

One of my favorite sayings is: "There is always, always, always something to be thankful for." I truly believe this.

Since the start of the pandemic, things have been tough. Many of us lost family members or friends to Covid. Many have been sickened and still struggle with lingering effects. Not only did it bring sickness and death to many people, it also changed our everyday lives in many ways. Our churches and our United Women in Faith/United Methodist Women are still trying to rebuild after months of not being able to come together.

During this time, life went on with its ups and downs. Many of our sisters have experienced difficult illnesses aside from Covid. Family members have suffered. Our country and the world seem to be embroiled in hate, war and human suffering. Watching the news can be like watching a scary movie, except it isn't a movie.

But despite all of this, there is much to be thankful for. We can look around in our communities and see God's love being shared in food distribution ministries, care for victims of abuse and neglect, support for the hurting and downtrodden, care for the lonely and homeless ... the list goes on and on. Organizations like ours are serving as the hands, feet, ears, eyes, and most of all, the heart of God in this hurting world.

We may not have been able to meet the way we would like to, but it hasn't stopped us from working to fulfill our purpose: to know God and expand the concepts of mission. As we close out 2022 and move into the new year, let us continue to pray for our organization, our local units, our district and conference leadership. Together, we can work to make our communities and world a better place.

I thank you for the opportunity to have served this district as treasurer (7 years) and president (3 years). It has been an honor and privilege to work with the leadership team and local units in this district. I am thankful for the work we have been able to do together. In addition, I am thankful for the host of friends I have been blessed with through this association. The incoming district leadership team is a group of strong women committed to continuing to do God's work. I know you will support and love them as you have me over the past 10 years.

Several months ago, I started the practice of thanking God for a specific daily blessing before I go to sleep each night. It might be something big like a good report from a doctor or something as simple as the joy of seeing the bunny rabbits hopping around in the yard. I've found that I rest much better when I go to sleep with a grateful heart.

After all, there is always, always, always something to be thankful for.

Blessing to you and yours,

Peggy Owen