

**Sunday, May 29, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Bible Study – Acts 16:16-34**

**Ascension Sunday  
Bible Study – Acts 11:1-11**

**“We Are Witnesses”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “When might being disturbed be good?”

**Read Acts 16:16-34**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Acts 16:16-34 again**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- What is the mission statement of The United Methodist Church? [“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”]
- Paul was annoyed (v.18); the owners of the slave girl were seething (v. 19); and the jailer was in despair (v.27). All were experiencing a disturbance. Perhaps the most interesting disturbance occurred when Paul and Silas were praying and singing (after a flogging [v . 23]). Not only do others join in, but they also don't do what is most logical following yet another disturbance, an earthquake. They don't escape or even attempt to do so. What is the reaction of the disturbed jailer (v.30)?
- How were Paul's and Silas' actions a witness to God's love and mercy to the jailer?
- **(R)** Read Acts 17:1-9. What might it look like for Christians to be disturbing in a way that we might be described as “turning the world upside down”?

- **(R)** How might God be calling you to be a witness to those with whom you are in regular?

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God who continues to disturb us out of our routines and superficial contentment. Help us to be open to your guidance however it might disturb us or challenge us and those we encounter. Help us, Good Shepherd, to be led by your grace, mercy, and love as your witness to the world. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.