Icebreaker:
In Nehemiah 7, many family names are listed (as people who live in Jerusalem and nearby Judah). Are you named after someone in your family? How many generations can you go back with family names?

Spiritual Practice: Last week, we asked you to do the spiritual practice below. Discuss with your group if they did the practice and how it went.

“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.”

Read this week’s scripture and discuss:
1. In verse 2, “Hananiah feared God.” When is fear healthy; when is it not? Do you fear God? Why or why not? Why could fearing God be important to us as Christians?
2. In verse 3, why do you think Nehemiah gave strict orders about opening the gates and the setting of guards? Given his LORD’s faithfulness, what did Nehemiah continually remember?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to connect your story with this story in Nehemiah? Why is it important to our faith to hear stories like the one found in Nehemiah?
4. One commentary says, “Are Christians in today’s church as aware as they should be of the people they belong to and the story they are part of?” Why do you think it’s important to have connection with those who have gone before you? Do you think this has anything to do with why Nehemiah spells out in such detail (for those who would come later) who the exiles were who had returned to Jerusalem?
5. Family history matters to God (Nehemiah 3 and Nehemiah 7). Who is someone in your family that has impacted you the most? What has been passed on to you spiritually from your family? What would you like to pass on to your family members?
6. In verses 70-72, Nehemiah lists what heads of some ancestral homes contributed to the cause. What did they give? How could Nehemiah back then (or ZPC today) use financial gifts to honor God?

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

prayer requests

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