



First and Center

Pastor's Blog

August 21, 2019

We cannot go around in a constant state of outrage. And yet, we need to make sure that we don't become so accustomed to things the way they are that we stop being outraged. It's hard. There's actually a new syndrome that is named "Outrage Fatigue." There's just so much. Today, I read that the President said that people in Israel think he's like "The King of Israel." That American Jews who don't vote for him are being "disloyal." He means disloyal to Israel.

Say what?

Add that to the cabinet official who claims that the words on the Statue of Liberty actually mean only the poor who will provide for themselves and are from a European nation. And the new rules today that ensure that immigrants and those seeking refugee status at the southern border will now be incarcerated for indefinite times. Including children.

It comes at us every day; sometimes more than once.

And, if you are like me, we feel so powerless to do anything about this.

I think it is critical that we not look at what is happening in our country right now and become functional atheists. It is critical that we remember God and the Spirit still active in our midst. It is critical that we seek to align ourselves with the work of Jesus, loving as we seek to be loved, loving as we have been loved by God. Calling on God for strength, wisdom, discernment, boldness, forgiveness, and help! It is critical that we join together with others, in the church and elsewhere, where we can find support and strength in each other.

In the baptismal promises in the UCC, an adult baptizand is asked "Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?" The person responds "I promise, *with the help of God.*" Let us remember that promise, either made by us or by our parents or sponsors. Let us also remember that we can only do these things *with the help of God.* Follow Jesus, resist evil, show love, witness to the possibility of the Kingdom. Every day.

~ The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
Transitional Minister