



August 15, 2021

Is this Groundhog Day in August?

If you look up Groundhog Day, Wikipedia provides you with this:

"It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that is a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day (February 2) sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early." Every February we wait to see what will happen. We ask, Will we have a longer winter or an early spring?

The use of Groundhog Day as a metaphor for things repeating over and over again came from the movie...*Groundhog Day*. The character Bill Murray ends up repeating the day over and over again until he stops being selfish and becomes a caring human being. I found myself using this metaphor over and over and over and over again during this pandemic. In the early days I felt like I was just moving through the same motions every day. Like standing in place.

Listening to the most recent COVID reports, I am learning how we are returning to increased infections. Are we heading to another round of this? Is this Groundhog Day? It doesn't have to be. But the new variants might be pulling us in that direction and many people seem to be helping it do its work.

I know our church is filled with people from various places along the spectrum of political, social and familial perspectives. We are also diverse theologically. When we come into our churches, when we gather in our faith communities, it is no longer about "you" or "I"...it is about "WE" and "US". How can we come together with all our varied mindsets and be ONE IN CHRIST?

My hope is that each of you will make time for some prayerful discernment. I pray that how we love our family, loved ones, friends and neighbors, will help us let go of our insistence of what we may

think and do for ourselves and live in a way that follows Jesus' commandment for us to *"love your neighbor as you love yourself."*

We know what heals us and the world. We have evidence of that. I hope and pray that our actions will prove that we really do love each other. I can't tell you how many congregational profiles come to us that profess how much every church thinks they are loving. The proof is in the pudding as they say. I think the proof is in how we give care and provide safe space for us all. God can do miracles...AND...God uses us to also bring those miracles to reality. WE must listen, learn and act. We must receive the miracles. When I got my vaccine/shot, I felt like I was receiving a miracle. It gave me hope because I knew I was doing what I could to prevent a senseless, unnecessary death.

I'm one who is advocating for ONE Groundhog Day in February! I want this pandemic to STOP!

This is hard. I know it can be stressful. You are always held in sacred space. Please know that you are loved and appreciated. Let us BE the church TOGETHER!
 Let our daily acts of living be life-GIVING.

Blessings and Peace,
 Susan

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PSEC Fall Meeting
November 14, 2021

This will be a virtual meeting.

Watch for registration to open soon!