

Brighton First News

First United Church of Brighton June/July 2017



Kid's Area Renovation Underway

Currently, Brighton First's Sunday School classes are held in four different areas of our main building. Our nursery is on the upper level and classrooms are scattered throughout the lower level. Many parents must travel to two or three places in the church to locate their children after worship.

Since equipping our children and youth to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ is a priority for Brighton First, our Administrative Board has determined that we will move all of our Sunday morning children's ministries to one location. The Children's Ministries Team and the Board of Trustees have developed a plan for a consolidated children's ministry area in the lower level that is inviting, dynamic, and secure.



By September 2017 we will offer a dedicated space for our children which allows parents to SAFELY check children in and out at one location. It will allow children to meet together in the central common area for worship and joint lessons. This will encourage co-operative learning, peer mentoring, and opportunities for fellowship among children of different ages. In addition, Sunday School teachers will be able to team teach with other teachers and classes.

The renovation includes fresh paint in welcoming and kid friendly colors, new flooring, age-appropriate furnishings, and a nursery bathroom. Brighton First's Music Ministries will move to the current nursery on the upper level, and The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry will continue in its current location.

We estimate that we will need an additional \$15,000 to complete the first phase of this renovation. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this exciting project. Giving envelopes are available.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pastor Sherry'.

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.

- May 31-June 4 – Detroit Annual Conference, Traverse City
- June 22 – Annual Interview with District Superintendent, Ann Arbor
- June 22-24 – Livingston County United Methodist Churches Gathering, Meyers Lake Campground, Byron, Michigan
- July 4 – Volunteer for Brighton July 4th Parade
- July 17 – Church Conference Training, Ann Arbor
- July 24-July 30 - Vacation

Brighton First Continually Improving Its Ministry in Christ's Name Status of Strategic Plan Implementation

In June 2016, the church's Administrative Board appointed a task force to create the framework for a church Strategic Plan. The fully developed plan was approved by the Administrative Board in September 2016. (You can find the full strategic plan at brightonfumc.org) We give thanks to God for the faithful leaders of our church who have worked hard to make strategic changes so that more may know the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Here are some highlights of what coherent actions have been accomplished so far:

Goal 1 – Create a Culture of Invitation and Welcome

- Communications Team formed and active
- Church web site under redevelopment
- Hospitality team increasing numbers of greeters, ushers and coffee hour hosts
- Hospitality ministry funding in general annual budget
- Children and Youth ministries include practice of hospitality in annual curriculum
- Children's Ministries located in one area (This project is currently underway)
- Review committees, small groups and classes for practices of hospitality (currently in progress)

Goal 2 – Create a system at Brighton First in which people of all ages have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Curriculum reflects goal to make disciples.
- Adult Discipleship Development Team has comprehensive plan for faith development and offer diverse classes and groups for faith growth
- Youth Summer Intern program established
- Prayer ministries highlighted and strengthened
- Brighton First Care Team established

Goal 3-Send People Out into the World to Serve in Christ's Name

- Community Outreach Team working with residents of Mill Pond Manor
- Bridge event to teachers hosted in the fall of 2016 and bridge event for first responders planned for fall 2017.



Camping with Fellow Livingston County United Methodists

All Invited to Myers Lake, June 22 – 25, 2017

Join fellow United Methodists for a camping experience the weekend of June 22 – June 25 at Myers Lake Campground in Byron, Michigan. The campground, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, is family friendly and welcomes camping groups of all sizes. It sits on the shores of Myers Lake. There are sites with full hook up and sites for families that enjoy tenting.

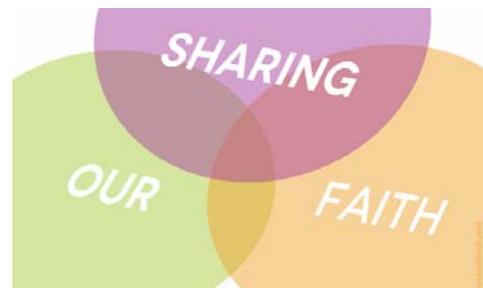
- Each afternoon and evening, Livingston County United Methodist Churches will provide games, times for devotion and worship. We will enjoy potluck meals together. On Sunday morning, Deacon Loretta Job will lead worship.
- There are day passes available for non-campers.
- Register for your camping site at www.myerslake.org or call 810-266-4511. Let them know that you are with the Livingston County United Methodist Group.
- Participating Churches: Brighton First, Howell First, Fowlerville, Plainwell, Trinity (Fowlerville), Hartland, Arise (Pinckney), Wesley (Whitmore Lake), Oak Grove and Milford.

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis and Rev. George Lewis Offer Summer Course, “Sharing Our Faith”

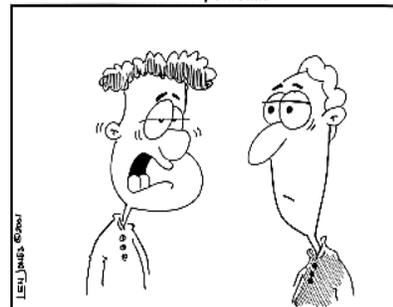
Pastor Sherry and her husband, Rev. George Lewis, will offer a course in faith sharing this summer. Their class will explore how to share faith through biblical examples and real-time practice. Participants will have the chance to share their faith story with the entire group.

