Icebreaker:
What is a favorite family tradition you have for a holiday or celebration?

Read this week's scripture and discuss:
1. How do people respond to the Book of the Law in verses 3, 5, 6, 9?
   Why would they respond in these ways?
2. In Nehemiah 8, the people weep and mourn after hearing scripture (verse 9). Why do you think the people would weep or be grieved at the reading of scripture? How do Nehemiah and Ezra respond?
3. In Nehemiah 8:2 and Ezra 10:1, children are included in worship and in hearing the scripture read. Did you grow up hearing the stories of the Bible? What stories stood out to you? If you have children, how do you (or did you) help them try and understand scripture?
4. The Book of the Law is the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Old Testament. The people are attentive and stand to hear the reading. They are given interpretation and understand it and then weep at its reading. The people show great respect and care by standing and weeping at hearing it.

5. The Festival of Booths is also called the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot in Hebrew. The people were instructed to go out and gather tree branches to make booths, or little tabernacles, almost like tents. This remembers that God helped provide for the Israelites when they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, including helping them to find or make shelter. Remembering how God has provided is important in the Bible and for us. Think of how and why we celebrate the Lord's Supper, or Christmas Eve, or Easter. We remember and celebrate God's goodness to us as individuals and as a church.

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

> Prayers of healing for Phil Isenbarger and Tracy Conner.