

United Methodist Women News
First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor
Spring 2022

President's Message

Linda LaBarre



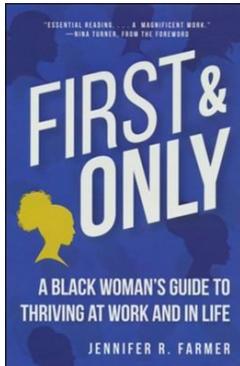
Happy Spring! I am pleased to be your new president, and UMW has a new name, Women United in Faith. Please share any ideas you have for new service projects for us to initiate. To be a growing and vital organization we need to continue to serve our community, our congregation and our world. On Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 am at Green Wood and Zoom, Mary Danforth, who is coming up from North Carolina, and I will present “The Civil Rights Tour and What Am I Going to Do About It”. Appreciate your support!

In May, the former UMW Assembly, our four year worldwide conference will be held in person in Orlando and online for individuals to attend via Zoom. We will also be arranging for an online group experience in Calkins Hall. More details to follow soon.

Finally, I would like to thank Marilee Woodward who has been our president for the last few years....Covid extended her term. We are so grateful to have had her leadership these times. Enjoy your spring and this photo of flowers in my garden taken today.

Book Review

Jean M. Shaw



First and Only: A Black Woman's Guide to Thriving at Work and in Life

By Jennifer R. Farmer, Broadleaf Books 2021

An Education for Mission Selection from UMW's 2021 Reading Program

This 208 page book starts with a foreword that says “Black women are under-estimated professionally, undervalued, and under-appreciated.” The author sees Black women as people who have overcome and accomplished more in their lives than most people in their families. She states, “you are the first and often ‘the only’”; thus the title for the book. She points out that Black women had to work from January 2019 until August 2020 to earn as much as white men have earned by August 2019. What a disparity!

The book is divided into five sections: What Black Women Face, Myths to Resist, Truths to Embrace, Strategies for Healing, and Paths to Liberation. She asserts that stress at work often has physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach problems, or severe anxiety. Most chapters end with questions for readers to ponder.

Farmer writes that women in leadership must assert themselves boldly, but with politeness; active listening, but not anger. They should try to build trust among co-workers and keep work in perspective, not overworking and compromising their health. These things are not easy!

The author tells of a Black man who once served in the Ohio House of Representatives. He showed confidence as he said that “I never thought that anyone was better than me or that I didn't deserve to be there I was sure of who I was and committed to

delivering an excellent product.” Farmer urges readers to continue to prove their worth; she also urges readers to reflect on the gifts they have – or ask friends and family to help them do so. She states that if others do not take the advice that they give, they should not be offended, but should continue to ask for feedback about their performance. She also encourages contact with other professionals in networking. A final idea she offers is to reflect on the most valuable lesson they have learned in their jobs and their lives.

Even though I am not a Black woman, I found many of her ideas pertinent to my former career and current life.

The Civil Rights Tour and What Am I Going to Do About It?
Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m., in-person at Green Wood and on Zoom
with Mary Danforth and Linda LaBarre

Join Mary and Linda when they’ll share about their experiences, feelings, and the knowledge they gained from their participation in The Civil Rights Tour in Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma during October 2021 and what to do about it. This event is for everyone interested! Sponsored by United Methodist Women.

[Join the Zoom meeting here>](#)

Plans are underway for a civil rights tour from FUMC A2 in the fall. Stay tuned!

United Methodist Women announce special guest speaker for Assembly 2022 “Turn It Up”

Your Assembly Planning Team is excited to announce that **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland** will bring a special message to our attendees at Assembly 2022.

Secretary Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th generation New Mexican. She has worked on climate justice and justice for Indigenous peoples for many years.

[You can register here.](#) Assembly is both in-person and virtual. We will gather to watch some portions together at church May 20-21.

Calendar

- April 9 10:00 PM Green Wood and Zoom —The Civil Rights Tour and What Am I Going To Do About It, presentation with Mary Danforth and Linda LaBarre
- May 20-22 UMW Assembly 2022, Calkins Hall with Zoom and Orlando, Florida [Details and registration info here>](#)
- August 11-13 Mission U @ Lake Huron Retreat Center, spiritual growth and social justice education event for United Methodist Women of Michigan

Faith Talks on Lenten Reflections on Restorative Justice April 7, at 2 pm ET

One of the most remarkable gifts Christians receive is a restored relationship with God through Christ. Through Christ's work on the cross, Christians are no longer separated from God. This is the story of Easter.

In many ways, the story of Easter is a story of restorative justice, a justice system that focuses on rehabilitating criminal offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

Join us for a **Faith Talks titled Lenten Reflections on Restorative Justice on Thursday, April 7, at 2 pm ET** when I'll close out this season of Lent by exploring topics related to restoration and restorative justice.

Guests include:

- Ruth Idakula of Dignity in Schools
- Shailly Agnihotri of the Restorative Justice Center
- Gabrielle Burton-Hill of the Restorative Justice Center

To register, click here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bE3iXDSYSmWet7jG-hH37Q.

I hope you'll join me for this discussion.

In Love, Jennifer R. Farmer, Host
United Women in Faith's Faith Talks podcast

[Previous Faith Talks podcasts can be viewed here.](#)