



THE MESSENGER

First Congregational Church of Fryeburg, United Church of Christ

May 2018

Me with my mom on our porch. Circa 1959



A Mother's Love

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

"Strength and Dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:31

When I was born, my mother was forty-two years old and had already given birth to eight other children, starting when she was just seventeen. Her first daughter and last son did not survive, and so did not grow up with the rest of us seven siblings. I was her ninth and last child. My three oldest siblings were already out of high school by the time I was born. My sister, Beverly, was married and expecting a daughter of her own. My brother, Roger, and sister, Jean, were in

college. Our home was small, just six rooms and a bath, and one of those rooms was a converted shed where my brothers, Clayton and Carlton, slept.

Mornings came early for my mother. She would get up at 4:00 am, while it was still dark out, so she could get breakfast for my dad before he headed out to the garage to get his paint and ladders and equipment tied onto the family station wagon, (that pulled double duty as my dad's work truck), and head out for the long drive to his next paint job. My mom made everything from scratch, getting the lard nice and hot and the donuts frying before starting the eggs and slabs of bacon. Like an assembly line worker, she'd go in and wake Clayton and Carlton next, get them their breakfasts before sending them off on their paper routes before school, then go in and wake and dress Rose Ann and me. By the time we'd all have eaten, she'd have our lunches prepared and packed into our metal lunch boxes, (mine was a Captain Kangaroo lunch box), to take with us as we walked to school.

Once we were gone, beds had to be stripped and cleaned, rugs aired, and floors swept. Laundry was washed on an old ringer or by hand and hung outside to be dried on the line. And there never seemed to be an end to the number of dishes to be washed, dried, and put away. Bringing in wood was a daily chore to keep the wood fires and cook stove going and there were multiple trips down cellar to bring up canned vegetables and cured meats.

While I was little, we had a milk cow, chickens, and a pig or two and my mom always planted a big vegetable garden. We didn't have the luxury of living on a farm with rich, fertile soil. Our home was in the village so whatever vegetables my mom could grow

came right from that postage stamp of dirt. We didn't have a tractor or plow, either, so she to tend to it in a very basic way, getting down on her hands and knees and digging rows by hand, harvesting daily what we could eat fresh and canning the rest for the winter months ahead. Her meals were never fancy but always filling and no meal was complete without a dessert. Cakes, cookies, and homemade pies were just a few of the staples of love she prepared for family and friends and she'd whip up a batch regularly so you could always find something tasty waiting for you in the fridge.

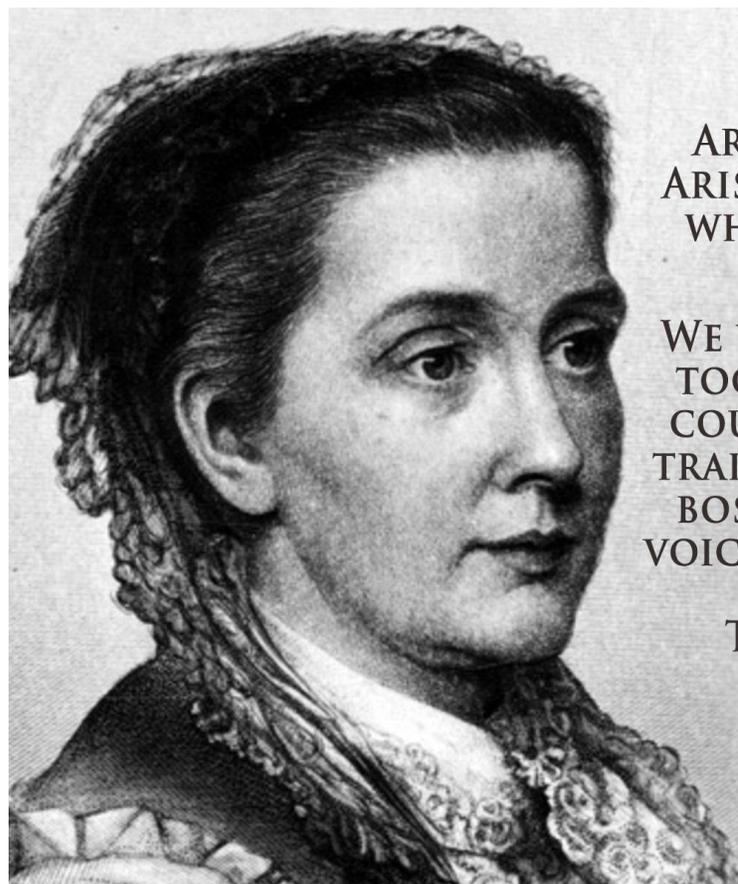
Since my dad had the family car, she had to walk upstreet with us little ones in tow, to get whatever food staples and supplies she needed. And when meals were done and the house was clean, and we'd all been bathed and put to bed, my mom would sit down evenings by the one lamp in our living room and tend to the mending and sewing while my dad, sitting at the dining room table, (under the one good over head light), read to her from their one luxury, the National Geographic Magazine.

