

Brighton First News

First United Methodist Church of Brighton—October 2016



Why Do People Attend Church for the First Time?

Will Mancini is the founder of the church vision coaching service Auxano and the author of the blog "Clarity Changes Everything". He writes that there are three reasons why people come to church for the first time:

Something is Missing. People may appear to have everything, but a life-changing event or a time of reflection leaves them wondering what is missing. Are all the accomplishments of career, health and relationship enough? Mancini asks, "How does your church equip believers to engage people who are missing something?" I would suggest that we engage others most effectively and with integrity when we tell our own stories. What would be missing from our lives if we did not have faith in Jesus Christ? We may not be able to determine if a friend, colleague or family member has an "empty life" (how can we really know?), but we can talk clearly about what makes our life full. How does faith inform our purpose in life?



Something is Broken. Many people come to church hurting. The hurt might be a dull ache from life regrets or the sharp pain of ongoing conflict. Mancini asks, "Whether people are overtly hurting or trafficking in hidden hurt, how is your church poised to connect with them? Do you have an atmosphere that is conducive to restoration and where it is safe to be 'messed up'?" I believe that the majority of church attenders desire with all their hearts that church be a safe and restorative place. And yet, church cannot be that kind of place without congregation members willing to be vulnerable themselves. A church that is safe for those whose lives are "messed up" is a church where a good number of those present understand that "messed up" is a typical state of being. One of the greatest tools I've been given in my service as a pastor is permission to refer those who are hurting to those who have gone through the same struggles. I have seen people experience death of a loved one, chronic pain, recovery from addiction or bankruptcy, who go on to minister to others. It is humbling and it makes faith real. How can we demonstrate in our worship, our small groups and classes, and in our mission efforts, a vulnerability, an acceptance of our own brokenness, that will help others?

Something is New. Another reason that people attend church for the first time is because something new is happening in their lives: a new marriage, a new home, a new baby, a new job in a new location, new friends. Mancini challenges the church, "What does your church do to leverage the 'new zones' that people in your community are going through?" We cannot simply be prepared to be "us" and expect new attenders to figure out how to fit in. Whether people attend to explore what's missing from their lives, to find healing in brokenness or to make a new start, it is the responsibility of the congregation of Brighton First to meet people where they are with a welcoming spirit.



Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Sherry'.

Rev. Dr. Sherry L. 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. Pastor Sherry is a member of the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Club and the co-chairperson of the Brighton Ministerial Association



October 2 – CROP Walk, Howell

October 6 – Vital Church Initiative Clergy Group and Brighton Ministerial Association

October 7 – Clergy Sexual Ethics Training – Chapel Hill UMC, Portage

October 9 – Installation of District Superintendents – Dewitt UMC

October 11 – Clergy Mentor Program – Troy First UMC

October 13 – 18 - Vacation

October 22 – Vital Church Initiative Facilitator – Howell First UMC

October 27 – VINA Community Dental Clinic Tailgate Fundraiser

Adopt-A-Spot (Church Exterior Landscape) Report

Eric Dahlberg, Adopt-A-Spot Coordinator

Many Thanks to Those who helped us again this year with the landscaping around the Church, Well and

Annex:



