

DAY 8 (October 22,2020)

by Rev. Dr. Barbara Purinton

Scripture focus

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Reflection

“I can’t do one more zoom meeting,” I think. But as Tuesdays roll around and our weekly clergy COVID group approaches, I realize I NEED people. I need to hear what people are thinking about as leaders amidst the challenging questions about opening church and addressing racism and national unrest and the multitude of things that are on our minds.

We yearn for support and the encouragement that happens when we pray with each other and share resource links in the chat and consider how to be balanced leaders in what feels like a very unbalanced time.

“Meeting together” has taken on a whole new meaning in this time of pandemic. From the challenges of figuring out how to do the best worship and pastoral care for our congregations to acknowledging that we really want to see each other “in three dimensions” as I have said to my congregations. But its more than that - how do we bring light, God’s good energy, into the conversations of today? We need to pray.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Let us be concerned about one another in order to “promote love and good works”. Let us consider one another - has there ever been a time when we need to energize one another for the work of God more than now?

It is all too easy to provoke each other to anger and strife through unkindness and criticism - but as faithful people we are called to provoke one another to love. We answer darkness with light, anger with respectful disagreement, fear and division with hope of the possibility of understanding and healing.

We need to meet together, as we can, to pray together, encourage each other and share our common faith in God who continues to work in and through God’s people.

Prayer

Holy One, provoke us to greater love, that we might encourage one another in the work to which you have called us, to answer each dose of darkness with an equal if not greater dose of light.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Purinton has served churches in Vermont since 1978.