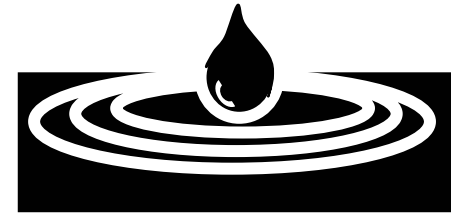




SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## **Sad Occurrence**

“Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses  
your understanding.”  
- Kahlil Gibran



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**Preliminaries** Choose someone to read the bold type for the responsive reading. Sharing is optional and only for the member who has suffered a sad occurrence.

**Opening Responsive Reading**  
- Hymnal #468,  
George E. Odell

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.  
*We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.*  
We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.  
*We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.*  
We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.  
*We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.*  
We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.  
*All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us.*

**Sharing**  
(optional)

**Leader:** Would you like to share something about what has happened in your life?

The member has an opportunity to share at this point.

**Holding in Silence**

Take a minute of silence for everyone to hold the member in their thoughts.

**Words of comfort**

Everyone is invited to speak a word or sentence of comfort.

**Singing**  
- Hymnal #389,

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.  
Gathered here in one strong body.  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.  
Spirit, draw near.

**Closing**  
- Hymnal #698

Take courage friends.  
The way is often hard,  
the path is never clear,  
and the stakes are very high.  
Take courage.  
For deep down, there is another truth:  
You are not alone.

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