



The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church, 27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
where everyone is welcome*



2025

Scripture Readings

Dr. David L. VanArsdale
Preaching

**Jan. 5 - Epiphany of our Lord
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: "Starry Night"

Jan. 12 - Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*Theme: "Baptism ... Whose Are
You?"*

**Jan. 19 - 2nd Sunday after
Epiphany**

John 2:1-11

*Theme: "Trapped by Our Own
Weaknesses"*

**Jan. 27 - 3rd Sunday after
Epiphany**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

*Theme: "When We Hold Hands,
Great Things Happen"*

Nahant Community Breakfast
Friday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m.



Dear Village Church Friends:



I am writing these words before Christmas Day ... but you will be reading this *Pulpit Rock* just before New Year's Day, and

yes it will be 2025. Let's all say it together "2025." Now, we are guaranteed to never write or say "2024" by mistake!

Let's look into some of the details of this part of the infancy narrative of Jesus, especially near the end of Luke, chapter 2. The ritual of purification was required of women who had given birth. Then there is the presentation of firstborn son. Finally, there is the rite of circumcision. Each of these traditions signals faithfulness "to the law of Moses." Jesus was born into a Jewish world with faithful parents.

Into the scene came two older members of the community. They were always in the Temple. They knew more about what went on in the Temple than anybody else and yet they never seem satisfied. They kept waiting for something special and something more to happen. Into the scene came a young family who had brought with them a young boy for the sacrament of dedication. The loving parents hoped their son might be nurtured according to the

traditions of God. Simeon and Anna are the best the faith practices produces. They have been nurtured in the Torah. These two could easily have lived in Sun City and been members of Faith Presbyterian Church.

We are reminded with the clear voice of God ... there are times of *new beginnings* and these times come in the midst of *old wisdom*. Wherever and whatever we do, we are simply channels through which God's gifts of love, peace, justice, and grace are passed on. The setting recognizes the *old wisdom* of Simeon and Anna. And that says a lot to all of us ... there are times of new beginnings.

The New year is a time for a *new beginning*. When I think back across 52 years as a leader in the church, I am struck by memories of key persons who have blessed me most by their witness to Christ. I remember Margaret whom everyone in the small town knew and honored for her caring for caring spirit. I remember Walter the simple salesperson in the congregation of professionals, who was always ready to give his time to fix things around the building or in someone's home. I remember Al, who was so difficult and controlling on the church board, but then I asked him to assist me in communion with one of his old friends as she was dying. So many remembrances, and there is not a pastor in any of them. There have always been members with un-

swerving faith, gentleness and tenderness and willingness to serve.

Luke knew that common folk, lay people, are the backbone of God's faithful community. You are the church and together with the new pastoral leadership you will serve the will of God.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful part of God's creation. Yes, we live in this place that provides activities and resources for us to "enjoy life" and to keep busy doing all the activities any human could desire. But there is a temptation for all to leave the needs of others behind and think of only our own needs. Simeon and Anna could have been at home instead of practicing the rituals of faith knowing they were playing a role in God's ultimate plan.

Despite the fear, I am extremely hopeful about the future of Nahant Village Church. I am absolutely sure that this congregation will find that future promised by God. That is the new beginning in the midst of old wisdom. The congregation and its health is about sharing the Good News of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ ... and my prayers are always with you.

Grace and Peace,



FROM THE TRUSTEES

At our Trustees meeting on Tuesday, December 10, we had to decide what type of ministry we should commit to going forward- full time or part time.

There was a strong sentiment for part time ministry considering our limited income.

We tried that before with Reverend Megan Snell, and she was doing a wonderful job with it, although she was putting in much more time than she was contracted to. Then we got set back by Covid, Megan left and we were fortunate to have Rusty Chadwick filling the pulpit and guiding us in the interim, with the help of Reverend Patricia Long.

Trustees cont.



The church decided that the path forward was to return to full time ministry with Reverend Scott Elliot.

Following Scott's departure the first step was to find a bridge or interim minister. Dave

VanArsdale stood out as the clear choice among the available candidates.

Dave has been a Godsend to our church and certainly is the right person to guide us in this time of transition. He has been with us about two months now.

At our Trustees and Council meetings Dave has presented the case that this is an active church and our best path forward is full time ministry, which is in line with what Reverend Scott recommended. Both ministers emphasized the great potential that our church has. Dave has begun to unlock that potential in his short time here.

The Trustees voted unanimously to support full time ministry going forward.

