



**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
United Church of Christ



**NOTE:** *Due to the weather, we will NOT hold the 9 a.m. service on the lawn this week.*

## Death of Sandy Evans

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Sandy Evans on November 11, 2020. The family will receive friends at Berry-McGreevy and Donald Martens and Sons Funeral Home, 26691 Detroit Road, Westlake at a time to be determined. There will be a service held at Church of the Redeemer, also at a time to be determined. We extend our sympathy to her husband, David, and the rest of her family.



## Reflections from Pastor Brooke for November 13, 2020

*To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! ~ Psalm 123:1*

When you lift up your eyes to God, what is it that you say these days? I am much more likely to sound like the psalmist in 13:1, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" I know I am not alone, but then I go back to Psalm 123: God is there. It is that assurance in which I find hope.

Have any of you thought about how much you have lost in these last 8 months? We have lost security. We have lost fellowship. We have lost the ability to see family. We have lost a lot, and I am certain each of you could add to this list. Those are the big things, but there are a myriad of little things we have also lost. While the news came this week that one of the vaccine trials is having success, we are realistically still several months away from that, and it will take a while before everyone can be vaccinated. I do not mean to diminish that good news, just helping us all keep it in perspective.

So again, where is the hope? The hope is that even though we are not gathering together, there are ways for us to feel connected. Is it the same? No, and I am not going to try to convince you that it is. But the hope is that we worship a God who is so big that when we think we cannot do this another day, we have a God that we can rail at; a God who comforts us like a parent. A God who loves us even if we rail. And if we need to rise the next day and rail some more, God will hear us and love us. It does not make this all go away, but rather reminds us that when we lift our eyes — in praise or frustration — God is there. Thanks be to God!

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Brooke*