**Small Group Ministry**

**Group Session Plan**

**Friendship**

**Opening Words**  Flower Communion Prayer

In the name of Providence, which implants in the seed the future of the flower and in our hearts the longing for people to live in harmony;

In the name of the highest, in whom we move and who makes the mother and the father, the brother and sister, lover and loner what they are;

In the name of sages and great religious leaders, who sacrificed their lives to hasten the coming of the age of mutual respect --

Let us renew our resolution sincerely to be real brothers and sisters regardless of any kind of bar which estranges us from each other.

In this holy resolve may we be strengthened knowing that we are God's family; that one spirit, the spirit of love, unites us; and endeavor for a more perfect and more joyful life. Amen

Norbert F. Capek

**Check-in/Sharing**

**Topic/Activity** As much by our families, as much by the culture around us, as much as by our schooling, many of us are shaped by the friendships that have touched our lives.

1. Who was your best friend as a child? Tell about her/him, and why you were pals.
2. Who was your friend around high school time? Why were you friends? What brought you together?
3. What did you have in common? What happened to those friendships? Where are they now? And what has been for you the greatest gift of friendship?

**Likes and Wishes**

**Closing Words** We Need One Another

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 on 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.

--George E. Odell, *Singing the Living Tradition* #469

© Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, Maine