We received two generous contributions this month that have helped us balance the budget, one anonymous, and the other a final distribution from the estate of Michael Gray.

We are also blessed with the tireless efforts of a core of people who keep the church going with fundraising and activities, and especially worship and music ministry.

Our long serving Treasurer, Marrit Nauta Hastings plans to step aside from that position at our next annual meeting in May. The church will be seeking to hire a bookkeeper to assume some of the duties that Marrit has been handling. A job description for that position will be available soon.

We will be praying that the right person will step up to assume the duties of Treasurer, and also give thanks to Marrit for her dedication to the Nahant Village Church.

Gratefully,
Rex Antrim



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Jan. 3, 2025

Let's start the New Year by gathering for breakfast at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 3rd. Speakers at the breakfast will be Senator Brendan Crighton and newly elected State Representative Sean Reid. Get first-hand updates on topics that affect or interest Nahanters, the North Shore and the State. And bring your questions as well!

Transportation of elders may be arranged by contacting the Tiffany Room a few days in advance of the breakfast. They can be reached at 781-581-7557.



State Sen.
Brendan Crighton



State Rep.
Sean Reid



From left Josh (front) Matthew, Nicholas & Tommy Carromero

Huge thanks to the Carromero brothers for all their help during the holidays! From Tommy shoveling out the church to Matty helping to unload poinsettias and all of them helping to decorate the Sanctuary — Great job! Your work is greatly appreciated!



We delivered \$3,100 in gift cards to the Johnson School to bring some holiday cheer to seven families and 17 children, in what has become an annual tradition for our church. An additional \$750 was given to members of our Church family. We received \$1,505 in White Christmas gifts; the balance was funded out of the Church's Communion Offering Fund. We take up a special collection on the first Sunday of the month for this fund which extends a helping hand to needy individuals and families in Nahant and our congregation.

Many thanks to all who participated in this important Christmas outreach.



It was so wonderful to have kids in church again! Charlie Sokolov played the organ while Chase and Roxy Robidoux lit candles and handled the reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent!

If you have kids that would be interested in participating in a Sunday School program please contact Chris Steven; 781-581-1202 or email her at secretary@nahantvillechurch.org. And we'll get something going!



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Once again, we had a successful Christmas Fair. The table rentals to vendors, bake table, gift table, greens table, silent auction and snack bar netted roughly \$8,778 though we're still waiting for a few bills to come in.

As always it was a joyous and festive event – with shoppers happily greeting neighbors and friends. And the lobster rolls were a bit hit!

Many thanks to Chris and Jen for organizing this amazing event, as well as to those who came and helped and did their shopping at the fair.

The Christmas Fair and Supper with Santa ended a very busy year of fundraising. It included a silent movie, paint and bingo nights, a craft fair and flea market, as well as a mystery dinner. Taken together these events generated about \$15,430 (minus the above bills), which is amazingly close to the goal set for this year. Again, special kudos to Chris and Jen for making this all happen.



The Murder Mystery Dinner was just one fundraising event held in 2024 Got an idea for 2025? See Chris, Jen or Marrit!

SEARCH UPDATE

We are looking forward to posting our Profile after the first of the year in our search for a Designated Term Pastor. We ask for your prayers for guidance as we move forward in this important step.



Trudy Joyce — 4
Robin deStefano — 6
Glen Sanphy — 10
David Carter — 11
Edie Hunnewell — 14
Rachel McCarthy — 17
Libby Olson — 19
Alice Cort — 27

OFFERING ENVELOPE REMINDER

As announced previously, we will no longer be using printed envelopes for Sunday offerings.

There will be plain envelopes outside of the Church Office that you can use for any cash donations. Please print your name on the outside of the envelope to make sure that the Treasurer can give you credit for your donations.



CHURCH COUNCIL meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30. But is taking Dec. off! However, if you have anything you think Council should be aware of, please contact Jen McCarthy

SCENES FROM A BUSY DECEMBER

*The fabulous
Annual Christmas Fair!*



*The beautiful voices of
Nahant Holiday Concert!*





Supper with Santa!



Christmas Eve ☆



ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICES

We **Zoom** all of our worship services live each Sunday, so if you can't attend in person, you are welcome to join us on Zoom. Meeting ID 869 1204 8062 Password: 123456.