She ran her home with a gentle but firm hand. And when she called you, you came a running. For hers was a life of long hours and hard work and making do. But for all the tireless drudgery and endless days, she found her moments of great joy in each one of her children and grandchildren and never, ever complained.

As spring approaches and thoughts of Mothers and Memorials, let us not forget the wonderful blessings we share with all the women of this church, so loving and giving, so thoughtful and kind, mothers every one.

Blessing and Peace,

Pastor Vi



**ARISE, THEN, WOMEN OF THIS DAY!
ARISE ALL WOMEN WHO HAVE HEARTS,
WHETHER OUR BAPTISM BE THAT OF
WATER OR OF TEARS!...**

**WE WOMEN OF ONE COUNTRY WILL BE
TOO TENDER OF THOSE OF ANOTHER
COUNTRY TO ALLOW OUR SONS TO BE
TRAINED TO INJURE THEIRS. FROM THE
BOSOM OF THE DEVASTATED EARTH A
VOICE GOES UP WITH OUR OWN. IT SAYS
“DISARM, DISARM!”**

**THE SWORD OF MURDER IS NOT
THE BALANCE OF JUSTICE.**

Julia Ward Howe, 1870

**From her Mother's Day
Proclamation for Peace**

May at a glance....

Choir rehearsals Wednesdays at 3:00

May 6th

Michael Di Nucci, lay-leader.

May 13th

Mother's Day

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

May 20th

Pentecost Sunday

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

Deadline for June Messenger

May 27th

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

May 28th Memorial Day



THANK YOU!!

LEONA MAINS has been a part of our church since childhood; her high school Baccalaureate and graduation were held in the sanctuary. Leona and her husband Bill were married there. Bill would tend to all of the inside needs of the church, including changing lightbulbs and winding the clocks. Leona is one of the founding members of the Thrift Shop when it was run by the Nautilus Guild, and she still volunteers there. She and Bill were instrumental in running the Dairy Bar and she continues to work the opening shift, serving coffee and donuts to staff and fairgoers. She knows many of them personally and interacts with each one in the morning with a warm greeting. Leona is a talented baker and is gracious to host the coffee hours, participates in all church suppers, would make blueberry muffins for the May breakfast, also donates to all of the bake sales we have. She also takes care of getting the communion bread. Leona states unequivocally that she enjoys doing what she does.



Would you like to host a coffee hour?

Volunteers are needed!!!!!!!

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board downstairs.



Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering is **May 20th**. This offering supports the expansion and vitality of the United Church of Christ. The first half of your gift funds ministry within our local conference while the second half strengthens the church nationally!



The Nautilus Guild

The next meeting for the Guild will be
May 15th at 11:00 am at the home of Barbara Lawrence.

All women are invited.

The Thrift Shop

We are a unique Thrift Shop! Our mission is to provide good affordable clothing for the public. No clothing over \$5. The changeover at the shop went wonderfully thanks to all the volunteers. We added more racks and changed a few things, and did some painting.

