

The Messenger

First Congregational Church of Fryeburg November 2021

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: Bringing Our Gifts

"The measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

When I was a little girl, I loved to sit at the counter and watch my mom bake. It was a challenge for me to sit still for any length of time, but the wonderful smell of my mom's baking as her floured hands worked their magic kept me spellbound at least until her pies, cakes, and cookies went into the oven. Then it was an agonizing wait as I continually asked my mom, "are they ready yet?" over and over and over again until in exasperation, I was banished from the kitchen to play outside while she continued with the rest of her cooking.

When my older married brothers and sisters came home for Thanksgiving it was always a big deal. My mom spent days working on our Thanksgiving meal, often baking a favorite pie for each one of my brothers and sisters. She'd bake her long, crusty rolls, a favorite treat for all of us, along with mashed potato, squash, green beans, (all coming from our own garden), a big boat of gravy made from turkey drippings, stuffing, a tossed salad, and all the pie combinations anyone could wish for. And of course, cranberry sauce, the jellied kind that came from a can and was jiggly like jello, with great rings etched into it from the can. My mom made cranberry sauce but everyone who liked cranberry sauce, of which I am not, seemed to like the canned version best, go figure...

But the main event, the roasted turkey, came from a local farmer and was the biggest turkey that would fit in my mom's cook stove. She'd cook it long and slow, wrapping slices of bacon across the top, held in place with toothpicks and stuffing it till it was near bursting with her homemade stuffing with bits of cranberries and almond slices and onions and celery with another large baking pan of stuffing too. And after she'd basted the turkey and surveyed its doneness, she'd blanket it with a sheet of aluminum foil for the last of its baking.

When everything was nearly done, she'd hand whip some cream for the pies while my dad made the dressing for the salad. When she knew the turkey was finally done and the skin was a crispy golden honey color, she'd lean down to take it out of the oven, her glasses fogging as she hefted it up and out to cool for carving. My parents' kitchen was modest by today's standards and she was hard pressed to find enough counter space for everything. Pies that were cooled were placed in the store room off the kitchen. Crusty rolls were covered and placed in warming baskets while the vegetables stayed warm in the oven till they were served.

My sister, Rose Ann, my brother, Clayton, and I were the only children living at home by then, and we all descended like vultures on the cooling turkey till under great protest my dad, who took over the handling of the turkey once it was out of the oven, let us have the cooked bacon strips and big pieces of some of the turkey's skin to get us out of the kitchen.

Once the stuffing was removed from the turkey and placed in a large serving bowl, he'd get out the carving knife and a long knife sharpener and spend some time sharpening it, making sure the carving knife was properly sharp before he expertly carved the turkey, separating the dark meat from the light, filling a tray of turkey till it was overflowing and saving the wish bone to dry so we could all make a wish!

By the time everyone had arrived and make shift tables were set up all over the living room with the grown ups sitting at my folks' big dining room table and the kids in the living room, the intoxicating smell of my mom's turkey dinner filtered through the whole house, infusing it with an enticing aroma of meat and sweet.

Once the meal was ready and everyone was seated, dishes were passed hand to hand down the table till the big table was served and they could be passed down the line to the make shift kids' tables where my sister, Rose Ann, and I, were charged with helping to feed our nephews and nieces while keeping the peace.

When everyone felt as if they couldn't take another bite, and all the men loosened their belts and all the women moved to the kitchen, my mom called to my sister, Jean, and sister in laws, Peggy, Karen, and Nancy to help bring in the parade of pies. (I'm not sure my sister, Beverly, came home for Thanksgiving with her family, If she did, I was too little to remember).

While the grown ups ate their pie and drank their coffee, Rose and I would head outside with the older kids to play while the younger ones took naps stretched out on my parents' living room couch. Then it was dish

duty as my mom and some of my older siblings helped stack, sort, wash, dry and put away while the others stepped outside to share a beer and a smoke, (something my parents never allowed in their home), but didn't mind if it was outside on the stoop or in the breezeway.

At the time, I resented always being placed at the kids' table and shouldering the burden with my sister, Rose Ann, of child minder and entertainer. I longed to be part of that adult world, swapping stories of the good old days when they were growing up together, talking about work, raising babies, and their newest car, even if I hadn't been born yet when my first five brothers and sisters were growing up.

