

Brighton First News

First United Methodist Church of Brighton—February 2017

Dear Friends,

I grew up worshipping in the Episcopal Church. I remember sitting with my mother near the front in a wooden pew and looking up at the stained glass. When we would enter the pew on Sunday morning, we would pull down the kneeler that was attached to a hinge on the pew in front of us, kneel and pray.

During worship we would alternately sit, kneel, or stand. As I grew older, I learned the rhythm of worship and would move to the positions of worship with out prompting. The *Book of Common Prayer* was used and I knew the page where the communion service began.

I remember that both the priest and choir members wore black cassocks with white surplices over them. (I didn't know the names of their liturgical vestments until I was an adult!) When I was a child, worship followed a regular ritual and was solemn and soothing. As an adult, there are times when I long to experience again the light in that small sanctuary softened by stained glass, to smell again the wood polish and warm candle wax.



Each of us have a notion of what makes for inspirational worship, when we are able to say, "God's Spirit moved in this place today!" For some, it is in the songs, the prayers or the silence. For others, powerful worship starts with connecting with other congregation members and ends with a charge to live life differently. Some anticipate hearing musicians offer musical praise or seeing children help lead worship or listening to a thought-provoking sermon. Whatever the different worship styles and practices that inspire each of us, we hold reasons for worship in common. Worship is our opportunity to be in conversation with God and to demonstrate our hope for what can be through the power of God.

We worship to connect with each other, to practice baptism and communion, while remembering Jesus. We worship because we have hope that God will affect our lives and this world in positive ways.

As you recall times that you have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in worship and worship that has inspired you to action, give thanks to God.

Blessings,

Handwritten signature of Pastor Sherry Parker-Lewis in black ink.

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis, Lead Pastor

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.

February 13-19-vacation

February 25 Vital Church Initiative training facilitator, Howell First UMC

Pastor Sherry Treating Florida Snow Birds to Lunch Monday, February 13, 2017 at 12:00 noon

Pastor Sherry and her husband Rev. George Lewis would like to invite members of Brighton First and Howell First who are wintering in Florida for lunch at noon on February 13 at Old Castle Restaurant, 3830 Sun City Center Blvd., Ruskin, Florida. If you plan to attend, please contact Pastor Sherry at sherry@brightonfumc.org.



Invitation to Write Lenten Reflections

For a fourth year, Pastor Sherry will offer an emailed daily reflection during the season of Lent, beginning March 1. In past years, the daily devotions have been well received and over 100 people participate. Our Lenten theme this year is "Learning Forgiveness". Through the Lenten season we will examine the process, from self-examination to repentance to forgiveness. Each devotion will speak to a step needed in the act of forgiveness. Pastor Sherry is looking for contributors who would like to write a daily devotion for this series. If you are interested, contact her at sherry@brightonfumc.org for more information.



"We Worship"

February Worship Series

Have you ever wondered about the purpose of worship? What is the reason for all the worship practices that have risen and fallen in popularity through the centuries? And what is central to worship in whatever form it takes? During the Sundays in February, we will be asking the question "What happens when we worship?" We'll experience the essentials of worship: prayer, praise and hope and decide for ourselves what leads us to join in communal worship. We celebrate that the act of worship is life changing.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

March 1, Worship services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm

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.



Pancake Dinner at Brighton First Tuesday, Feb 28th

Stacked and piled high pancakes,
pancakes with blue-
berries,
sausage or
bacon, pancakes
with strawberries &
whip cream, fresh
fruit on the side.

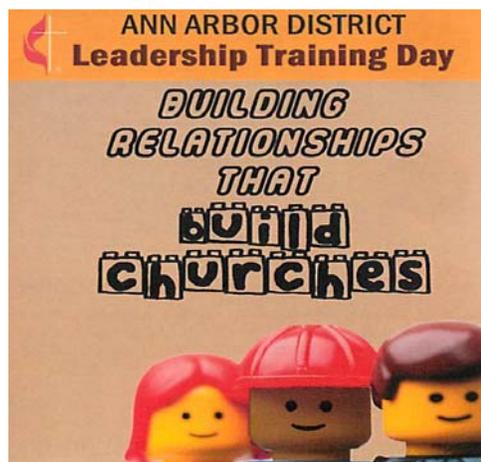
Yummy!!!!

**Date: Tuesday, February 28
(Fat Tuesday)**

Time: 5:30 – 6:45 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall

Free will offering to support
the Red Bird Mission.



Ann Arbor District Leadership Training Day First United Methodist Church of Northville Saturday, February 26, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Take this opportunity to hear inspiring speakers, worship together with United Methodists from the Ann Arbor District and gain ministry skills. The annual Ann Arbor District Leadership Day is being hosted by First UMC of Northville. You can register for this free event at <http://www.aadistrict.org>.



Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village

In December, the Adult Choir was joined by the Pinckney Pizzazz Ensemble and others from Brighton First to make a group of 40 carolers bringing Christmas music to the visitors of the Greenfield Village Holiday Nights. A festive time was had by all as we sang carols, enjoyed hot cider and period food cooked outdoors, as well as visited the many historic displays decorated for Christmas. Thanks to everyone who participated—we can look forward to enjoying this event again next December!



**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, **February 12, 2017** This is for the March 2017 newsletter.

Rio Bravo Mexico Mission Trip

First United Methodist Church of Highland, will be hosting its 11th annual trip to Rio Bravo Mexico, starting February 11, 2017. There are 4 people from Brighton First going this year. We are looking for donations to support the trip. Please mark "Rio Bravo" on your envelope or check memo.



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 28 spots available—so reserve yours! Can't join us this year? We are always looking for donations to support our trip. Contact Laura Kelly (laurakelly21@me.com) with questions.

Cass Community Social Services Missions

Cass Community Social Services (www.casscommunity.org) fights poverty and creates opportunity in the city of Detroit. Please consider joining one of our Saturday missions. Winter and Spring 2017 opportunities will include January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15 and May 20. Each month, we will depart from 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.



Eighth Annual Blood Drive Was a Success!

Brighton First hosted our annual American Red Cross blood drive on December 23. It was our eighth Christmas season blood drive. Our donors and volunteers made important contributions to area blood supplies during the Christmas holidays again this year. The Red Cross set a target of 50 units, and with 68 presenting donors, they received 57 units of blood! Many thanks to our volunteers, donors and other contributors for making the 2016 blood drive another success. Thank you and happy trails, Gregory G. Guise.



American
Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

Severe Weather Network

Sheltering the Homeless on our Church Campus

The Severe Weather Network is a program to provide shelter and a hot meal to the homeless and needy in our community. Brighton First will house people in the program the week of March 6. The shelter (The Well) will be opened at 7:00 p.m. and the guests will leave at 7:00 a.m.

There are three teams of volunteers needed for the week: 1. Chaperones to be present from 7pm until 7am. 2. Hot meal preparation, to be self-served by the guests. A crock pot type meal (soup, stew, sloppy joes) is to be delivered to the well by 7pm. 3. Laundry services. This is a once per week service to clean bedding.



This is a chance for you to serve in mission right here in our neighborhood. A training session for all volunteers will be held at The Well on Saturday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. Contact Mike Barrett, 810-599-7727, with any questions. A sign-up sheet is located in the Community Room.

VINA Dinner

March 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Save the date! The annual VINA "Have a Heart, Give a Smile!" event will be held at Crystal Gardens on Grand River in Howell on March 24th. General Admission tickets are \$100.00 and may be purchased online at <http://vinadental.org/archives/events/vina-dinner-cruise>. The cruise-themed evening will include dinner, dancing, entertainment, and a silent auction.



You're Invited to

The 23rd Annual Bell Choir Concert

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 3:00pm

Highland United Methodist Church, 680 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI

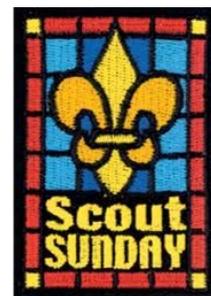


Featuring choirs from First United Methodist Church of Brighton, Susan Snow, director; Milford Presbyterian Church, Marilyn Burklund, director; Highland United Methodist Church, Gail Davidson, director; Tuesday Musicales Bellissima!, Judy Phillips, director; Royal Oak Community Handbells, Donna Hughes, director

Scouting Sunday

February 12th

The United Methodist Church has been a supporter of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for many years. We are pleased to honor the active scouts in our congregation and to recognize those who have been involved in scouting through the years. If you are a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, be sure to wear your uniform to worship on that day. If you have been in scouting, be prepared to be recognized for your participation and leadership.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be the 3rd week in July – the 17th – 21st. The theme is Maker Fun Factory. Sign ups coming soon.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORSHIP ARTS

The 7th 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 on Friday, July 21st 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. Registrations will be taken beginning in March.



Young People's Worship Arts Short-Term Projects

School age children who can read through 3rd grade are invited to participate in a short-term musical theatre project. Rehearsals will be Sundays February 5, 12, 19, from 5-6 p.m. with performances on Sunday, February 26 during worship. To sign-up, please email Susan Snow at susan@brightonfumc.org or text 517-376-2215. The next short-term project will begin Sunday, April 23rd – watch for information.

4th grade-8th grade Young People are invited to participate in a short-term musical theatre project. Rehearsals will be Sundays February 5 from 4:00-5:00 p.m., Feb. 12 following youth group dinner from 7:00-8:00 p.m., and Feb. 19 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. with performances on Sunday, February 26 during worship. To sign-up, please email Susan Snow at susan@brightonfumc.org or text 517-376-2215. The next short-term project will begin Sunday, April 23rd – watch for more information.

