



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

PASTOR ANDY AND GROUNDHOG'S DAY

I AM GOING TO LET YOU ALL IN ON A LITTLE SECRET. I LOVE GROUNDHOGS DAY. IT IS A TRADITION UNLIKE ANY OTHER. YOU HAVE TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELVES TO REALLY APPRECIATE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE OCCASION.

DEEP IN THE HEART OF PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA, 10,000+ COLD BUT ADORING FANS START GATHERING TOGETHER ON THE SIDE OF A HILL TO HEAR THE PROGNOSTICATOR OF PROGNOSTICATORS GIVE HIS SCIENTIFICALLY PERFECT WEATHER REPORT.

LIZ AND I HAPPENED TO BE THERE IN 2009 FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANOTHER 6 WEEKS OF WINTER. TO SEE THAT MANY PEOPLE BOO AND STORM BACK INTO TOWN WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD AND A SOUND THAT HAS NOT QUICKLY LEFT MY MEMORY.

THE REASON I ENJOY THIS DAY SO MUCH IS, THOSE ON THE SIDE OF THE HILL WHO TAKE THE DAY OFF AND ARE GATHERING TO KEEP WARM, AND THOSE ON STAGE DRESSED LIKE ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, KNOW THAT THIS IS JUST SILLY FUN. THERE IS A DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER WHEN PEOPLE KEEP COMPLAINING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT THEY DECIDED TO HAVE FUN ON. AS A PERSON WHO TRIES NOT TO TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY, THIS HEARTBEAT OF CONSISTENCY IS RIGHT UP MY ALLEY. AS MY FATHER-IN-LAW SAYS, "IT'S SIX ONE WAY AND A HALF-DOZEN THE OTHER".

THE WORLD, AND OUR COUNTRY AND WAY OF LIFE, SEEMS TO BE IN SHAMBLES RIGHT NOW. WE LIVE IN A GRUMBLING, QUESTIONING, QUICK-TEMPERED, AND A MORALLY INTOLERANT SOCIETY THAT HAS ENABLED ITSELF TO BE DYSFUNCTIONAL. BUT .WE DO NOT SERVE A GOD OF CHAOS (1 COR 14:33)! IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH FOR US TO JOIN IN WITH THE CHATTER AND FUSS ABOUT ISSUES THAT DO NOT MATTER; ABOUT ISSUES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED BY AN OMNISCIENT AND OMNIPOTENT GOD.

BE CARE WE ARE NOT LIKE THOSE IN THE WILDERNESS WHO WERE TOO BUSY GRUMBLING ABOUT PERSONAL LUXURIES THEY DIDN'T HAVE, TO SEE THE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION GOD WAS OFFERING BY WAY OF A CLOUD BY DAY AND PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT (EX 13:17-22). LIKE THE WANDERING HEBREWS, GOD HAS NOT KEPT US, AND TAKEN US THIS FAR, TO JUST LEAVE US.

IF WE HAVE SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER (A.K.A. LIFE WILL BE A LITTLE HARSHER AND COLDER) OR WE HAVE SIX WEEKS UNTIL SPRING (A.K.A. LIFE IS LOOKING UP), THE OUTCOME IS STILL THE SAME: GOD IS IN CONTROL AND HE DESIRES TO LEAD US BY STILL WATERS IN THE PRESENCE OF ENEMIES.

6 CERTAINLY GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND MY DWELLING WILL BE IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER." (PS 23 NASB)

SOME OF US COULD USE A FEW MORE GROUNDHOGS DAYS. LET US REJOICE, NOT IN A WEATHER REPORT, BUT IN THE SOVEREIGN GOD'S PERFECT WORDS OF PROMISE.

PASTOR ANDY