Mary Allen

Jim & Sandi Anderson

Denise Daberko & Kids

Carl & Donna Dibert

Bruce & Sandra Everett

Carolyn Facione

Jim & Carol Glenn

Barbara Gow

Dr. Verne Hoshal

Gail Krieger

Rev. John G. Park

Judy Plumley

Don & Sue Urban

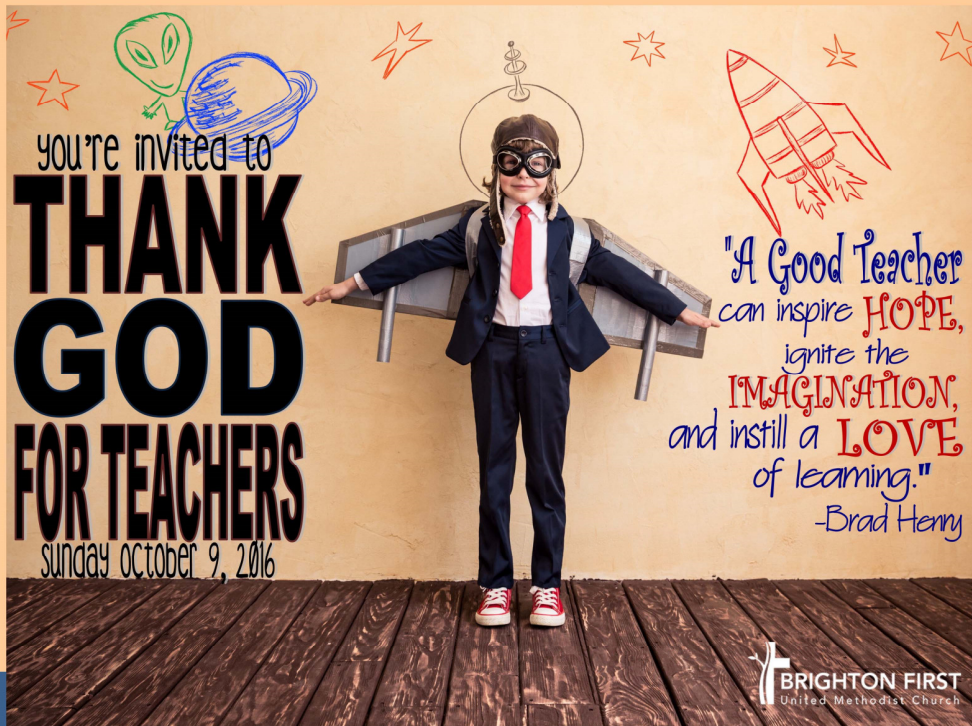
Ginger Van Blaricum

Mary-Margaret Whitley & Kids

Our Memorial Garden Caretakers

Men With Tools

Board of Trustees



**HONOR OUR TEACHERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9**

- Things to bring:
- Facial tissue
 - Paper towels
 - All-purpose spray cleaner
 - Hand lotion
 - Sanitary hand wipes
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Clorox Wipes
 - Bandaids
 - Snacks
 - Stickers
 - Pencils (Ticonderoga or equivalent quality)
 - Highlighter pens
 - Electric pencil sharpener
 - Binders
 - Paper clips
 - Scissors
 - Stapler
 - Markers
 - Expo markers
 - Flair markers
 - Colored pencils
 - Pens for kids
 - Red pens
 - Avery labels
 - Sentence strips
 - Folders
 - Hanging files
 - "Thank-you" cards
 - Large Erasers
 - Pencil Top Erasers
 - Crayons
 - Black Sharpies
 - Staples
 - Glue Sticks
 - Masking tape
 - Clear tape

Breakfast... Gifts for Teachers... Worship Celebration!

We see the hard work you do all year and want to THANK YOU!

- October 9th, 2016 from 8:30am-11:30am
- Gifts of Classroom Supplies for Teachers Available 8:30am-12:30pm
- Buffet Breakfast Served 8:30am-11:30am
- Worship Celebration with Guest Speakers 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am
- Sunday School 9:30am and 11am
- Childcare Available



Brighton First UMC 400 E. Grand River Avenue Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonfumc.org

**"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove.**

But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

~ Forest Witcraft

Children's Ministries Corner

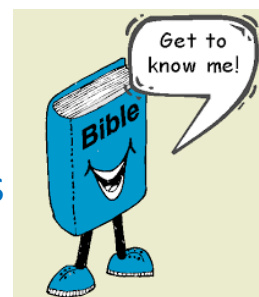


Trunk or Treat – Goblins, Ghosts, and Pirates OH MY! An evening of fun awaits as all our youngsters show off their Halloween costumes, trick or treat in the parking lot, and have some fall fun. Join the fun on October 23, 5:00-6:00 p.m. by trick or treating or by decorating your car and handing out candy to the kids. Sign up to participate in the Fellowship Hall before October 20th.

