

**Sunday, May 8, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother’s Day**

**Bible Study –Acts 9:36-43**  
**“Get Up!”**

Open with a word of prayer

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

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “Who has been the strongest motherly influence in your life?”

**Acts 9:36-43 Context.** As Luke tells the story of the spread of the Christian faith, it began with Jesus’ Jewish disciples from Galilee and Judea who had gathered in Jerusalem. It soon spread to Jews who came from farther afield, whose native language was Greek, not Aramaic (which Jesus spoke). Luke calls these Greek-speaking disciples “Hellenists;” and it was one of their number, Philip, who was the first to begin spreading the gospel beyond Jerusalem, preaching first in Samaria, and then along the Mediterranean coast as far north as the seaport of Caesarea. Peter and John soon followed. Peter was in Lydda, a coastal town near Joppa where he had healed a paralytic named Aeneas, as this week’s reading begins:

**Read Acts 9:36-43**

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 9:36-43 again**

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

- Who might be the “Dorcas” of your community? The person devoted to good works who seems to be the relational center of the community?
- What might Peter have felt when he was asked to come, and he saw the grief of the people and their relationship to Dorcas?
- How is this story similar to stories of Jesus in the Gospels? Might Peter have had flashbacks to the ministry of Jesus?
- What was the result of Dorcas’ resuscitation? [Verse 42 notes that many believed.]

- How is Peter continuing the ministry of Jesus?
- How might this story be calling us to live? How does the ministry of Jesus continue through the church today?

### **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 of Resurrection, you have called us as your witnesses to “Get up” and follow you. We acknowledge we can do so only through the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us to discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding us and calling us as your witnesses. **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.