Both the congregations of Howell First and Brighton First are invited to join. Each session will end with a trip to a local ice cream establishment to see if our faith rubs off on someone.

Dates coming soon!

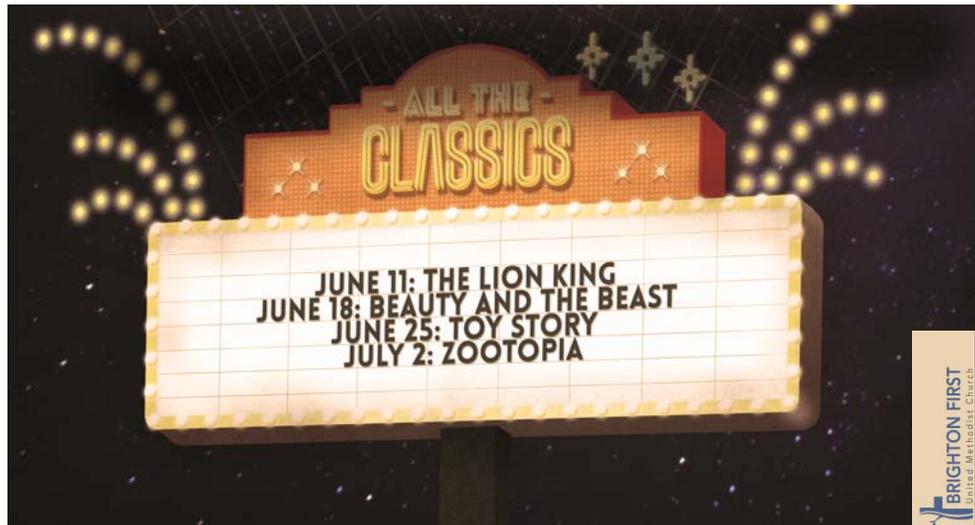


ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"I was just fine with the concept of sharing my faith until Pastor said we actually had to talk to people."

Summer Worship Series – Reel to Real



This summer, our worship series brings movies into the sanctuary, as we explore what Christian truths we might discover in popular movies. We will combine a fun look at movies, new and old, with theological examination and practical application. Each week we will move from “reel to real”.

The movies we’ll discuss in upcoming Sundays. Note: These movies were chosen by congregation members in a “vote” that was conducted through the month of March.

- June 11: The Lion King
- June 18: Beauty and the Beast
- June 25: Toy Story
- July 2: Zootopia
- July 9: A League of Their Own
- July 16: Field of Dreams
- July 23: Cinderella Man
- July 30, The Blind Side
- August 6: Gone with the Wind
- August 20: Shawshank Redemption
- August 27: Star Wars (overview)
- September 3: Godzilla versus King Kong

Communications Team Meets

Changes Ahead for Newsletter

As part of the strategic plan set out by the Administrative Board of Brighton First, the Communications Team is creating policy and practices for effective communication. This includes communication within our church and with the general public.

The team is working in these areas: website and social media presence, consistency in name and logo use, and excellence in print media. Church leaders will have guidelines for submitting news and announcements in the media sources that Brighton First uses including: bulletins, worship screen images, web site, Facebook, fliers, postcards and posters.

The Communications Team is currently considering changes to the newsletter. This publication, which appears 9 - 10 times per year, is both mailed and emailed to church members. Changes could include reducing the number of newsletter issues per year or replacing the newsletter with monthly mailed bulletins to those who cannot attend worship. The bulletins contain much of the same information found in monthly newsletters. Eliminating the newsletter would free up resources and time for effective communication through other venues.

The biggest shift in communication practice will be a more active web site. After consulting with the communications director of the Detroit Annual Conference, Mark Doyle, the team has determined that all announcements and activities from Brighton First will be available on the web site. Best practices of dynamic churches include directing both congregation members and those seeking a new church home toward the church's web site.

Brighton First's web site, currently being redeveloped, will eventually include sign ups and links for people to pay for events and give to mission projects on line through debit card, credit card or Pay Pal. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sherry at sherry@brightonfumc.org.



Red Bird Missions Annual Scrap Drive



Mark your calendars, the annual Red Bird Mission Scrap Metal Drive will be on Saturday, July 8, 2017. Questions, Please call Larry 517-256-1841, Ginger 810-772-1863 or Fred 810-494-0237.

Appalachia Service Project Youth Mission (ASP)

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 a few 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) with questions.



Cass Community Social Services Mission



Cass Community Social Services (www.casscommunity.org) fights poverty and creates opportunity in the city of Detroit, and we can continue supporting their efforts in 2017. Please consider joining one of our Saturday missions. 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/gguise@gmail.com.

