



# The Beacon



## Give Thanks

The Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker  
Lead Pastor

We all have our opinions about Christian music. Some of us like to stay current, listening to the newest Christian songs and hymns. For others, our spirits are fed by music and lyrics written over the last few centuries. Whatever our musical preferences might be, when it comes to praise and worship, God speaks in the music.

I must admit, however, that I like some hymns much better than others. As we enter into Lent, participating in 40 days of thanksgiving, I am reminded of the hymn, “Give Thanks.” It is in our smaller hymnal, *The Faith We Sing*. The lyrics are “Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One; Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.” The setting in our hymnal calls for us to sing these words of gratitude several times.

When we start out singing it, I like it, but I’m glad when we finally stop. It’s too long for me, too much “giving thanks”. I realize the irony of my attitude as I consider my commitment to 40 days of thanks and my understanding of a life of thanksgiving in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Can there really be too much thanksgiving or does my heart need to be pried open to the opportunities for thanks to God that are all around me?

Henry Smith wrote the song “Give Thanks” in 1978. At that time in his life, there was little to be thankful for. He had just graduated from college and couldn’t find work. His eyesight was failing due to a degenerative condition that would eventually leave him legally blind. And yet, he has shared that a Bible verse inspired him and held him fast at that difficult time. “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Can there be too much thanksgiving? Can we give thanks in *all* circumstances? I’ve decided that when it comes to giving thanks for Jesus, the one who shows us a new way to live and saves us for that life, repetitive thanks is a natural expression of our gratitude.

Perhaps during Lent, I’ll give up my opinions concerning certain hymns and simply give thanks!

Blessings,

***In keeping with the United Methodist tradition of community involvement and connection to the greater church family, some of Pastor Sherry’s pastoral activity extends beyond First United Methodist Church.***

March 1 – General Conference Preparation, Flint Conference Office  
March 14 – Ann Arbor District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Westside UMC, Ann Arbor  
March 19 – Clergy Sexual Ethics Training, First UMC, Birmingham  
March 20-23 – Vacation  
March 27 – Leadership Seminar, First UMC, Saginaw  
March 31 – Peace Conference, University UMC, East Lansing

## February Sermon Series “What Matters?”

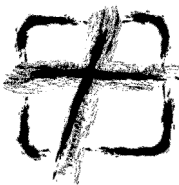
John Wesley referred to spiritual practices as “means of grace.” By participating in acts of worship, prayer, study and fellowship we can experience the grace of God. Grace is also centered in the sacraments of our church, Holy Communion and Baptism and in the historical legacy of our church, social justice. Each of these practices invites God’s grace into our lives. These practices really matter.

On February 5th, we will take an in depth look at Holy Communion, a core practice of our faith. On February 12th, we’ll consider the gift of Baptism for each of us and in the life of the church. We will be reminded that our faith takes us outside the church, when we consider the spiritual practice of seeking social justice on February 19th.



## Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

### Worship Services, Noon & 7 p.m., February 22



In the tradition of the church, the faithful set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time of preparation. During this Lenten season, we will prepare our hearts for full and genuine gratitude. Lent begins with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The ash reminds us of our mortal nature and is a symbol of our repentance before God and our desire for reconciliation. We will receive communion as a celebration of Christ’s life-giving presence in our lives.

## Worship Themes for the Sundays in Lent

February 26—Theme: Giving thanks for family and friends.

March 4—Theme: Giving thanks for life’s mentors

March 11—Theme: Giving thanks for those who challenge us and make us grow. Our adversaries!

March 18—Theme: Giving thanks for spiritual mentors

March 25—Theme: Thanks for those who have taught us through suffering

April 1—Palm/Passion Sunday, Through word, song and prayer, we will remember the last week of Jesus’ life on earth.



Worship  
Schedule  
For Lent

## Thursday Lenten Services

March 1, 15, 29 at 6:30 pm

Join us for special mid-week services during this Lenten season. Each service is led by a team of Lay Speakers and concludes with Holy Communion. Services are Thursday evening at 6:30 pm, March 1, 15 and 29 in the Chapel.

