

“JESUS ON THE MOVE”
“Jesus Moves through Loving Action”

We are an Easter people! While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and of the power of Christ to change and transform the world through his followers. Our Easter sermon series encourages us to continue to be on the move, “*Jesus on the Move: Offering New Life.*” The disciples had to see Jesus. They had to see how Jesus moves out of the tomb and back into their lives. This Sunday in our culture we celebrate Mother’s Day and in our United Methodist church we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women and their predecessor groups. Our scripture passage will be perfect to proclaim how women have been witness to the risen Christ and through their gifts and ministry have changed the world. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!
Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Jesus Moves through Loving Action”**

Daily prayer:

Filled with your Holy Spirit, gracious God, your earliest disciples served you with the gifts each had been given: Lydia in business and stewardship, Dorcas in a life of charity, and Phoebe as a deacon who served many. Inspire us today to build up your Church with our gifts in hospitality, charity and bold witness to the Gospel of Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Study Guide

Monday, May 13, 2019 Acts 9: 36

In the beginning of this chapter, we have Saul being confronted by Jesus and his whole life turned upside down. Saul who becomes Paul becomes one of the most profound “movers” of the gospel to those outside the Jewish community. Peter doesn’t begin to see Jesus on the move among the Gentiles until the 10th chapter. Here, Peter has been touring the region and visiting those who had become followers of Jesus, when we are introduced to Tabitha (Dorcas). A godly woman, one of the few named women in the New Testament. The bible says, “her life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need.” As we celebrated United Methodist Women yesterday, they, like Tabitha are called to have lives that overflow with good works and compassionate acts. *Can you name one or two women who are like Tabitha? How has your life been changed by them? If you feel so moved, write a note, send an e-mail or make a phone call and thank them for their witness to Jesus on the move in your life.*

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Acts 9: 37-39

Tabitha died. The women and the community wept with their loss. The community sends two disciples to bring Peter to Joppa. They take him upstairs where they put Tabitha’s body and shared all the good things she had done. Her witness through her acts of compassion and kindness changed everything. Peter could see how one person’s life, changed by Jesus, could transform a community. Jesus is on the move even today changing people’s lives and through them transforming communities. *List some of the ways you have seen groups of women change lives. Has it been through thrift stores, or working with the homeless, or Dress for Success or Habitat for Humanity, ICT SOS, Raise my Head or Family Promise? Do something on behalf of an organization that makes a difference for those people on the margins. Perhaps a donation of food, or a monetary donation, or clothes? Find one way today to be on the move with Jesus in the ministry to others.*

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Acts 9: 40-42

After people shared all that Tabitha had done and how her life and ministry changed her community, Peter sent everyone from the room. He raised her up, called the community together and presented her to them. Many people believed because of this miracle. Obviously, Peter believed that Tabitha and her work was transformative to the early church. Generations of women have named their groups after her and Tabitha has been an example and a witness to what one woman can do. *What will you commit to do to help change the community and transform the world? How can you be part of Jesus on the move where you are?*

Thursday, May 16, 2019 John 13: 31-33

Jesus prepared his disciples for his crucifixion and resurrection. His disciples could not follow him to the cross and grave, but they were, and we can be on the move with Jesus in our world and do the work of God in it. Jesus’ resurrection changes everything. As we will see in tomorrow’s scripture, it all begins with a “new” commandment, one we already know, one we have seen at work in Tabitha, in United Methodist Women, in our mothers and grandmothers and women who have mentored us. This commandment is to love. Jesus on the move, is always moving with love and compassion. Sometimes that love is hard, particularly when Jesus is moving people and religious institutions toward justice. Easter is the time for us to contemplate how the new life we receive in the Jesus moves us toward the work of God’s reign. *How do you see Jesus on the move in your life? Are you on the move toward the reign of God?*

Friday, May 17, 2019 John 13: 34-35

“This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love one another.” That is how everyone knew Tabitha’s worth, her mission, her ministry and her outreach were underwritten by the love of Christ and her love for others. Peter, Paul, and all those early believers faith was shaped and formed by love. First, it was Jesus’ love for them, then it was the love they shared with each other in community. Jesus is known and is on the move when believers love one another and love others. *How will you live out the love of Jesus? How will you move that love outside the doors of the church and into the community?*