I never did make it to the adults' table even after Peter and I married and had our son, Jeb, but over time I've learned to appreciate those wonderful, rowdy get togethers of old, especially now that everyone I love is gone except my sister, Jean whom I still very much love and adore. And, as she often admits when introducing me to her friends, "I could be Vi's mother. I graduated high school the year Violet was born."

My family was a working-class poor family. Meals were never fancy but always filling and even if it meant my folks went without, they made sure we all went to bed with full bellies. Thanksgiving was the one holiday when they made sure we all had something we loved at the table. Although I have to admit that I covetted then and still covet the leftovers more than the main event.

I have come to recognize much later in life, what a privilege it has been to have grown up in such a close and loving family even if life was hard and money was tight. And even after we were all grown up with families of our own, we were always welcome to come and stay with my folks at their little home on Cottage Street.

Peter and I bought our first home in Fryeburg on Warren Street because it was just a short stroll down Pleasant till Cottage Street and number four where the living room light was always on and the door was always open.

May you find new reasons for counting your blessings with every passing day. And may you have a happy, safe, and maybe even rowdy and raucous Thanksgiving this month surrounded by those you love.

Happy, Healthy, Holiday Blessings,

Pastor Vi

Covid-19 Statistics – Active Cases (as of October 28th)

Positive Cases

Maine	The United States	Around the World
102,000	45.7 million	245 million

Deaths

Maine	The United States	Around the World
1154	741,000	4.97 million

United States CDC Face Covering Recommendations for Maine

Per guidance from the US CDC, persons in countries with substantial or high levels of Covid-19 community transmissions are advised to wear face coverings in public indoor settings. These are the counties with substantial or high levels of Covid-19 as of today – Aroostook, Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, **Oxford**, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, Washington and York.

Do you still need to get vaccinated? <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines>

Covid-19 Boosters are now available by Pfizer, Moderna, and J & J.

Millions of Americans can now opt for an extra shot of protection against COVID-19, regardless of which vaccine they initially received. The criteria for a booster shot can include your age, job, where you live and your underlying health. In most cases, you have to wait until six months after your first two shots.

What's more, a booster shot doesn't have to match the first vaccine you had. People who are 65 or older, people ages 50 to 64 who have certain underlying health conditions and adults 18 or older who live in long-term care settings like nursing homes and those who work in high risk professions are all at higher risk of getting COVID-19. The Maine CDC recommends you talk with your healthcare provider about Covid-19 boosters and how and where and when to sign up.

Visit this web site to learn where you can get a Covid-19 vaccination.

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/vaccination-sites#pharmacies>. In many cases you won't need an appointment.

Pastor Vi received her Covid-19 booster by appointment on October 29th at the Midcoast Medical Center in Brunswick.

Maine Covid-19 Resources

- **StrengthenME:** The Maine Dept of Health and Human Services created **Strengthenme.com** to help Mainers cope with the stress and uncertainty of the pandemic. The program offers a hotline that is open 7 days a week, 8am – 8pm. Anyone in need of assistance can call 207-221-8198.
- **Maine Helps:** The Maine Helps website, **<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/mainehelps>** offers ways Mainers can directly help nonprofits, health care and businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **FrontLine WarmLine:** Maine Department of Health and Human Services phone line to help Mainers who are working on the frontlines of the coronavirus outbreak. The phone line will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day by calling 207-221-8196 or 866-367-4440. The service will eventually include a text option, officials said.
- **211 Maine:** The state's 211 system can answer general questions about coronavirus from callers. Mainers can also text 898-211 to have their questions answered.
- **NAMI Maine Resources:** is offering several programs to help people with mental health concerns due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Supporting Maine People and Families-

Manage unemployment benefits <https://reemployme.maine.gov/accessme/faces/login/login.xhtml>

Workforce training and resources. <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/workforce-resources>

Help paying for childcare <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/paying-for-child-care>

General Assistance for Mainers harmed by Covid-19 – food insecurity, health care, emergency benefits and more <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/benefits/account/login.html>

Support for Maine Employers

Supporting Maine Businesses <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/benefits/account/login.html>

University of Maine is updating policies, operations, resources. <https://www.maine.edu/together/>

Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan t [https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-unveils-transformative-plan-spur-economic-recovery-achieve-long-term-economic.](https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-unveils-transformative-plan-spur-economic-recovery-achieve-long-term-economic-)



We had a very successful eight days at the church Dairy Bar during Fryeburg Fair! We are so grateful to everyone who waited in line to order and pick up their tasty treats, to all our amazingly hard-working volunteers, to our vendors, most especially Shane's Premium Ice Cream, and to God for providing such great ice cream weather for the fair!!! And a special thank you to Linda Russell for making all this happen! Thank you and bless you everyone!