Third Grade Bibles -

Every year the third grade students receive their own bibles from the church. This year's Bible presentation will be at the 9:30 service on October 16th. Let Missy know if your child is in the 3rd grade by sending her an email.

missy@brightonfumc.org



Junior Church – The first Sunday of every month will be a new program during 9:30 worship for all students ages 3 years - 6th grade called Junior Church. The children will learn a song, do a craft, and have a guest speaker who teaches them about God's love, the different groups and activities that happen at Brighton First, and our church's history. The goal of Junior Church is to introduce the kids to all the ways our church is active in our community and the world.



Missy Setty
Children's Ministries

First Steps Preschool News

The Preschool classrooms have come alive with many young enthusiastic learners. We are pleased to say that they are adjusting nicely to their routine. Eighty-four students are enrolled in First Steps Preschool. Twenty-four new families have joined our program this year. Sixty students have returned to our program and seven church families currently have children enrolled in our preschool. Apples and pumpkins represent FALL almost as much as falling leaves and cooler temperatures, and First Steps Preschool students will have opportunities to experience them firsthand. Our three-year-old classes will be gathering apples at Spicer's Orchard in Fenton and/or Erwin's Orchard in South Lyon. The four-year-old classes will pick pumpkins at Erwin's Orchard in South Lyon and/or at Spicer's Orchard in Fenton.. These are always great experiences for our students. Other FALL activities will include visits from the Brighton Fire Department to enhance our fire safety unit and Halloween costume parties at the end of October.

A FALL session of our Parent and Tot class, led by Anne Walters, gets started on Tuesday, October 4th in rooms 105-107.

Lisa Guise



Youth Groups begin again in October!

4th-6th Grade Youth Group:

4th-6th grade Youth Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the lower level of the church! Youth Group begins October 9th at 5pm for 4th-6th grade.

4th-6th Grade Youth Group Dates:

October: 9th
November: 13th
December: 4th
January: 8th, 22nd
February: 12th, 26th
March: 12th
April: 9th, 23rd
May: 7th

7th-12th Grade Youth Group:

7th-12th grade Youth Group: Meets every Sunday at The Well from 5pm-6:30pm beginning October 2nd! 7th-12th grade meet at the same time, same location, but split into smaller groups by grades.

7th-12th Grade Youth Group Dates:

October: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th
November: 6th, 13th, 20th
December: 4th, 11th
January: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
February: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
March: 5th, 12th, 19th
April: 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th
May: 7th, 21st, 28th

New this year: Dinner is provided each Sunday from 6pm-6:30pm for ALL YOUTH GROUPS.

Want more information? Email youth director Alyssa Tumolo at alyssa@brightonfumc.org

Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our Gifts 2016 Stewardship

In September, Brighton First congregation members



received an appeal letter to make a financial commitment to ministry in 2017. All were asked to prayerfully consider con-

tinuing to support Brighton First, a place where stories of the faith are born and told. As a church, Brighton First tells stories of changing lives through commitment to mission and outreach, growing in faith through commitment to spiritual growth opportunities for all ages, and sensing the powerful presence of God in worship on Sunday mornings. We celebrate the faith stories of our church and recognize that the foundation of our congregation's faith stories is the generosity of congregation members. When we share our gifts, stories of God's transforming presence are made and told.

The Stewardship Committee has asked that congregation members turn in their commitment cards by October 25. On Sunday, October 30 we will celebrate the our commitment to ministry and mission for 2017.



October Worship Series

Do you remember the stories you heard in Sunday school, stories of the heroes of the Old Testament? This October, in worship at Brighton First, we revisit the old Bible stories, but we're not telling them like your Sunday school teacher did! Join us for a remix of the familiar stories, including the stories of Babel, David, Daniel, Moses and Joshua.