## Holy Week

April 5—Holy Thursday, Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 6—Good Friday, Worship services at noon and 7:00 pm

April 8—Easter, Theme: Giving thanks for Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

On Easter morning there will be a Garden Sunrise Service at 7:30 am. Before our full worship service begins at 8:00 am, we will gather at 7:30 am in the Memorial Garden for a brief service celebrating resurrection and reaffirming our baptism as the promise of new life. The rest of our Easter services will be held at the normal times of 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

# Lenten Studies

## “Bread and Broth”

by Cynthia Cowen

Enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread and share conversation around the stories of Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Elisha, John the Baptist and Jesus. Let your Lenten journey be one of great nourishment as you feast on the Word of God and have communion with our Lord and one another in a fellowship meal. There are a number of times and locations to choose from:

- ◆Begins Friday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Combs
- ◆Begins Sunday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Larry and Loretta Job
- ◆Begins Thursday, February 23rd at 9:15 a.m. at Women of the Word (W.O.W.), Brighton First, Room #127
- ◆Begins Thursday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bob and Sue Fuchs



## “Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back”

by Ray Buckley

*David & Suzy Hutchison, leaders*

Sundays at 7:00 p.m. beginning February 19th  
At the home of David & Suzy Hutchison

In every culture and time, persons of faith, of all ages, have summoned trials and tribulations to find the endurance and strength to “dance.” Take time to look at the struggles in the lives of believers as you enter the continually crumbling world surrounding Jesus and the disciples in the days preceding Easter.

## “The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem”

by Marcus Borg & John Crossan

*Pastor John, leader*

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 29<sup>th</sup>

Take a closer look at the last week of Jesus’ life. It is a week of extraordinary importance for Christians. Using the Gospel according to Mark we will take on the task of retelling a story everyone thinks they know too well and most do not seem to know at all.

## Lenten Labyrinth

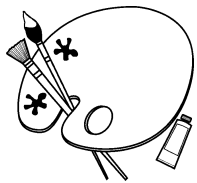
Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Community Room

Learn about and experience this ancient prayer form. Walking the labyrinth is a form of meditative prayer that involves body, mind and soul. Contact Deacon Loretta with any questions.



## Give Thanks Through Art

We are thankful for the creative gifts of our community of faith. During Lent we are encouraging congregation members to display their creative works that express thankfulness. There will be space set aside in the Community Room for the display.



First UMC has been blessed over the last few years by the work of Sue Sanderson. Sue has expressed our Lenten themes in visual art, using several mediums. This year, we are hoping others will join her.

If you would like more information, please contact Suzy Hutchison or Sue Sanderson.

## CrossRoads—Wednesdays from 5:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

**Crossroads—Wednesdays, 5:45-8:00 p.m.**

Please join us for CrossRoads! Have dinner first followed by classes and groups for all ages.

**CrossRoads Café—5:45 p.m.** Recommended donations: \$4.00/adults -\$3.00/kids.

**CrossRoads for Adults—6:30 p.m.** *Living the Questions*—Pastor Sherry Parker; *Falling Up*—Pastor John Ball; *Drop In Anytime*—Bruce Stark

**CrossRoads for Children—Kids Worship Arts** (drama and music 6:30-8:00 p.m.) for 2nd-8th graders and directed by Susan Snow; *Creative Expression* (6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.) for 4 year olds and older. *Childcare* birth to 48 months.

*Bible Study for high school and college aged young adults* (6:30-8:00 p.m.); Questions? Contact [suzy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:suzy@brightonfumc.org)

## CrossRoads Cooks—Help Wanted



CrossRoads is in need of cooks/hosts for February 29 and April 25. We have a faithful team of helpers willing to help anyone who is willing to host. Contact Suzy Hutchison for more information [suzy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:suzy@brightonfumc.org) Sign up sheet is in the community room.

## Kid's Worship Arts-Wednesday Nights

6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Children—*Music and Dramatic Arts* for 2nd-8th graders in the Choir Room (6:30-8:00 pm); *Creative Expressions* (6:30-8:00 p.m.) for kindergarten–8th grade students; *Childcare* birth to 48 months. Questions? Contact music director, Susan Snow at [susan@brightonfumc.org](mailto:susan@brightonfumc.org).

## Red Cross Blood Drive Was a Success!

Congratulations to everyone that participated in the December 23, 2011 Red Cross blood drive! It was our third effort and another success. The phenomenal results were made possible through the contributions of donors and volunteers.