We also record each service. You can visit our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on **WORSHIP** under the blue banner, then click on On Line Worship Services. You can also find services posted on the church's Facebook page

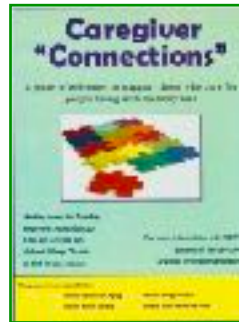
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>

CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

Tuesday, Jan.21, 2025

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Nahant Village Church - Swansburg Hall



The Caregiver Connections Support Group was formed to provide individuals who care for those with memory problems a forum to share experiences and to support each other. This Support Group meets monthly on the **third Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** The Caregiver Support Group is sponsored by

Nahant COA, and Nahant Village Church. An experienced representative from Greater Lynn Senior Services will also participate. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from participating. Contact Mary Miner of the Nahant COA at mminer@nahant.org for more information.

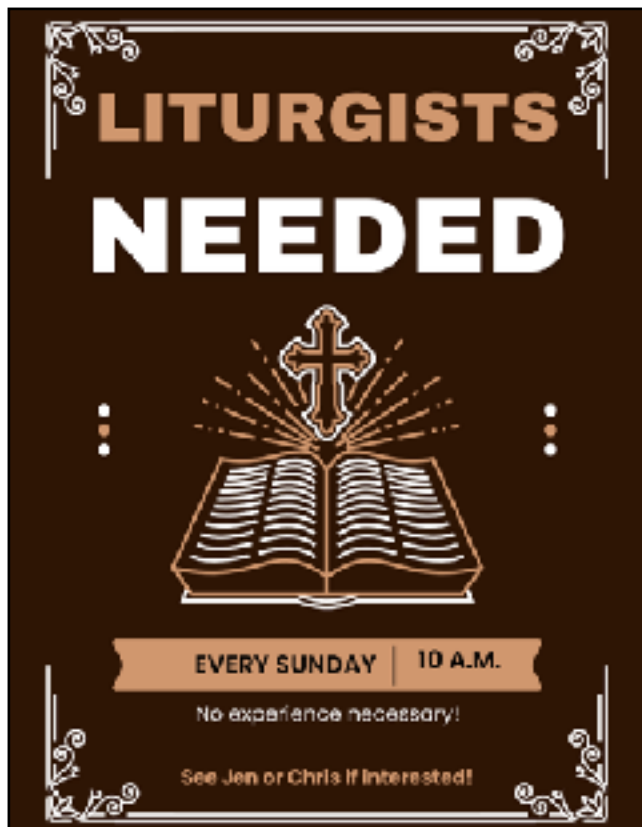


Image by lifeforstock on Freepik

WANT TO FEEL PART OF THE SERVICE

BE A READER!!

If you'd like to participate in the worship service consider being a liturgist one Sunday. No experience necessary! You lead the responsive prayers, read the scripture lesson and announce the hymns. It's easy and rewarding! Contact Jen at 781-316-7309 or Chris at 781-581-1202 if you're interested. Or simply reach out to us at church.



WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM NVC?

If you would like a visit for any reason just give a shout, or a call!

781-581-1202

Rev. Dave would love to drop by
& we'd love to see you so don't hesitate to call!





NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH
27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9 a.m. -noon/1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - noon.

Phone messages are checked regularly.

In case of an emergency contact Jen McCarthy at
781-316-7309

Church – 781-581-1202

Minister: Rev. Dave Van Arsdale -
pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com

Church Council

Jen McCarthy - edwarthy@hotmail.com
or 781-316-7309
Moderator

Rex Antrim - rexantrim@comcast.net
or 781-856-1067
Trustee

Chris Stevens - cjs_ros2@verizon.net
or 781-254-6827 /781-581-1202
Religious Ed/Office Manager/Sexton

Marrit Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com)
or 781-581-5691- Treasurer

Beth Walls - bethmo81@gmail.com
Deacon

Robin deStefano - rdestef@verizon.net
Clerk

Buildings and Grounds

Cal Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com
or 781-581-5691)

Amy Dow - ikors92@yahoo.com
617-378-8520

Compassionate Care - 781-581-1202 _____
secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org

You are invited to ...

Sunday Worship Service in the Chapel
Sundays @10 a.m.

or to Live Zoom Sunday Service

Live Zoom Service

Meeting ID: 869 1204 8062

Passcode: 123456

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

A link is available on the NVC Home page.

Caregiver “Connections”

Third Tuesday of the month

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

Village Ringers

Mondays @ 5 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

Trustees

Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

NVC Library

Church Council

Third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

NVC Library

Membership

If you'd like to become a member of the church
contact Rev. Dave at
pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com or Jen McCarthy
at 781-316-7309