Small Groups and Classes Offered This Summer

At Brighton First we are connecting to God through **Worship, Hospitality, being Open to and Obeying Jesus, Living in relationships, and Extravagant service and generosity—Becoming W.H.O.L.E..**

The six week summer semester begins the week of July 9 and runs through August 19. Take this opportunity to grow in study and service together. Booklets detailing out small groups and classes will be available June 25, with sign-ups beginning that day. For more information contact Rev. Bob Fuchs, Associate Pastor, bob@brightonfumc.org.



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.




BRIGHTON FIRST
United Methodist Church
400 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton, MI 48116
www.brightonfumc.org



Rummage and Bake Sale

**Friday, June 16 from 9 am – 6 pm and
Saturday, June 17 from 9 am.- noon**

U.M.W. Rummage & Bake Sale

Rummage Sale on Friday, **June 16** from 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. & Saturday, **June 17** from 9 a.m.- noon in the lower level of the church. Funds raised will support women's and children's missions locally and internationally.

We are currently accepting donations of quality books, kitchen, household, craft & holiday items, lamps, tools, baby & children's clothing and gear, games and toys. If the lower door is locked to drop-off your items, call the church office during NO adult clothing, computer equipment, car seats, or heavy items such as furniture. Tax receipts are available. Any questions, want to help with the sale, or need your items picked up, call Jo 810-231-2229, Gigi 810-220-8672 or Jane 810-229-1601. Tell your friends and neighbors - we'll take their donations, too!

Sunday School News

Sunday School will not be offered in June, July, or August so that the children may attend services with their families. Pews labeled "Geared for Kids" will contain youth friendly Bibles, quiet learning activities, picture books, and busy bags to enrich their learning experience. Please take advantage of this summer to let your children see how important worship is to you and how the congregation becomes the living body of Christ.

Lego Camps June 26th-29th

Do you have a young engineer in your life? Do your children enjoy LEGOs? LEGO camp is back at Brighton First this summer! There are two different camps to choose from. Brick City Engineers is for children entering K-6th grades. It is from 9 am –noon. Jr. Robotics camp is for children 8 years old and older. This camp is in the afternoon from 1-4pm. All camps are held in the Fellowship Hall. You can register online at www.bricks4kidz.com/jrkvk. Registration deadline is June 20th.

Sunday School—This Fall

Do you like kids? Do you love God? **Then prayerfully consider becoming a Sunday School teacher for the 2017-18 school year in the fall** Curriculum is provided to make it easier for you. Schedules vary from every week to once a month, depending age group you would like to work with. You could even just be on our substitute list and teach on an as needed basis. Email Missy Setty, director of children's ministry at missy@brightonfumc.org if you would like to help out.

Vacation Bible School

July 17th-21st from 9 am –noon

Would you like to volunteer for VBS? Sign up at 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 staff members Missy Setty or Alyssa Tumolo for the paperwork.

Sign up for VBS participants is now active. Visit our website at 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 Fun Factory—where kids learn that they are created by God, made for a purpose.

Donations for Vacation Bible School are now being collected. Please see the bulletin board in the hallway for supplies needed. We will also post items on Facebook, in the bulletin and in the weekly E-news.



United Methodist Women JUNE/JULY 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

- June 7 (Wed) **Sarah Lewis Circle**—Dine Out
June 7 (Wed) **Sojourner Truth Circle**—Fun Event
June 1 (Thurs) **Rebekah Circle**—10:00 a.m. Faye Zimmerman's home
Hostess: D. Daddino
June 1 (Thurs) **Phoebe Circle**
Program: Book Read and Fajitas – Kris Nelson
June 6 (Tues) **Dorcas Circle**— 7:00 Church Parlor
Program: Hope's Closet Baby Shower
Hostess: C. Riffe, D. deLaski-Smith
Devotions: M. Outlaw
June 8 **VBS Preparations**—Room 127
Bring your own lunch
June 12-15 Rummage Set up
June 16 (Fri) Rummage Sale—9a.m.-6 p.m.
June 17 (Sat) Rummage Sale—9 a.m.-noon
June 16 (Fri) **Hickory Haven Monthly Birthday Party**—2:00 p.m.
Gail Harkiewicz, Marsha Ikle, Barb Terry
- July-Aug **Sarah Lewis Circle**— No meetings
July **Phoebe Circle** – Mission U
July 3 (Mon) **Mission Team Meeting 1:00 p.m.** at Pauline Schaffer's home
July 6 **Rebekah Circle** – Lunch out
July 12 (Wed) **Sojourner Truth Circle** Lunch with **Dorcas Circle**
July 12) (Wed) **Dorcas Circle**—Lunch with **Sojourner Truth Circle**
July 13-15 West Michigan Mission U—Albion College
July 21 (Fri) VBS Hotdog Lunch—12:00 noon, Carlene May & Team
July 21 (Fri) **Hickory Haven Monthly Birthday Party**—2:00 p.m.
Gail Harkiewicz, Myrna Henderson, Judy Lytwynec
July 22 (Sat) One-Day Mission U of the South
Eric UMC
July 31 (Mon) Mission Team Meeting (Aug)—1:00 p.m., Room #127



Newsletter
DEADLINE

The next newsletter deadline is Sunday,
JULY 10TH. This is for the **AUGUST** newsletter.

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June/July Newsletter