YOUTH GROUPS



4th-6th grade Youth Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the lower level of the church at 5pm. Meeting Dates in 2017 are: February: 12th, 26th; March: 12th; April: 9th, 23rd and 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. Meeting Dates in 2017 are: February: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th; March: 5th, 12th, 19th; April: 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th; and 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

Sundae Sunday



This year's Sundae Sunday will be in the Community Room (upper level) on February 12th between worship services. Stop by to create your own sundae and enjoy fellowship.

Family Movie Night

Saturday, March 11th, 6-8 pm. Wear your comfy jammies; bring a chair, pillow, or blanket and join us for a family friendly movie. Movie TBA.



Bake Sale –

The 4-6th grade Sunday School class will be raising money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital by hosting a bake sale between services on February 5th. Stop by and appease your sweet tooth while helping to make a difference in the life of a child.

Vacation Bible School

**Knit Stretch Gloves
Needed for Craft Project**

Vacation Bible School (VBS-July 17-21) needs donations of knit stretch gloves for a craft project. Please drop them in the bin outside children ministry director Missy Setty's office.



First Steps Preschool



Classroom News

Lisa Guise, Preschool Director

February is Community Helpers month at the Preschool. Parents and members from the Brighton community will visit students to share their hobbies and occupations. Mr. Dan Ripke will spend two days with preschool classes doing "Special Music" on February 8th and 9th. At the annual "Just Me and My Dad Night" on February 9th, Home Depot and the preschool teachers will plan child friendly construction projects for preschoolers and their dads. The preschool will celebrate winter recess with a break from classes on Thursday and Friday, February 16 and 17. If you would like to read to our students, please contact the preschool at (810) 227-0262.

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 2017-2018 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 6th.

Preschool Registration



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 preschool and sent to church families with children age 3 and 4 on January 23, 2017. Parents should mail their registration form(s) to: First Steps Preschool, 400 East Grand River Avenue, Brighton, MI 48116, on or before February 6th to be considered for the lottery drawing on February 13th. Forms may also be dropped off at the preschool office Monday through Friday.

A 10-week Spring Parent and Tot class will start in March. Children must turn three before September 1, 2017 to enroll in this class. Please contact the preschool for availability.

There will be an Open House on Thursday, May 11, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for anyone who may be interested in learning more about our preschool program.

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, First Steps Preschool director.

Contribution Statements for 2016

Annual Contribution Statements have been mailed out for 2016. Please check your statement carefully for accuracy. If you find any errors, or have any questions, contact Terry Keefe (Finance Secretary) in the church office at 810-229-8561 or terry@brightonfumc.org.

United Methodist Women (UMW) February 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

February Calendar of Events

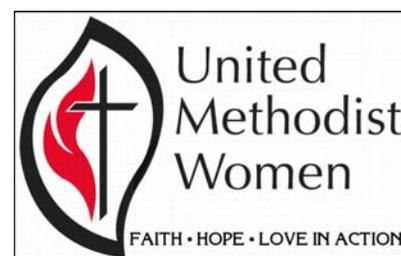
Feb 1 (Wed) **Sarah Lewis** – 9:30 am Church Fellowship Hall
Program: Human Trafficking – Judy Longcore
Bring Your Own Breakfast ; Devotions – B. Lane

Feb 1 (Wed) **Sojourner Truth** – 1:00 p.m. Room 127
Program: Children's Programs at Brighton FUMC-Missy Setty
Devotions – Carol Glenn

Rebekah – No meeting

Feb 4 (Thurs) **Phoebe** – 7:00 p.m.
Days for Girls – Pat Moore

Feb 7 (Tues) **Dorcas** – 7:00 p.m. Church Library
Program: Human Trafficking – J Lytwynec
Hosts – K. Wagg, R. Green, N. Green
Devotions - M. Ikle



Feb 16 (Thurs) **Luncheon/ General Meeting** 12 Noon
Program: VCI/Community Outreach Update
Hosts – Dorcas Circle

Jan 20 (Fri) **Hickory Haven Monthly Birthday Party** – 2:00 p.m.
Gail Harkiewicz, Arla McPeek, Bonnie Corrigan, Carol Davis, Jane Tomlinson

Feb 23 (Thurs) **Seekers Book Club** – 1:00 p.m. room 127

Feb 27 (Mon) **Mission Team Meeting** 1:00 p.m. (March)

UMW Giving

The Mission Team of the United Methodist Women voted to help provide winter coats for children in the Flint Area. So far, we have provided coats for 17 youngsters. Money was available through the UMW Salad Luncheon, Annual Rummage Sale, and donations for this mission.

 **BRIGHTON FIRST**
United Methodist Church
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February Sunday Worship Series

