

## Reflections from Pastor Brooke for June 26, 2020

*I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ~ Psalm 89:2*

The Psalm this week provides a lot of certainty. Words like “steadfast” and “forever” and “firm” provide a sense of assurance. When we look around our world today, there are few words that exist like that. We are confronted with words like “risk” and “unsure” and “maybe.” That uncertainty makes these times that much more difficult. We all long for things to “return to normal.” The difficult thing is that even “normal” no longer looks “steadfast and firm.” So what do we do?

I wish I had the answer. I have seen a couple of images of a Ven diagram this week. In the middle it says “me” and all around it are statements about what is going on — some of which seem to contradict each other. I know some of you think I am being overly cautious and some of you are perfectly content with that caution. For those of you who think I’m being overly cautious, let me share a story on myself.

I am going to take a week off the first week of July. A colleague for whom I have great respect posted pictures of her husband and her getting away to Niagara Falls. They looked so happy and carefree — so much so that I said to my spouse Tuesday night, “How about if we get away for a couple of days during the week I’m off? We don’t have to go far, but let’s just get away.” We talked about a few places — a cabin at a state park; nope, they’re not open! I’ve heard Yellow Springs is really nice and we’ve never been there. An AirBnB? Would that be safer? We talked for about 15 minutes and then I said, dejectedly, “We shouldn’t go anywhere. It’s not safe.”

Even today as I write this, that makes me sad. I want to be able to go and do what I want and not have to worry about my health, my spouse’s health, or the health of those I would come back to. But it is that last sentence that causes me to say “no.”

God’s love is most decidedly steadfast and established for ever; God’s faithfulness is firm. If I am going to claim the title of Christian, I have to be willing to not put my own wants first. You have no idea how much I want a break from Lakewood! I want to go to a restaurant and feel completely confident that no one there is sick. I suppose even without COVID-19, that guarantee is never completely there, but the consequences are greater now. And so, in the midst of my break, I am going to lean into God; and not only in my break. In the midst of so much uncertainty, the Psalmist reminds me of that which I can be sure — God’s love. And the Good News is that God’s love is not only there for me, but it’s there for you as well.

So let’s continue to be cautious and find ways to lean into the certainty of God’s love.

*Blessings,*

