Rev's Reflections

PRIDE

Pride started feeling a little weird to me 17 years ago, when I realized that it had corporate (and political and religious) self-congratulations. The following year, a not-particularly-religious friend pointed out that we celebrate a deadly sin. Yes, pride is a deadly sin. There's so much to unpack there about oppression and allyship, but still. Then a decade ago it all became a big family event, which is great, but not exactly the risky protests I loved as an in-your-face young adult activist when we were literally fighting for the lives of our loved ones with AIDS.

Pride became mainstream, but this year it all feels *different*. From the Oval Office to the classroom, transfolks of all identities have been the scapegoats for all of us who fly the rainbow flag. So much so that many of my queer-identifying friends are coming up with escape plans for the day we start getting rounded up, the way Putin has been rounding us up for a decade.

Meanwhile, the president — acting like a dictator — has renamed June "Title 9 Month," and is sending troops into Los Angeles against the wishes of the mayor and governor, as plans are underway for a $100M military spectacle to celebrate his birthday.

The message is clear: protest at your own peril.

This year it does indeed feel different. It's a good old-fashioned protest. But unlike 40 years ago when we expected to be spit at and screamed at by our neighbors, this time we will have the loving support of our neighbors: businesses, houses of worship, politicians, and even children.

This is what democracy looks like.

I hope you'll join us in the UUCSC tent on Saturday afternoon in Wakefield. If you'd like to volunteer, please let me or Cathy Solomon know.

Now, I have to decide what to wear.

In Peace,
Rev Denis