All Saints and Memorial Sunday

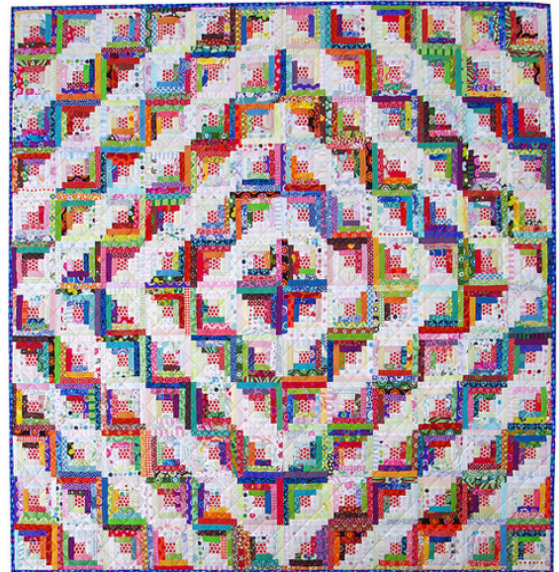
November 6

On Sunday, November 6, we will remember the saints who have died and gone before us. During our worship service we will read the names of members of our church who have died in the last year. We will also have a time of silence to remember family and friends who have gone on to their heavenly home. In October, you will receive a form on a Sunday morning to list the names of deceased loved ones you would like printed in our worship order for November 6. In addition to remembering the saints in our lives on All Saints Sunday, we will also dedicate items purchased for the church with memorial gifts. Please plan to be present for this special worship service.



Invitation to Support Prayer Quilt Ministry

Your assistance is needed! If you have been at recent Sunday services you are aware that we have been praying over and giving away a large number of quilts in recent weeks. This amazing ministry of prayer and God's love comforts and encourages folks during times of personal and health crisis. While Carol Riffe, the director of this ministry, does an amazing job using coupons and checking for sales to stretch the budget to cover as much fabric and other items as she can, **this ministry is in need of a financial boost!** If you would consider giving a special gift to help out, put *prayer quilt ministry* in the memo line of your check or put it in an envelope on Sunday morning and write Quilts on the front. On behalf of the quilt ministry, thank you in advance for your continued support and especially for your prayers!



Cass Community Social Services Mission—Saturdays 2016

Cass Missions - Do you want to help fight poverty and create opportunity in Michigan? We can do this by supporting our Detroit neighbors by working with Cass Community Social Services (www.casscommunity.org). Our Fall 2016 Saturday mission opportunities will be **October 15 and November 19**. Each month, we will depart from the church at approximately 8:00 a.m. and return by approximately 4:00 p.m. Please sign up in the Community Room or contact Greg Guise at [810.772.9970](tel:810.772.9970) /ggguise@gmail.com.



Vital Church Initiative

Information at brightonfumc.blogspot.com



Brighton First adopted the Vital Church Initiative Consultation Report in April 2105. Since then, task forces and teams have been working to implement five prescriptions that are intended to clarify the mission of our church and enhance ministry. For the most up-to-date news on our progress, please read Pastor Sherry's blog at brightonfumc.blogspot.com. While at the blog site, you can sign up to receive the blog entries by email as they are available.



Dear Church Family,

We cannot thank you enough for your out-pouring of cards, calls, prayers, love and support as Jerry had his heart attack and then his bypass surgery. Special thanks to the clergy for home and hospital visits and the Prayer Quilt is so beautiful and comforting.

What a wonderful blessing you are in our lives. Jerry is regaining his strength a little each day, and has not lost his sense of humor.

May God richly bless all of you.

Love in Christ,

Jerry and Joanne Goode

Dear Church Family,

I send a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful women in the quilting ministry, those who kept me in their prayers, and my dear friend Joyce Brown who requested a quilt for me. It has brought me many hours of comfort, both physically and spiritually.