The Thrift Store

New fall and winter inventory is here! Our fall hours. Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays, 9 am – 12 noon. We still need volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer or would like more information, please be in touch with our manager, Ingrid. The store phone number is **935-2329** or you can visit the Thrift Shop web site fryeburghthrift.com.



First Kids News

WE HAVE OPENINGS!!! 18 mos to 5 years old. We are open M-F, 7:30 am

to 5:30pm. If you need assistance with tuition, we can help too! For information on enrolling your child or children, please contact Kerri at 207-935-3276 or by a message on the FirstKids Children's Learning Center Facebook page or email. firstkidsoffryeburg@yahoo.com



In this picture is Circle Time. Learning the color red, the circle shape, the letter Bb, and the number 2.

This month the kids will be learning about animals that go into hibernation. With Thanksgiving fast approaching, they will also be learning what Thanksgiving is, along with activities and crafts.



Kerri McCormack's husband, Laurie Weston, Ginny Rubino, Muriel Rouchussen, Ruth Fisher, John Beebe's niece, Cynthia, Laura Smith, Shelly Hibbert, Barbara Lawrence's granddaughter, Ellie, John Waldie's brother in law, Wayne, Cynthia Thebault, Norene Hastings, Carlene, Henry & Barbara in the nursing home, Jean Hubbard, Arlin Bigelow, Carlton & Karen Pipe, brother, Chris, his wife, Ginny, and wisdom and discernment for Kitty & Missie. And all our family and friends who will be traveling for the holidays.

Thanksgiving Baskets



Pastor Vi and Peter are donating 10 Thanksgiving boxes and all the trimmings to MSAD #72 for families in need in our school district. Our church thrift store is also donating \$20 gift certificates for each of the families.



THE GIVING TREE

The giving tree serves families in need in MDAD #72. Due to the ongoing pandemic, they are unable to place Giving Tree tags throughout the community. If you'd like to contribute a gift or gifts for a child or several children, email thecommunitygivingtree@gmail.com. They will mail you directions on how to participate. **They must receive all gifts by December 5 & 6.** If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please send your check to **The Community Giving Tree, PO Box 443, Fryeburg, ME 04037**. Peter and I are sponsoring an entire family again this year.

Gotta a favorite Joke? These are holiday one liners sent to Vi.

If a big turkey is a gobbler, what is a small turkey? A goblet!

What do you get if you cross a turkey with a ghost? A poultry-geist!

What Our Church is All About



Our Mission

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

Our Minister

Rev. Dr. Violet Eastman
(Pastor Vi)

Email: ourpastorvi@gmail.com

Phone or Text:
239-595-4569

Pastor Vi's home address
93 Harding Rd
Brunswick, Maine
04011



Music Director, John Waldie
Pianojaw2@gmail.com



Christian Ed Director,
Linda Russell.
Lindarussell2972@gmail.com



Church Office
Office Phone: 207-935-3227

Please be advised our office phone number is not monitored daily.

Church website:
www.fryeburgucc.org

Our Physical Address:
655 Main Street
Fryeburg, Maine 04037



Kerri McCormack, Head Teacher
Hours: Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Phone: 207-935-3276

We are still asking members and friends NOT to come to the church building during this time of Covid-19 unless it is absolutely necessary.

We are working to keep our learning center children and teachers healthy and safe.



679 Main Street
(just down the street from our beautiful church)

Store Hours
Wed. and Sat. 10am-2pm or by appointment.

Ingrid Kellas, Manager
gardener@smallfryfarm.com
www.fryeburgthrift.com
Phone: 207-935-2329

Our church is on Facebook!



You can find us at
Fryeburg Congregational Church
The Little Church with a Big Heart

Pastor Vi will continue to make worship services available on our FB page even though we open for public worship.

Have a great month everyone!