Please remember that the need to maintain blood supplies is constant, and our support will be needed again next year. Official Red Cross results follow for your enjoyment:

- There were no double red appointments; however, the Red Cross was able to recruit 5 double red cell donors, when they normally do just 4.
  - The deferral rate was 3.3%, with only two persons deferring because of iron or travel, and some self-deferring at the door.
  - Officially, the Red Cross collected 64 red blood cells, so with double reds, that means 167 lives will be impacted.
  - The December 23 blood drive hit 123% of goal, collecting more blood than any of the 11 blood drives held on that Friday.
- Thanks again! Greg Guise, Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator.



## Thank You!

*I would like to thank all the "Secret Santas" who were so caring and generous to me and my family through the holidays. It was appreciated so very much.*

*Love and prayers, Jane Tomlinson.*

## First United Methodist Church of Brighton Library-Check Us Out!

If you have not taken the opportunity to browse through the library at First United Methodist Church of Brighton lately, you might want to put that on your list of things to do. In the last year, we have put several new books on the shelves. Whether your interest is in Christian fiction, biographies, non—fiction books, or children's materials, we have a good variety for you to choose from.



There is also a reference section that you can use while you are in the library. All books, with the exception of the reference materials, can be checked out, read and studied at your leisure, and then returned when you are finished. We are always trying to keep the collection current and up-to-date, so you will want to check back often and see what is new.

## Missions



## & Outreach

### V.I.M. Team Leader Training

St. Matthews UMC in Livonia, will be conducting V.I.M. (Volunteers In Mission) Team Leader training on February 16, 2012. Training will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last 3-3 1/2 hours. Cost of the manual is \$25.00 payable at the training. All are welcome. Address is 30900 West Six Mile Road. RSVP John Walls at [vim.jewalls@yahoo.com](mailto:vim.jewalls@yahoo.com) Please rsvp so he may have enough manuals.

### Fish and Loaves Community Dinner

**Sunday, February 25, 5:30 p.m.**



First United Methodist Church of Brighton will be hosting Fish & Loaves dinner on February 25th, 2012. There is a sign up sheet in the Community Room. Volunteer to prepare or serve our guests a meal. Any questions, contact Steve & Becky Stanford at 810-632-9508 (home), 248-860-8922 (cell) or at [hartlandstanfords@hotmail.com](mailto:hartlandstanfords@hotmail.com). Thank you for the continued support for this ministry.

### N.O.A.H. Lunches

(Networking Organizing Advocating for the Health of the Homeless)



First United Methodist Church of Brighton will be packing 400 N.O.A.H. lunches again on Wednesday, **March 28th** at 6:30 p.m. N.O.A.H. addresses the health needs of homeless people in the core area of Detroit, providing counseling, education, advocacy and organizing services.

We will need many supplies for the lunches so watch for sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside of the education office. This is a mission your whole family can take part in, plan on joining us that evening and be a part of this mission team!!

### Haiti Mission

Haiti Mission Team will be leaving for Port au Prince on March 11. We value your prayers and financial contributions to this ministry. If you are interested in contributing, please write "Haiti Mission" on the memo line of your check, which may be dropped into the offering tray or to the church office.

### Cass Community Social Services Mission

**Saturday Mission Trips**

Cass Community Social Services offers us the chance to help fight poverty and create opportunity in our own state of Michigan. If you would like to join one of our trips to Detroit, Saturday missions are scheduled for February 25, March 17, April 14 and May 19. Each month, we will depart from the church at approximately 8:00 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Please sign up in the Community Room or contact Greg Guise at 810.772.9970 / [gguise@gmail.com](mailto:gguise@gmail.com). Thank you for the continued efforts of our volunteers!

### Cass Community Social Services Mission Long-term Transitional Housing Building Opportunities



Dear First United Methodist Church of Brighton,

My name is Victoria Cameron but my friends call me Vicki. I am going to be serving the ministry of this church by working as the new Youth Director. I come to you from Ann Arbor, Michigan where I have worked in youth ministry at my home church, Zion Lutheran. I am the proud parent of three amazing daughters. My oldest is 20 and a junior at EMU in Political Science and Religious Studies; my second daughter is 16 and a junior at Huron High School in Ann Arbor; and my youngest daughter is 11 and is completing her 5<sup>th</sup> grade year doing homeschooling with me.



