rest of winter.

Now what?

The month of January was named after "Janus", the Roman God of gates and doorways, openings and closings, hibernation and emerging from deep withdrawal.

He was a tricky little guy who pointed to our reclusiveness and reflections of our past, and our contemplation of our future

January – a month to catch our breath and then feel the light within us, after our time of hibernation; worn down by foul weather and lack of light.

Now what?

Well, Soup Sundays are starting up, always a crowd pleaser.

We are moving into the Chapel soon for the winter, warm and cozy.

On 1/14 we will have a Martin Luther King service, that's bound to be inspiring.

On 1/20 Rob Humphreville will be playing piano to a Charlie Chaplin movie-a completely improvised screen play-genius.

And that's just January. Who knows what February will bring?

Now what?

Happy New Year.

Respectfully yours, Rich Stevens and Maria Welsh

## Bible Studies

Hello Sojourners, We are beginning our Bible studies in January on the 11th at 11:00. Please bring friends!!  
Rev. Laura



## Martin Luther King Worship Service

Sunday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.



## Nahant Community Breakfast scheduled for Friday, January 5 has been postponed until April 6 due to weather.

The **February 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast** will feature Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren who will discuss the Town Budget and other issues to be addressed in the Town warrant.

The April breakfast will feature a presentation by the Nahant Police Department on Scams: how to detect, prevent, and protect against them. SCAMS are Scheming, Crafty, Aggressive, Malicious! The presenters will be Police Chief Robert Dwyer and Officer Matt Morneau.

The free breakfast starts at 8 a.m. 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.

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.

We hope you had a meaningful and wonderful Holiday Season. We wish you the very best for the New Year and hope to see you at the February 2nd breakfast.

Cal and Marrit Hastings

Community Breakfast Coordinators

## Tickets To Silent Movie Saturday, January 20th

The Silent Movie Night is preceded by a pot luck supper.

The movie to be shown is "The Gold Rush," directed by and starring Charlie Chaplin. The movie was made in 1925, and it is claimed to be one of the bestand most influential films ever produced. In 1998, the American Film



Institute chose "The Gold Rush" as one of the 100 greatest films ever made.

Live piano accompaniment will be provided by Rob Humphreville. This is a NOT TO MISS EVENT!

Tickets are \$20. Get your tickets early since seating is limited. **The potluck supper starts at 5:30 p.m.; the movie will be shown in the Chapel at 7 p.m.**

## News from the Transition Team

The members of the Transition Team have been meeting several times a month in 2017, working on the "Profile", the document to be ultimately sent out to prospective candidates for the settled minister position. We are making good progress and appreciate the input that we have received from the congregation through the survey and the "Conversation" last May. We have also conducted numerous interviews with leaders and departments in Nahant.

The contract for Rev. Laura has been extended for this coming year as we continue to work together on presenting an accurate picture of Nahant Village Church in preparation for selecting a minister who will be a good fit for our church. Please keep the members of the Transition Team, Christine Alexander, Nancy Cantelmo, Bill Crawford, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy and Maria Welsh, in your prayers and we continue to work on your behalf.



*Many thanks to those of you who purchased poinsettias. The sanctuary looked beautiful on Christmas Eve*

## Deportation from Our Community

Naseem Byah is an 8-year-old Johnson School student whose mother was inhumanely detained and then illegally deported the day after Christmas. This boy had no idea that when he returned home from school on November 7 that his mother had been taken without warning at a routine court check-in. Siham Byah came here from Morocco in 1999 through a marriage that did not work out, and her son is an American citizen. She's been an outspoken activist and had applied for political asylum; though she was assured in writing she would be allowed to present her case, she was denied any semblance of due process prior to being deported like a dangerous criminal. Siham's safety in Morocco is uncertain, as is her son's future - Naseem remains in DCF (Department of Children & Families) custody. Siham's lawyer Matt Cameron confirms her case is not typical. Would it surprise you to know that each week Massachusetts children, some of whom are US citizens, are taken into state custody this way, or deported through the JFK Federal Building in Boston? Becoming aware, raising your voice, and taking action is encouraged. Please contact Margaret Alexander for more information.



## *Thank you for White Christmas Donations*

My heart overflows from the goodness of the people of Nahant Village Church. What started out as the worst season for White Christmas donations in the 9 years I've been doing this changed into the most unbelievable turnaround. At the beginning, we had raised half of what was donated last year and had almost double the need. Johnson School had 7 families that needed a little Christmas Cheer...a record number. After a little plea on Joy Sunday, we collected a record amount of money from those people in attendance to bring the total to \$1,380 in cash and \$725 in gift cards!!! We were able to give 6 people in our congregation \$100 each and all 7 families at Johnson School \$100 each. We have NEVER been able to do that...and we have money left over to use in 2018, as needed. Christmas Blessings came early this year. Thank you. Lissa Stempek

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

Dear NVC friends,

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

I am very excited about beginning anew in 2018 as your interim minister! We have a wonderful year ahead.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Laura Biddle

"Thank you so much to Nahant Village Church for always making our Christmas Eve extra special with your beautiful service" Anonymous



## **New Century Hymnal**

This is an opportunity to dedicate a new hymnal to someone you love, in honor of, or in memory of. The cost of the new hymnal is \$25.00. Yellow forms to place your order for the new hymnal can be found in the Narthex and Companionway and can be left with a check (Memo Line New Hymnal) in the Treasurer's mailbox (on the Administrative Assistant's door) or given directly to Susan Gilbert, our new Admin Assistant. A sample book plate is shown on the back of the form.