



THE MESSENGER

September 2018

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



Pastor's Message

In between fall's final harvest and winter's first bite comes a golden hour, a time to mull things over, to plan for next time, and feel thankful for the good fortune that drifted our way while we were too busy to notice.

The Greeks called it the halcyon days, a time when angry gods took rest. But to us, the precious warm spell before winter's onset has long been known as Indian Summer. Indian summer! The very words conjure up images of trailing bittersweet vines laden with scarlet berries, sticky pine cones cluttering the forest floor, the smell of burning wood fires hanging heavy in the air, plump and portly pumpkins, bright orange against the muted hues of brown and yellow mums and gourds crowded together on our doorsteps, porches, and entryways. It is the sound of rustling leaves cascading downward in a spectacular showcase of color and light. It is the welcome of crisp cool nights and sunny, warm days, and of course, for me, the advent of Fryeburg Fair.

Usually the weather takes a sharp turn the week of the fair; bitter, cold, with a biting wind and pounding rain, but it never seems to keep the crowds away. When I think of the Fryeburg Fair I think of my father, Ed Mills, for his name is synonymous with the hoopla and hurrah that goes into the build up for this Grande Agricultural Event. In the summer prelude you would always find him there, paintbrush heavy with the burden of white he splashed against the bare clapboards of another new building. Sign brush, often resting between his teeth, as he thoughtfully, purposefully 'gridded out' in his head the plans for the stately letters to grace this mighty mammoth of a building with its name, birth date, and cost to construct.

For sixty-three years he painted and lettered all the buildings and signs for the Fair Association, raising sign painting to an art form with his distinctive lettering design. When I walk the fairgrounds, I am welcomed by the sight of so much of what I loved about my father: his earnest work ethic, his creativity, and his love for his community. When my dad died twenty two years ago, it was difficult for me to visit the fairgrounds and see the buildings and letters he had touched so intimately with his personality and style. Now, they are a great comfort to me. For I know in my lifetime they will be a constant reminder of who he was and what he stood for.

Fall is a time for reflection and preparation. It is a time to look at the bounty of blessings we have savored throughout the long, hot days of summer with a look to the simpler, shorter days ahead. As we bring our sweaters and comforters out of our closets and start filling our freezers for the cold months ahead, we have this beautiful, glorious pause.

There is a stillness, a newness, that is heightened with the drama that unfolds all around us. As birds prepare to migrate and bears to hibernate, there is a settling in as all the creatures and critters of the forests and fields begin bedding down to gather their strength for winter. As the leaves on the trees begin to change and the air around us grows cold and still, we have a very concrete reminder that our seasons are shifting once again and that we must make ready for this future change.

There is an inherent strength in living in the north but there is also a great joy. Lives, like the seasons of the year, must prepare for change. We must come to peace with those forces that drive the temperature down and the snowdrifts up. And welcome the wind that embraces us body and soul with a sharpness that can only be dulled by the God who commands it.

For within that natural rhythm of life we have a God to whom we draw courage and strength. God's love is concerned with all the situations and circumstances of our daily lives. He abides with us and works through us. He inclines his heart, ears, and eyes toward us. We can have genuine confidence in God's faithful and steadfast love through all the dark days of winter that lie ahead.

Stay warm. Live well. And know that my love and prayers are always with you.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Vi



Upcoming Events:		
August 29th	3:00	Choir Practice
Sept. 9th	9:30	Sunday School Registration Donut and juice provided. Choir back from summer break.
Sept. 30th		First day of the Fryeburg Fair - No church
Sept. 30th- October 7th		Dairy Bar open all day at the Fair
October 7th	8:30am	No church Pastor Vi conducting church service at the Fairgrounds at the Hayseed Theater.

The Dairy Bar needs Volunteers!!!

The Dairy Bar at the Fryeburg Fair runs from September 30th to October 7th and is one of the major fundraisers for our congregation and also is a lot of fun! It is a team effort to make it run smoothly and we take pride in providing good service to our customers. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Hurd Room. Please sign up for shifts as you are able. A fair pass will be provided for volunteers working 3 or more hours a shift. Please let Linda Russell know if you need a pass.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

This summer we had many fundraising events and raised a total of \$1,930.50.

Thank you to all who supported the four bake sales and the yard sale held this summer, either by baking or donating items, working at the sales and purchasing baked items.

Weston's Farm graciously offered to sell the remaining items after each sale, and an additional \$287.25 was raised.

The earnings were:

- Bake sale July 2nd \$229.50 dedicated to Youth Fund, Pilgrim Lodge.
- Bake sale July 14th \$290 toward budgeted operational fundraising goal of \$1000 for 2018.
- Bake sale July 21st \$401 toward fundraising goal.
- Yard sale August 4th \$731 was earned toward our congregation's mission projects.
- Bake Sale August 18th \$279 toward fundraising goal.

First Congregational Church of Fryeburg



Would you like to host a coffee hour?

Our time after church is about fellowship.

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.

Thrift Shop

We have had some very good coverage in the Conway Daily Sun and Fryeburg Matters with two very nice articles. We are having \$2 bag sale from now until Sept 1st, then reopening September 5th with our fall clothing.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mulford Fund the front steps are being repaired with wooden steps, railings and landing covering over the stone ones. They will be much safer, especially in the winter. Repairs to the roof are in the works as well.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

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

MISSIONS

Mission Yard Sale

The Mission Yard Sale held on August 4th was a huge success thanks to the Thrift Store Team who collected items throughout the year and to church members and friends who donated items, helped set up, work the day of the sale and clean up. We started bringing items over from the Thrift Shop on Sunday, July 29th, setting up tables and pricing throughout the week. Even though it was a rainy day, a total of \$731 was earned toward our congregation's mission projects. Left over items were donated to Harvest Hills and to the New Church Yard Sale which is scheduled for September 1st.

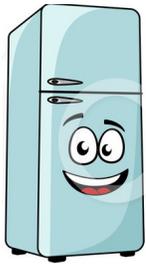
Sign up and start date for Sunday School is Sunday, September 9th.



Christian Education

There will be a kick off registration at 9:30, donuts and juice provided. We will continue with the Deep Blue Kids Curriculum for our Sunday School Program.

Can You Help?



The refrigerator in the Hurd Room went kaput after many years of faithful service. We had a new one installed in its place. It cost \$500. If you'd like to contribute to its cost, please annotate the memo line of your check with "Refrigerator" and thank you so much for your continued support.



News from First Kids

We will be starting our "school year" with A,B,&C and all things starting with those letters. On Wednesday October 3rd, (weather permitting) we will be going to the Fryeburg fair for our annual field trip to the animal barns &

ice cream at the dairy bar.

We have a few openings at this time, but averaging 9 a day, which is great!

Pastor's Fund

You may have wondered what the collection jar is in the back labeled "Pastor's Fund". The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used to offer a bit of aid to our members and other people who come to our church for help during particularly hard times.

Donations Always Welcome

This money is not a part of the church's general budget and is used, as its name states, at the pastor's discretion. To make a donation to this fund, make your check out to First Congregational Church, Fryeburg as usual, but note in the "memo" line that it is for the Pastor's Fund. If giving cash, include a short note that lets us know it is intended for the fund. Thank you for your support in helping people in short-term, great need.

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

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

Photos from the bake sales held this summer. Thank you to everyone who helped!





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The First Congregational Church of Fryeburg

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