I am a certified teacher who has many years experience in both the elementary and middle school levels. I also have my masters degree in Early Childhood Education and spend some of my time as a consultant for local childcare programs. I plan to be a consistent presence in the life of the church and in the lives of your fantastic kids. I'm hoping that I will have your support and prayers as we continue to build this vital ministry of the church. I will also be in the building on Wednesdays to meet with staff, touch base with kids, and offer my support to anyone who wants to talk. We are working to build a strong foundation so that students will feel connected and important in the life of this church. I look forward to meeting all of you and growing in my own relationship with Jesus Christ. God's grace and peace be with you, Vicki.



## Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting and Registration



Join us on Sunday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at noon as we plan our summer travel to Babylon during VBS week July 16-20. If you can't be here during that week, come and find out how you can help us plan and prepare for the trip or help us with the unpacking when the trip is over. We are expecting 200 young people to join us so we can use your help in making this journey possible. For more information contact Anne or Suzy at the church office at 810-229-8561, [suzy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:suzy@brightonfumc.org) or [anne@brightonfumc.org](mailto:anne@brightonfumc.org).

**VBS registration has begun.** Travel to Babylon and learn about the adventures of Daniel. For children 3 years – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, register at

## Scout Sunday

**Scout Sunday-*Feb. 12th*** Scouts will be recognized and invited to wear their uniforms



## Sundae Sunday

Sundae Sunday- We'll make a super-sized sundae for all the children at 10:30 a.m. on *Sunday, February 26*. We are in need of toppings and volunteers to make this fun day a success for our children. Contact Suzy at

## Children's Ministry Meeting

On Sunday, *March 4th*, there will be a Children's Ministry Meeting 12:00 In the library

## Confirmation Class Update

Our confirmation class is underway with a group of 12 students. Please keep them in your prayers as they learn about their faith, expand their faith journeys and make decisions about joining the congregation.

## 5th and 6th Grade Youth Group

We meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 6 to 8 to do some good and grow together. In February we will be going to play Laser Tag and in May we are having a sleep over at the Well. Please contact Bill Drabing at [w\\_drabing@yahoo.com](mailto:w_drabing@yahoo.com) for more info. Bill knows a lot about working with 5th and 6th graders as 5th grade was the best 3 years of his life.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, *March 31st*, from 10:00 a.m-11:00 a.m. inside the church. All are welcomed. We fill over 1100 eggs for this hunt and are in need of fillers, candy (no nuts) and trinkets. These need to be at the church by **March 4** as one of the women's circles will be filling the eggs on March 7. Look for supplies donation list in the Community Room. Watch for Easter Egg Hunt sign up sheet in March.

## Fish and Loaves

Fish & Loaves is a community meal provided by Livingston County churches each Sunday evening. Brighton First UMC provides this meal the 4th and 5th Sunday each month. Our guests are mostly the elderly and a few families looking for a hot meal and fellowship. For the most part we see the same guests from month to month. Food for the meal is provided by members of our congregation and a regular dedicated group from the church come to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We generally provide a hot casserole, hot vegetable, salads, and desserts. The program is an outreach of Love Inc. in Livingston County and is coordinated by Becky Stanford at Brighton First.



This year Christmas fell on our Sunday to serve. We always try to make our December gathering special for our guests but this year our church family stepped up with love and enthusiasm beyond anything we could have hoped for!

The tables were festively decorated and there were Christmas candies and cookies for all to munch on as they awaited a wonderful ham dinner complete with potato and green bean casseroles. The desserts were a fantastic assortment of cookies and fresh from the oven pies!

All year a member of our congregation shops for gifts for our guests. She then makes a game of the gifting and our guests take turns picking something special from the overflowing tables. Some of our guests tell us these gifts are the only gifts they will receive. More than once an item on the table is something a person has been wanting or needing, but could not afford to buy for themselves.

Two families within the church decided to make serving at Fish & Loaves their family Christmas gathering! Along with several of our dedicated regulars, these families other individuals brought in food, served our guests, and stayed until the last dish was washed and put away. We even had three people from outside our congregation come and serve with us.

Throughout the entire afternoon we enjoyed the wonderful sounds and songs of the season played on piano and accordion by members of one of the serving families. One guest knew most of the songs and regaled us with his excellent voice before dinner!

It turns out Fish & Loaves was the only community meal being served in Livingston County on Christmas evening. Some of our regular guests visited their families, but most dined with us. In addition we had a number of new folks join us and now that they know where we are, we hope they will return again.

