



# THE MESSENGER

Summer 2018

First Congregational Church of Fryeburg  
Rev. Violet Mills Eastman, Interim Pastor

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*From the Pastor...*

## Look at All Those Weeds

*One person's bane is another person's cherished bouquet.*

***"This is the day that the Lord has made, we will be glad and rejoice in it." Psalm 118:24***

**B**eauty is in the eye of the beholder, as the old saying goes, and so my three-year-old great-niece, Taylor reminded me years ago, on a door yard visit to our old home on Warren Street, with her Grampa, my late brother, Carlton...

She erupted into screams of delight at the sight of our front yard abloom with a multitude of riotous dandelions. "Butter flowers!" she shouted as she scooped a handful and took one carefully in her fingers to hold under my chin, (*to see if I like butter...*). Eagerly, she recruited our nine-month-old beagle puppy, Ebenezer, to assist in gathering a bouquet for her Grampa, my brother, Carlton.

Together, they dashed about the yard, our puppy following Taylor with much curiosity and interest, hardly knowing where to start, each sunny blossom as enticing as the next. After several minutes they returned, Taylor clutching a handful of twisted stems with golden heads, Ebenezer playfully tossing his head back and forth, chewing at the stems and blossoms lying crushed between his feet.

My brother and I sat on my front porch steps visiting. Taylor proudly walked up to my brother, (with our puppy trotting along beside her, hoping to get a nibble out of her fresh bouquet), held her yellow bundle out toward his face, "Put them in your truck, Grampa, in a cup of water in case they get thirsty," she instructed him.

"Aunt Violet, Aunt Violet, can you get a cup of water for Grampa's flowers?" I hadn't the heart to tell her that her newfound treasures were only present on our lawn because my husband, Peter, forgot to apply the weed killer since the last time we mowed.

When they were ready to leave, she waved energetically and promised to come back for another visit real soon. "Aunt Violet," she exclaimed, "I'll bet there'll be lots more when we come visit next time and I'll pick some for you!"

She had no idea how many hundreds more may appear. Certainly dandelions have a way of multiplying that defies logic. Indeed, our entire yard was soon be awash in a yellow sea, not a blade of grass visible to the eye, and our usually friendly neighbors secretly scorned us for contaminating the entire block with the invasive golden flowers.

Over the course of the next few weeks my niece became a regular visitor to our home and yard. She delighted in her garden-

tending duties, beginning each visit with a trip to our side yard for a dandelion picking session where in a matter of minutes she would have a bountiful supply.

She happily bestowed her floral gifts on a succession of her favorite people; Her Grampa, her mother, Ebenezer, and myself. Ebenezer taking the opportunity to nip playfully at her bountiful bouquet as he wriggled and chased after her throughout the yard, chomping with much gusto on his own cache of canary colored blooms. As I walked through our neighborhood I found myself on my own dandelion patrol, eagerly sighting with much excitement and joy another yard filled with the glorious golden interloper.

On one of our walks to a nearby park, Ebenezer was elated at the good fortune of finding still more of the wondrous weed, and he broke into a sprint as he ran through the field of gold, chewing everything in his path with much frenzy and delight. He tossed back his head, gave it a good shake, and then dove nose first into another cluster.

In Taylor and Ebenezer's infinite capacity to simply enjoy life, this three-year-old little girl and nine-month-old puppy, gradually brought me to an attitude adjustment. *Why not take time to stop and pick the dandelions?* -- I asked myself. Who dictated that human beings shouldn't enjoy certain varieties of flowers unless they were properly contained?

The joy we take in a jolt of vibrant color after a long, gray winter shouldn't be diminished just because some unknown arbiter of landscape fashion has decreed that a blush of gold spoils the look of a well-groomed green lawn. So, while my husband was consulting his yard care books, trying to determine how to get rid of these pesky weeds, I joined the fun of the hunt with my niece, Taylor, and our puppy, Ebenezer.

Together, we found new acres of dandelions to explore. My workday was brightened by a brilliant cluster of lemony blooms winking at me from a small jar on my desk, and I had a renewed, childlike appreciation for the natural beauty all around me.

I became determined to slow down and to take notice of all the simple pleasures nature had provided. On one of our walks back then, Taylor filled her pocket with pea stone from our driveway. When I asked her why, she told me she found diamonds. And I believed her.

Although many years have passed, I still smile when dandelions first make their appearance in my summer lawn here on our old farm in Brunswick. They are amazing pollinators and still a source of great joy. Every time I see them I think back to that glorious summer in Fryeburg with my brother, Carlton, and his adorable granddaughter, Taylor.

*This is the challenge for all of us in our busy summer schedules; make time to smell the flowers, watch fireflies dance across an open meadow, to take indulgent naps in the cool summer shade, and to spend time with the ones we love in God's great outdoors.*

Blessings to you all in this season of activity and life.

Pastor Vi





## Christian Education

June 17<sup>th</sup> was youth Sunday. The children were each presented bibles. Graduating senior Adam Waldie received scholarship money from the youth fund. Adam has grown up in the church and sings and plays handbells at various church concerts.





## Would you like to host a coffee hour?

*Our time after church is about fellowship, not food.*

There is no obligation to bring something home-made. Munchkins from Dunkin Donuts are always very popular! Someone can help make the coffee, also.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board downstairs.



## INDOOR YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup>**

from 9:00am - 1:00pm

**DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH**

If you would like to donate items, please call Linda Russell 207-935-2972 to make arrangements.

**We also need volunteers in all areas!**



The bake sale on June 30<sup>th</sup> was a success. It was a scorching hot day but we were under the shade of a lovely big Maple tree with a cooling breeze traveling across the farm fields to make the bake sale a rousing success. So many wonderful bakers in our church family. So much to choose from. The pies were gone in the first twenty minutes...Thank you everyone. Proceeds to fund our youth scholarships for Pilgrim Lodge, our summer camp.

The second bake sale on July 14<sup>th</sup> could have had more bakers and volunteers. The last bake sale is August 18<sup>th</sup>—please help out by baking something. We have noticed that snack items sell very well—things to grab and go. And of course, pies...



# THE Thrift Shop

We are a unique Thrift Shop! Our mission is to provide good affordable clothing for the public. We are overflowing with product, especially women's pants and dresses. We, as always, need volunteers even just for a couple of hours to sort and hang in the nice cool basement. Otherwise, sales have been steady. We are trying very hard to keep all items under \$5 a piece and it is working.

Thank you to our volunteers as they have been working very hard to cover the shop hours.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook!

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

If you are interested in donating a few hours a week, please contact Laura Naughton 890-4397



## **What's Happening at First Kids....**

**We are pleased to report that  
FirstKids is full!**

A additional part time teacher has been hired.

This summer the kids will be studying about the undersea world and in August a unit on camping and forest animals.

# BAKE SALE



**The Nautilus Guild is hosting 1 more bake sale this summer at  
Weston's Farm**

**Saturday, August 18th**

10 am - 2 pm

**\*\*\*\*\*We need lots of bakers and lots of volunteers on the day\*\*\*\*\***

**Baked goods need to be presented in boxes, plates, packaged etc., for sale.**

We had a great time at the church picnic!!





## 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.*

### INTERIM MINISTER

Rev. Violet Mills Eastman

**Email:** ourpastorvi@gmail.com

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

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

John Waldie

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Choir warmup

10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School

**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

PLEASE DIRECT SUBMISSIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR FEEDBACK TO:

MARY DI NUCCI [mawdinucci@gmail.com](mailto:mawdinucci@gmail.com)



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