March 2021

Dear United Methodist Women of Greater New Jersey and friends,

Let’s all say “thank you” to our past president, Kathy Schulz, for her four years of service. She left the organization in wonderful shape, making my new job as president much easier. For example, even during a “COVID-year,” our conference met our Pledge to Mission! Thank you *all* for your creativity in designing virtual, drive-through and other fundraisers that enabled us to reach our goal of $130,000.

The COVID work-from-home schedule allowed me to enjoy more of my favorite pastimes, such as doing home repair projects, gardening, hiking, biking, and reading. However, now we are back to the classroom, with hybrid learning (some still remote from home) at the school where I work with children with special needs. The increasing availability of vaccinations is easing the anxiety for all.

This has been a very odd year of remote-everything: remote work, remote school, remote church, remote meetings, and virtual concerts and theater. The pandemic has required us to think outside the box and outside the buildings. We wear our masks and remain socially distant even from loved ones. We feel literally remote and distanced from everyone and everything. I hope that you are taking care of yourself and your families and staying connected somehow. As the new president of the United Methodist Women of Greater New Jersey, I encourage you to connect to the women of your church. Please call me or a member of your UMW team if you are struggling and need to talk.

One opportunity to connect with United Methodist Women is on Sunday, April 25,th from 3-5pm. This joint conference-district gathering is another outside-the-box, creative idea. Please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-yvrDovGNKX8tsd1AjSk7EkpXeJhunX>.

**“Nevertheless, She Persisted”  
UMW Called to Be Like the Persistent Widow In the Work of Environmental Justice  
based on Luke 18:1-8  
Speaker: Rev. Luana Cook Scott, Pastor, Morristown United Methodist Church**

I hope and pray that I will “see” you there. Stay safe and stay well.

Love in Christ,

Sue Zahorbenski  
Diaconal Minister,   
United Methodist Church at New Brunswick