In all we had 38 guests for Christmas dinner, and 27 people came together to serve them! Yes, we could have struggled by with a few less helpers, most months we do, but for this special day we came together, servers and guests, as a great big loving family. At times we got in each other's way. At times it was organized chaos. But at all times it was an event filled with the love and joy that are hallmarks of the season. We are called to do no less throughout the whole year!

Mission service does not necessarily mean leaving the comfort of home or spending time away from family. It can happen within your home church. It does happen at Brighton First UMC and Fish & Loaves is just one of the many ways the people of Brighton First seek to serve.

A very special thank you to each of you who participated in December's Fish & Loaves and to all who have helped throughout the year we give our heartfelt thanks as well, from Fish and Loaves coordinator Becky Stanford.



## Prayers For Our Church Family

*Please check the Sunday bulletin for ongoing prayer concerns.*

Mary Houston, Jim Glenn, Mark Wood, Maria & Eduardo Cartes, Nora Blackwell, Tom Marx,  
Angela Niswander, Yvonne Taylor, Don Horner, Jack Hartkop, Stan Tarrant, Betty Dobar,  
Harry Davis, Kate Muir, Joan Armistead, Veronica Chapman, Bob Peterson, Carolyn Rindle,  
Dave DuFresne, Bill McCririe, Dietlind Lawrence, Gerald Tilles, Kim Tath, Ruth Width,  
Bruce Stark, Helen Sutton, Holly Stover, Tom Rueter, Lisa Guzylak,  
Warren Moore, Dan Victory, Barb Killewald, Carolyn Rindle

## United Methodist Women (U.M.W.)

The purpose of the United Methodist Women's group is to develop a creative, supportive fellowship among our church women, and to participate in the global missions of our church. We look forward to seeing you at any of the following events.



### Calendar of Events February/March 2012

Feb 16 (Thurs) **General Meeting** - Noon Luncheon, Church Fellowship Hall. Program: "God's Presence at my Camp" – Jon Lawrence (Myers Lake). Hostesses: Dorcas Circle

Feb 17 (Fri) 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Hickory Haven** visit. Cookies: Gigi Vaillencourt, Barb Lane; Visitors: Heather Kostov, Sandra Anderson

Feb 27 (Mon) 10 a.m. **Executive Committee**

March 1 (Thurs) 7:00 **Phoebe** – Church. Program: Learn to Knit and Crochet

March 6 (Tues) 7:00 p.m. **Dorcas** - Church Library. Program: Israel and Palestine – Sue Urban  
Hostesses: Judy Lytwynec, Carol Riffe; Devotions: Carol Riffe

March 7 (Wed) 9:30 a.m. **Sarah Lewis** Church Fellowship Hall. Program: Holy Land – Deacon Loretta Job  
Pot Luck Combined with **Rebekah**; Devotions: Una Couch

March 7 (Wed) 1:00 p.m. **Sojourner Truth** Church Room 127. Program: Fill Easter Eggs. Coordinator: Shirley Sechrist; Devotions: Carol Glenn

March 7 **Rebekah** – See Sarah Lewis

March 15 (Thurs) **General Meeting** – Noon Luncheon, Church Fellowship Hall. Program: "The Connection" – Vicki Smith. Hostesses: The Executive Board

March 16 (Fri) 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Hickory Haven** visit. Cookies – Ginger Van Blaricum, Mary Ann Parker; Visitors: Heather Kostov, Barb Lane, Mary Ann Parker.

### Bishop's Day

Bishop's Day is March 10<sup>th</sup>. Come to Saline United Methodist and learn about Global Health. All the United Methodist conferences, with the encouragement of Bishop Keaton, will be exploring various elements of, and the Christian response to global health care issues. We will have a gathering time from 8:30 – 9AM followed by worship until 9:30.

Our first speaker will be Molly Kaser from Center for Family Health in Jackson, MI. She will be discussing the local health care needs and challenges. Our second speaker will be Nyamah Dunbar of UMCOR. She will be talking about the malaria epidemic and the church's response. There will be a time for questions and we'll be dismissed at 12:30.

If you are interested in more information you may contact Suzy Hutchison [suzy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:suzy@brightonfumc.org). If you would like to register please e-mail Wendy Everett at [wendy@fumc-a2.org](mailto:wendy@fumc-a2.org) include "Bishop's Day" in your subject line and your name and church in the body of the text.





## First Steps Preschool News

### Classroom News

Miss Sue's Junior Preschool class has enrolled 9 students. This class meets every Tuesday and Thursday when school is in session from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. Anne Walters is assisting Miss Sue with Junior Preschool.

The preschool will celebrate winter recess with a break from classes on Monday and Tuesday, February 20 and 21. If you would like to **read** to our students, please contact the preschool at (810) 227-0262.

During March, Dr. Suess' birthday, transportation, space, weather, the circus and sports will be some of the highlights. The "leprechaun" always makes his way into the classrooms near St. Patrick's Day. The staff will attend the Michigan Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids March 29-30, 2012.

### Registration News

"When choosing a preschool for your child, first experiences and memories are fundamental. Let First Steps Preschool be with your child every step of the way."

On Monday, February 13, we will begin registering children of Brighton First United Methodist church members for the 2012-2013 school year at First Steps Preschool. Our goal is to accommodate everyone who registers in a class of their choice or placement on a priority wait list. Children of church members are entitled to any openings remaining after the registration of our currently-enrolled students and their siblings on February 6.



Only one registration form per envelope will be accepted with the exception of parents registering more than one child from the same family. Forms will be available at the church and sent to church families with children age 3 and 4 on January 23, 2012. Parents should mail their registration form(s) to: First Steps Preschool, 400 East Grand River Avenue, Brighton, MI 48116, on or before February 6 to be considered for the lottery drawing on February 13. Forms may be dropped off at the preschool office Monday through Friday.

Registration for the general public begins February 14. There will be an Open House on Thursday, March 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for anyone who may be interested in learning more about our program.

Summer camp registration will begin in March. Camp dates are June 4-7, July 9-12 and August 6-9.

The staff and I look forward to serving you. If you have any questions prior to registration and/or would like to make an appointment to tour our facility, feel free to contact me at (810) 227-0262. Lisa Guise, Director.

### Vision Task Force Survey

The Vision Task Force of First UMC of Brighton has been working since the fall to prepare for the work of setting vision and goals for our church. We have a clear mission, "Transformed by God to Transform the World." It is time now to consider how we will accomplish our mission in the coming years.

Setting vision for the future cannot be accomplished without your voice being heard. You will be invited to offer six words that describe your dream for First UMC. **Be playful. Be creative. Dream big.**

This is an exciting for First UMC. We are blessed to have energetic, faithful leadership taking us through this process. If you have questions please contact Pastor Sherry, sherry@brightonfumc.org or Jennifer Defenderfer, ej\_defenderfer@yahoo.com the chairperson of the Vision Task Force.

If you haven't had a chance yet to offer up your six words, you may go online [www.brightonfumc.org](http://www.brightonfumc.org) and click on "vision survey" or use this QR for your smart phone:



# First United Methodist Church

*"Transformed By God To Transform the World"*

400 E. Grand River Ave.

Brighton, MI 48116

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## February/March 2012



### First United Methodist Church

400 E. Grand River Ave.

Brighton, MI 48116

(810)229-8561

[www.brightonfumc.org](http://www.brightonfumc.org)

### FUMC Staff

Lead Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker
Associate Pastor	The Rev. John W. Ball
Director of Adult Faith Formation & Director of Congregational Care	The Rev. Loretta Job, Deacon
Director of Christian Education & Director of Missions & Outreach	Suzy Hutchison
Educational Assistant	Anne Walters
Director of Music	Susan Snow
Handbell Director	Barb Terry
Multimedia Coordinator	Chris Attarian
Sunday School Nursery Director	Kelly White
First Steps Preschool Director	Lisa Guise
Youth Director	Vicki Cameron
Office Manager	Terry Keefe
Administrative Assistant	Thyra Babcock
Housekeeper	Stacy Hnатовich

### Next Newsletter Deadline: March 11, 2012

Newsletter articles may be dropped off at the church office or emailed to [terry@brightonfumc.org](mailto:terry@brightonfumc.org).

# 40 Days of Thankfulness

During the 40 days of Lent we will prepare our hearts for Easter by practicing thankfulness. Each Sunday, we will examine biblical acts of gratitude and be given the opportunity to offer our gratitude to God and others. Our worship themes will lead us to examine how God is working in our lives, using others to influence and shape who we are. As we practice thankfulness, we will be preparing to give thanks for the greatest gift, life through the risen Christ.