

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

### Circumstances

Rev. Helen Zidowecki

#### **Opening:**

We need one another when things happen in our lives over which we lack influence. We need loving reassurance of the worth of our being.

We need one another when we are spared from harm. We need to feel our gratitude with wonder and without guilt.

We need one another when we are called upon to make decisions that are contrary to another's thoughts or well-being. We need compassion for the situation and for ourselves.

We need one another when we hear of tragedies not directly related to us. We need to feel the oneness with humanity.

In all of these things, we need one another.

Helen Zidowecki

**Check In:** How is it with you today?

#### **Topic**

It seems that the circumstance or the situation that determines, or modifies a fact of life; places us in at least one of four roles. We may be the person to whom the event has happened, with all of the feelings of our own worth, the "why me?" or "what could I have done to prevent this?" and "what next?" feelings.

Or we may be the one in similar circumstance to whom the event has not happened, with the "There but for the grace of God go I" or "will I be next?" feelings.

Or we may be the one who had a part in making decisions that resulted in the situation, with the power and responsibility to make decisions over the lives of others.

Or we may hear about the event, considering what, if anything, we could or 'should' do.

Share a situation that has happened to you. What was your role in the situation?

What impact does the role have on you? On your sense of self?

Where do you look for strength in working through that role?

How can we be 'present' for each other, regardless of role?

**Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you?**

**Closing:** Singing the Living Tradition #483, Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.

For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.