In this passage, Nehemiah and the people complete the wall. What is the most satisfying project you have ever completed?

Read Nehemiah 6 and discuss:
1. How did Sanballat’s “open letter,” verses 5-7, differ from his previous letters, verses 2-4? What threat was embedded in this letter? What did Nehemiah do and what might you have done in this situation?
2. Sanballat and Tobiah clearly try to create fear in Nehemiah before the doors were put in the gates. Is there something you haven’t done in the past because you were too afraid? Does fear ever hinder you from moving forward?
3. When have you been distracted or sidetracked from doing something good? What can you use as defenses not to get sidetracked?
4. Shemaiah tries to get Nehemiah to run away and hide in the temple, verse 10. Has there been a time when someone tried to get you to do something you knew was wrong? Were you able to say no? Why or why not?
5. What lay in ruins for 140 years (Jerusalem’s wall was torn down from 586 BC to 445 BC) was rebuilt in 52 days. What made this possible? Name more than one factor.
6. The statement that the wall was completed is almost anticlimactic after the buildup of the last 5 chapters. Why do you think that is?

Spiritual Practice:
Identify a theme for yourself for the week. Some suggestions are: Choose joy; Be thankful; I belong to God. When you get distracted this week, return to your theme and see if that helps draw you back to God. We will remind you of the practice next week, and you can share in your group how it went.

Prayer:
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

> Prayers of continued healing for Theresa Beardsley, Jamie Jones, and John Lindenschmidt.