

JUDITH BARTOE KOHLER

Daughter of Willard Francis and Edith Fritz Bartoe, born in Abington, PA on March 9, 1943, died on September 29, 2017 at the age of 74. She is preceded in death by her parents and her sisters Phyllis Speakman and JoAnne Lewis. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Robert F. Kohler, her two children, Christopher (EnaShea) and Jonathan of Nashville, and by four grandchildren, Isabelle (17), Alanna (17), Gus (15) and Liam (11).

Judy grew up in Hulmeville, PA where she graduated from Neshaminy High School in 1960. She then attended Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA where she graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics in 1964 and was listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. After graduating from Moravian, she went on to earn an M.S.Ed. in General Education from Temple University, Philadelphia, PA in 1971 and an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University, Millersville, PA in 1979. She also received training as a coach from the Life Coach Training Institute in 2001.

On July 18, 1964, Judy married Robert Kohler (Bob) while he was studying at Drew Theological Seminary and together they set out on a journey of mission and ministry using their gifts for the education, holiness and healing of others in the church and in the community. While Bob completed his theological education and became a pastor of several United Methodist Churches, Judy taught high school mathematics in Boonton NJ, Edinburgh Scotland, and Allentown PA. Later in their ministry she opened a preschool program at their churches in Pottstown and Mohnton, PA and was the director of these programs for 6 years. When they moved to Nashville and Bob went on the staff of the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in 1979, Judy began her work as a psychotherapist at the Luton Mental Health Center and later the Christian Counseling Service in East Nashville. Within a few years she left CCS, worked with Dr. Norman Henry as a counselor and established her own practice which focused on the effects of trauma on children, youth and adults. For a couple of years, Judy worked with her son, Jonathan, as the manager of the Neuro Harmony Center in Brentwood. Since her retirement as a psychotherapist in 2013, she continued her service to the church and to the community as a Life Coach.

Judy has served as a board member of the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute, the Nashville Area Association of Christian Counselors, and the International Coach Federation-TN, and was past president of the Tennessee Coaches Alliance. She has been a faithful member of Belmont United Methodist Church since coming to Nashville and for a number of years sang in the choir, was a member of the Graham Inquirers Class, and participated in the work of United Methodist Women. Her care for members of the church and her loving spirit have drawn her into warm personal relationships with many in the church and Nashville community.

The family would like to express gratitude for the care provided by her Belmont UMC family, the doctors and nurses at the Sarah Cannon Center, Alive Hospice, and the close friends who stayed by her side 24 hours a day, seven days a week while she received therapy during her illness.

A memorial service will be held at Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville on Saturday morning, October 28, 2017 at 11:00 am. The service will begin with a Celebration of God's Gift of Life and Love in the sanctuary and continue with a Celebration of Judy's Gift of Love and Life in the Belmont Community Center. Light refreshments will be served in the Community Center with table conversations, witnesses to Judy's love for all, and songs of praise for life and love.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Belmont UMC, Alive Hospice, or the charity of your choice.