Thank you to Dan and Diane Towle for their generous gift of the new shop vacuum!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

If you are interested in donating a few hours a week,
please contact

Laura Naughton at 890-4397.



Christian Education

We are still studying about David in Sunday School and have been doing various projects, including friendship bracelets and food that David would have eaten.

New Website

The website is done!

Please visit <http://www.fryeburgucc.org/> and let us know what you think! It is much more comprehensive and should be a useful source of information. Thank you to Michael Di Nucci for designing the logo and banner!



In May students will be learning about The Very Hungry Caterpillar and insects.

OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL DAYS—SPREAD THE WORD!!!

WE ARE STILL SPRING CLEANING!!

We have moved all three pews out of the hallway downstairs! The third one has been moved into the Pastor's office. Doesn't it look nice? Linda Russell sewed the pillows. If anyone would like to volunteer to help clean, it would be wonderful!!



What's Happening at First Kids....



Calling All Cooks and Bakers!

Fryeburg Public Library and Friends of the Fryeburg Public Library would like your recipe(s) for their Community Cookbook Project.

Do you have a favorite recipe that you cook/bake all the time or one that was handed down through generations of relatives?

We would love to include those recipes in our Community Cookbook Project. Stop by the library during open hours with your recipe(s) or email it to library@fryeburgmaine.org. Please include your name and contact information.

For more information, please stop by or call Fryeburg Library at (207) 935-2731

WHAT OUR CHURCH IS ABOUT

Our Mission

We encourage all to live and grow as disciples of Christ in service to God and the World.

MINISTER

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

Email: ourpastorvi@gmail.com

Phone: 239-595-4569 (call or text)

MUSIC DIRECTOR

John Waldie

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:10 a.m. Choir warmup

10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School

WEDNESDAY

3:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

SECRETARY:

Tamara Meadows

Fridays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone:

207-935-3227

Website:

www.fryeburgucc.org

Email:

fryeburgfirstchurch@fairpoint.net

Address:

655 Main Street, Fryeburg, Maine, 04037

FIRST KIDS CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER

Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:30-5:30

Phone:

207-935-3276

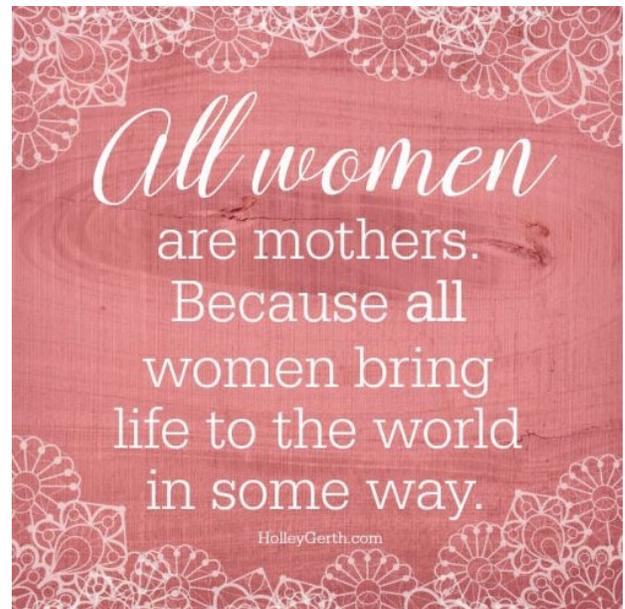
THRIFT SHOP

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 9:00- Noon

Phone:

