



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

Your Neighborhood

Every man is surrounded by a neighborhood of voluntary spies.

-- *Jane Austin*

I love the idea of a beautiful neighborhood that represents the very best of American values, but also as a fun backdrop to some darker, deliciously sneaky things going on in people's lives.

-- *Marc Cherry*

We live in a world that has narrowed into a neighborhood before it has broadened into a brotherhood.

-- *Lyndon B. Johnson*

Try to take for a mate a person of your own neighborhood.

-- *Hesiod*

Preliminaries *Announce upcoming church events; get a volunteer to light the chalice, and read the opening reading.*

Centering Practice *See Leader Notes.*

Opening / Chalice Lighting
-- Jean L. Wahlstrom
In this small flame dwell; the beacon light of lanterns guiding travelers home; the warmth of hearth fires tended through the generations; the transforming energy of furnaces and the power and life of our sun.
May these blessings -- warmth light and life-giving energy -- be kindled in each of us.

Check-in *Briefly share something that happened this week that contributes to your emotional temperature today.*

Readings from the bowl *Pass a bowl or a basket with the readings around the circle taking turns reading them aloud.*

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening *Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session.*

Discussion *This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

Singing
- Hymnal #159
This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

Extinguishing the Chalice
- Sydney K. Wilde
In this community we give and we receive. May we go forth, now, to share the bounty of our love.