



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
United Church of Christ



Reflections from Pastor Brooke for August 14, 2020

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! ~ Psalm 133:1

We are all part of a family. It may be our family of origin or our family of choice. It may be our church family or the family at our workplace. There are many kinds of families, but they all share one thing in common: Being part of a family takes work.

There are times when we all gather together in celebration, and there are times when there is tension. At times, our families cause us so much pain that we need to separate from them because it is not healthy to be with them anymore. However, most of the time, there are simple disagreements in which apologies are offered and accepted.

Living “together in unity” does not mean everyone thinks the same or believes the same things. Living together in unity means we see each other as created in the image of God. We have to remember that we worship a creative God; each of us unique in our own way and given the gift to think for ourselves. We are not going to always agree on things, but that does not mean that we cannot live in unity. When we live in unity, we see the other person as valuable, even if we disagree with his/her idea. We see them as beloved of God and then treat them as such.

Tension and disagreement seldom feel “good and pleasant,” but a willingness to love each other as Jesus taught us, and see each other as God’s beloved, creates a sense of unity that allows us to live together. We live in a world that is very divided at this point. As Christians, we are called to show the world a different way to live — a good and pleasant way that is found when we live in unity.

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke