

# Brighton First News

First United Church of Brighton April/May 2017



## Beginning Again

In worship and study through the month of March we learned that the practice of forgiveness is central to the Christian faith. Forgiveness is a journey that begins with self-examination and being honest with ourselves about when we hold grudges and when we need to apologize. Practicing forgiveness takes us through the work of repentance and frees us for new life.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the great gift of forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers each of us. By the cross of Jesus we are set free from our sin and by Jesus' resurrection we are restored to a new life. Easter reminds us of the gift of new beginnings.

I preached my first "sermon" on Easter morning when I was a high school senior. Our church youth group led the sunrise service at a nearby United Methodist Church camp on Lake Huron. As the sun came up over the water at my back, I had the opportunity to talk to the congregation about resurrection.



I don't remember what I said on that Easter morning. I do remember that offering a message of God's hope to so many was a new beginning for me. While it took me another 14 years to answer God's call to pastoral ministry, through those years I sought ways to serve God with my skills and gifts.

Easter is not only a time for chocolate, eggs and family dinners. Easter is the time when we declare to the world that Jesus is alive, that we are a forgiven people and that we can "begin again", reconciled to God and restored to new life.

Anticipate Easter Sunday and celebrate new beginnings!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Sherry".

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker Lewis

## Keeping Connected

*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.*

April 6 – Vital Church Initiative Clergy Group, Brighton

April 6 – Lunch meeting with Brighton Ministerial Association, St. Paul Episcopal, Brighton

April 22 – Vital Church Initiative Clergy Group, Brighton

May 4 – 7 – Vacation

May 8 – Michigan Area United Methodist Elders' Gathering, First UMC of Midland

May 9 – Ministry Mentors, First UMC of Troy



### Graduation Sunday May 21



We will recognize and celebrate with all graduates on Sunday May 21. If you or a loved one is graduating from pre-school, high school, technical school, college or university, we want to give thanks to God for their achievement. Graduates will be asked to stand so that we can pray a blessing over them. In addition, we will show pictures of our graduates during worship. Please submit your pictures to [kay@brightonfumc.org](mailto:kay@brightonfumc.org) by May 10.

### Confirmation Celebration, Sunday, April 30

We will celebrate with our class of confirmands on Sunday, April 30 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Eight youth will reaffirm their baptismal vows and become members of the church. They have been preparing to make this commitment for the last four months, under the leadership of Chris Attarian, Duke Kelly and Alyssa Tumolo and accompanied by their mentors. We celebrate that they have been nurtured in this community of faith and are prepared to take an active role as members of the church. Please plan to worship on April 30 and welcome our confirmands as members of the church.

**BRIGHTON FIRST**  
United Methodist Church

# Couples Connection

MAKE TIME FOR EACH OTHER.

**\$50/Couple\***  
DINNER, BREAKFAST  
GUEST SPEAKERS,  
CHILDCARE

APRIL 21 6:00PM-8:30PM  
APRIL 22 9:00AM-11:30AM  
\*EARLY REGISTRATION \$50/COUPLE, \$70/COUPLE AFTER APRIL 1

Register Today  
[WWW.BRIGHTONFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.BRIGHTONFUMC.ORG)

400 E. GRAND RIVER AVE.  
BRIGHTON, MI 48116

More information and  
Sign-up on our website.

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



**Sign-Up Online**

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

## First Steps Preschool



### CLASSROOM NEWS

April is the “month of the young child.” Let your community know how important our young children are. Parents, child-care providers, and other members of the community can show their commitment to Michigan’s young children by displaying purple ribbons on cars, at work, or on your clothing. Circus fun, insects, gardening, recycling, pond life, butterflies and a visit from Kacie Wooster, Music Specialist, will be highlights for the month of April. Pastors Sherry and Bob will share “The Easter Story” with students on April 10 and 11. The preschool will celebrate Easter with a recess from classes. There will be no school April 14 and April 17, 2017. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The staff will attend the Michigan Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids April 20-21, 2017. There will be no regular school sessions on those days.

By the time we get to May, another successful school year will almost be over. We will be saying good-byes to families who have been with us for more than six years. Good-byes are never easy but the children have grown up in many ways and are ready to move on, especially the four-year-olds who anticipate Kindergarten and bus rides. The month of May will be filled with Spring Teas, field days, family picnics and end-of-the-year-ceremonies. Paul McCormick brings “Classroom Critters” to First Steps Preschool on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The kids will meet an array of critters such as tree frogs, doves, lizards, chinchillas, snakes and much, much more. Parents and students can meet our teachers and explore classrooms at the Spring Open House on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. 90 students are enrolled for the 2017-2018 year that starts on September 11th. We have been blessed with a loving and dedicated staff this year. The June and August sessions of summer camp are full with 24 children in each camp. God is truly amazing! Thanks for your support. Happy Summer everyone! Lisa Guise, Director.

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

### Prayer Vigil, Thursday, April 13, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm



Volunteer to participate in a Prayer Vigil in the chapel at Brighton First on the Thursday of Holy Week. The vigil will begin at 9:00 am and continue through the day until the Holy Thursday worship service begins. The chapel will be open for all who would like to make a designated prayer time part of their Holy Week observance. Sign up for a prayer vigil time in the Community Room or express interest on your worship Connection Card and a member of the Prayer Team will contact you.

### Holy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm

We will worship and observe Holy Communion together the evening of April 13. In the tradition of the church, this is the evening we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

### Good Friday, April 14

Community Worship at 12:00 noon and at 1:00

Evening Worship at Brighton First at 7:00 pm

As part of the Brighton Ministerial Association, we have three opportunities for Good Friday worship. At noon, on April 14, there will be a worship service at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Brighton. The second opportunity to worship will be at a Ecumenical Stations of the Cross worship service at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church. Finally, we will host a worship service at 7:00 in the evening in our sanctuary. Clergy and members of our congregation will participate in each of these services. Please choose at least one worship service to attend, as we remember the solemn occasion of Jesus giving his life for us and for the world.



## Easter Services— Christ Is Risen



### Garden Sunrise Service at 7:30 am. on Easter Sunday

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.

Easter worship will be at our regular times  
of 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



## Appalachia Service Project (ASP)—Youth Mission Trip



Join us on the 2017 Youth ASP mission trip. We are heading to Kentucky July 9th-15th. ASP is a Christian ministry, open to those age 14 and up, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair in central Appalachia. We have 21 spots available-reserve yours! . Can't join us this year? We are always looking for donations to support our trip. Contact Laura Kelly ([laurakelly21@me.com](mailto:laurakelly21@me.com)) with questions.

**Pancake Breakfast**  
A fundraiser for our Youth ASP Trip  
**May 7th**  
**9:15am-11:15am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

*Donations appreciated*  
*Delicious breakfast feast prepared by Seve Ramos and ASP youth*

### Cass Community Social Services Missions

Cass Community Social Services fights poverty and creates opportunity in the city of Detroit. Please consider joining one of our Saturday missions on April 15 and May 20. We leave the church at approximately 8:00 a.m. and return by approximately 4:00 p.m. Sign up in the community room or contact Greg Guise at 810-772-9970 or [ggguise@gmail.com](mailto:ggguise@gmail.com).



### NOAH Lunches

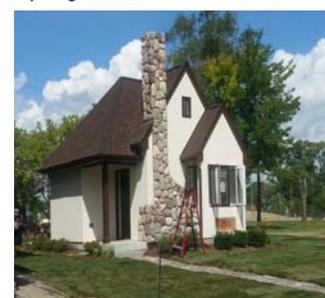
On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, hang out between services and help feed the 400. Take a few minutes to pack a lunch for the homeless during our Noah Lunches project.



## Tiny Homes Project—Cass Community Social Services

### Volunteer Workers Needed

Thank you, Brighton First, we already have some teams set up!! We are still looking for volunteers, 3 - 4 person teams to work on Hanging Drywall during the week and/or Saturdays. This will be on going throughout the summer as homes are built. Loren Sohn, CSS project coordinator will notify us when they are ready to start. Volunteers will hang drywall and possibly tape and finish 6 Tiny Homes, being built by Cass Social Services at Elmhurst and Woodrow Wilson in Detroit. There will also be a need to paint, hang doors & cabinets and install wood floors. **No experience necessary.** If you are interested in this project, contact, Loren Sohn, [lorensohn@gmail.com](mailto:lorensohn@gmail.com) (H)248 324 1557, (C)248 210 7601 or email Gary Tobel, [g.tobel@hotmail.com](mailto:g.tobel@hotmail.com).



## YOUTH GROUPS

**4th-6th grade Youth Group:**  
**Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the lower level of the church!**  
**4th-6th Grade Youth Group Dates:**  
**April: 9th, 23rd**  
**May: 7th**

**7th-12th grade Youth Group: Meets every Sunday at The Well from 5pm-6:30pm. 7th-12th grade meet at the same time, same location, but split into smaller groups by grades.**  
**April: 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th**  
**May: 7th, 21st, 28th**

**Dinner is provided each Sunday from 6pm-6:30pm for ALL YOUTH GROUPS.** Want more information? Email Alyssa Tumolo at [alyssa@brightonfumc.org](mailto:alyssa@brightonfumc.org)

### Summer Sunday School

Would you like to teach Summer Sunday School? Please contact Missy at [missy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:missy@brightonfumc.org). You can volunteer for one week, one month, or every week. All curriculum and supplies are provided. Volunteers over 18 must have a background check on file. Please see Missy or Alyssa for the paperwork.

### Vacation Bible School is July 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am –noon

Would you like to volunteer for VBS? Sign up at [www.brightonfumc.org](http://www.brightonfumc.org) under the Children's Ministries tab or in the Community Room. Volunteers who are older than 18 need to have a background check on file. Please see Missy or Alyssa for the paperwork.

Sign up for VBS participants is now active. Visit our website at [brightonfumc.org](http://brightonfumc.org) and look under the Children's ministries tab for the registration link or fill out a form in the Community Room. Invite friends and neighbors to join us for a fun filled week of song, science, crafts and God's love at the Maker FunFactory – where kids learn that they are created by God, made for a purpose.



Donations for Vacation Bible school: In May, look for information on the bulletin board in the upper level hallway near the restrooms for supplies needed. We will also post items on face book, in the bulletin and in the weekly e-news.

### Summer Musical Theater Project Young People's Worship Arts

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Musical Theatre Project** – This Summer our Music Theatre (Camp) will kick-off with a read-through and casting on **Friday, July 21 at 1 p.m.** (the last day of Vacation Bible School). Musical Theatre students will receive all materials for "camp" at this time. The "camp" will be from **Monday, August 7-Saturday, August 12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., each day, with performances on Sunday, August 13 during worship.** If you cannot attend in Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> but would like to participate, or you would like more information, please contact Susan Snow, Music Director, at 517-376-2215 (text) or [susan@brightonfumc.org](mailto:susan@brightonfumc.org). Register online at [www.brightonfumc.org](http://www.brightonfumc.org)



## United Methodist Women APRIL/MAY 2017

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. For information about UMW or any of these meetings please call Pauline Schaffer (810)229-4643 bp6340@gmail.com

### Calendar of Events

- April 3 (Mon)      **Mission Team Meeting** 1:00 pm Room 127
- April 5 (Wed)      **Sarah Lewis** – 9:30 am Church Fellowship Hall  
Program: Prayer and Self-Denial – Deacon Loretta Job  
H- B Corrigan, C May, G Jones  
D – S Weiss
- April 5 (Wed)      **Sojourner Truth** – 1:00 pm Room 127  
Program: Fill Easter Eggs – Shirley Sechrist  
D – S Sechrist
- April 6 (Thurs) **Rebekah** –10:00 am Church Fellowship Hall  
H – K Bruns
- April 6 (Thurs)**Phoebe** —HS Girls Senior Notes – Suzanne Everett, Olivia Karaska
- April 4 (Tues)      **Dorcas** – 7:00 pm Church Parlor  
Program: Basics of Floral Arrangement – Four Seasons Florist  
H – S Urban, J Lytwynec  
D – S Urban
- Apr 20 (Sat)      **Keep Making Peace**  
Social Action Event Day  
University UMC Lansing
- April 21 (Fri)      **Hickory Haven Monthly Birthday Party** – 2:00 pm  
Gail Harkiewicz, Arla McPeek, Judy Longcore, Denise Daddino
- April 27 (Thurs)      **Seekers Book Club** – 1:00 pm room 127  
Book – Beaded Hope – Gail Harkiewicz
- Apr 28-29      **Spiritual Growth Retreat** – Deb Mantel  
Judson Collins Center, Onsted MI
- Apr 29 (Sat)      **Human Trafficking Program**  
Brighton UMW hosting



NewsLetter  
**DEADLine**

The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, **MAY 14**. This is for the June/July 2017 newsletter.

 **BRIGHTON FIRST**  
United Methodist Church  
400 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton, MI 48116

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Brighton, MI  
Permit 40