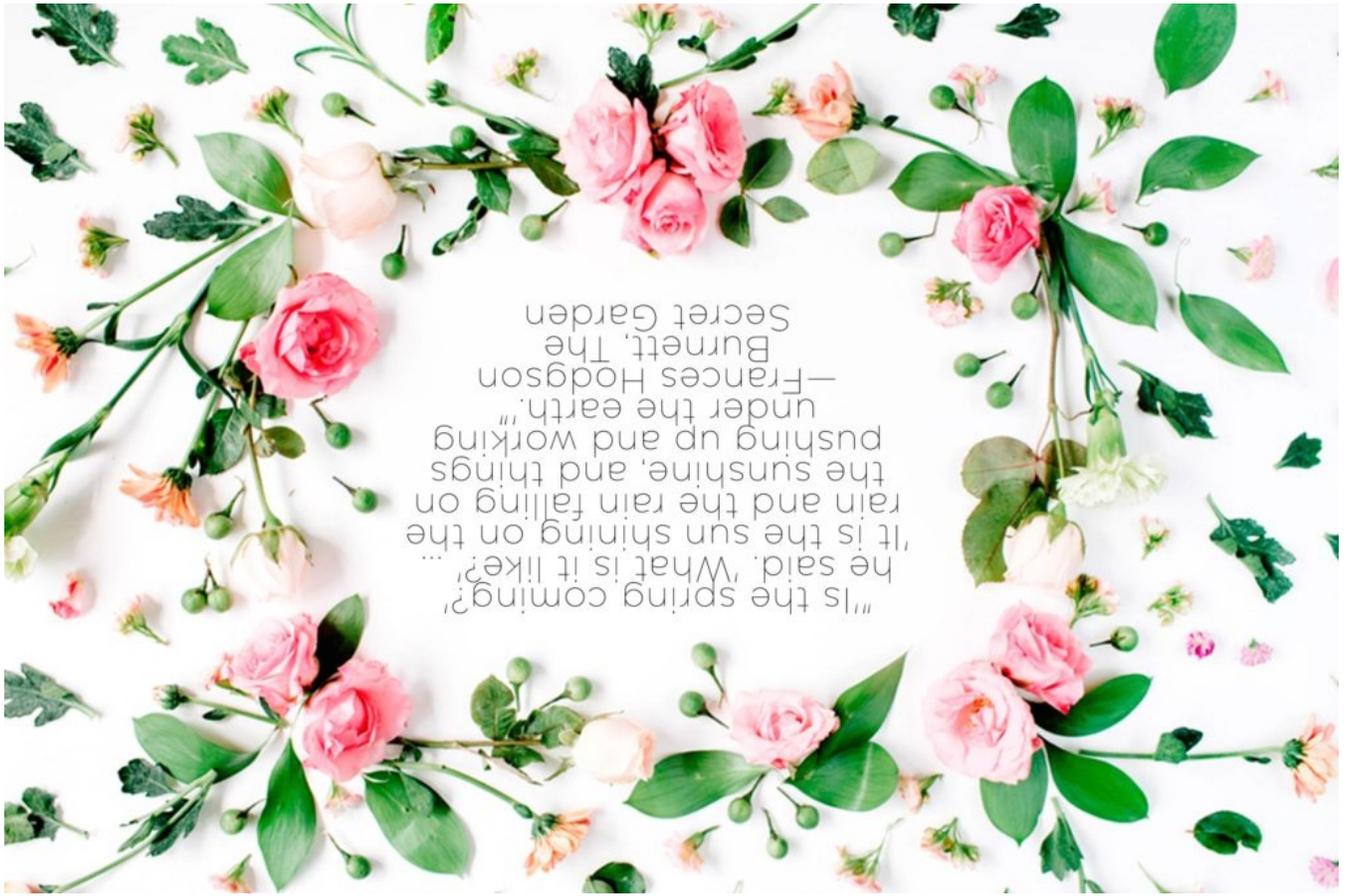
207-935-2329



****THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE MESSENGER IS MAY 20th .

PLEASE DIRECT SUBMISSIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR FEEDBACK TO:

MARY DI NUCCI mawdinucci@gmail.com



"Is the spring coming?"
he said. "What is it like?" ...
'It is the sun shining on the
rain and the rain falling on
the sunshine, and things
pushing up and working
under the earth."
—Frances Hodgson
Burnett, The
Secret Garden



The First
Congregational
Church of Fryeburg, UCC

655 Main St. Fryeburg, ME 04037, 207-935-3227, www.fryeburgucc.org