Sincerely,

Ida Bergsma

PRAISE THE LORD WITH MUSIC: FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT BFUMC

Psalm 150 tells us to “Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” There are many opportunities to live our this Psalm at Brighton First. For more information, or if you see something that interests you but you have a time conflict, please contact music director Susan Snow at 517-376-2215 or susan@brightonfumc.org

YOUNG PEOPLE’S WORSHIP ARTS

SESSION I: 2nd-8th Grades Sundays before Youth Groups on Oct. 9 from 4-6 p.m. (youth group participants will be dismissed to groups at 5:00 p.m.) , and Oct. 16 from 4-6 p.m., and performing for worship on Sunday, Oct. 23.

SESSION II: CHRISTMAS MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION – Kindergarten-8th grade youth. Join us for a unique Christmas musical theatre experience. Rehearsals are scheduled for:

- Sunday, October 30 from 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, November 6 from 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, November 13 from 4-6 p.m. (youth group participants will be dismissed to groups at 5:00 p.m.)
- Sunday, November 20 from 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, November 27 from 4-6 p.m. (youth group participants will be dismissed to groups at 5:00 p.m.)
- Sunday, December 4 from 4-6 p.m.
- Saturday, December 10 from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with pizza lunch

Sunday, December 11 – 4:00 p.m. Performance followed by an Advent dinner at 5:00 p.m.

SESSION III: Music for CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 and/or 7:00 worship services. This opportunity is available to Kindergarten-8th Grades. Rehearsals are scheduled for:

- Saturday, December 10 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 18 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 23 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

LEARN TO RING HANDBELLS

Three-week sessions for the novice ringer. All ages are welcome.

- **SESSION I:** Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Oct 4, 11 and 18; playing music during worship on Sunday, October 23rd.
- **SESSION II:** Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8; playing music during worship on Sunday, November 13.



**ECHOES OF PRAISE
Handbell Choir**...Rehearse
on Wednesdays 7:30-9 p.m.
and play the bells at worship
services on the 2nd Sunday
of each month.

For more information,
contact Susan Snow
517-376-2215 or
susan@brightonfumc.org



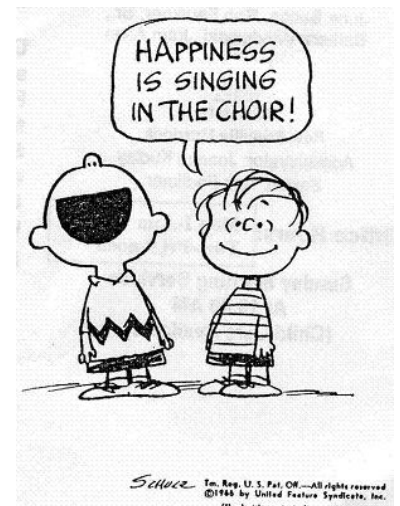
ADULT CHOIR is available to those who are
high school age or older.

SESSION I: Rehearsals Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on **Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29** and bringing music to worship on Sundays **Sept 18, 25 and Oct. 2.**

SESSION II: Rehearsals on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. **Oct. 13, 20, 27, and Nov. 3** and bringing music to worship on **Sundays Oct. 16, 23, 30, and Nov. 6.**

SESSION III-Thursday Rehearsals: Rehearsals on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Nov. 10, 17 (no rehearsal Nov. 24), Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 and 23 (Special Rehearsal for Christmas Eve to be determined) and **bringing music to worship on Sundays Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 18, and 24 (9:00 & 11:00 p.m. worship services).**

SESSION III-Tuesday Rehearsals – This session is for people who are unable to rehearse on Thursdays and would like to participate in a special program on Sunday, December 18 and/or Christmas Eve Worship services. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, **Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20** (for Christmas Eve participants only) **and 23rd** (Special Rehearsal for Christmas Eve to be determined)



Red Bird Mission, Inc. and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. have been providing ministries in the Appalachian Mountain region since 1921. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Brighton First is sending a mission team from October 9-15, 2016. Please contact Fred Thompson with any questions at derf510@comcast.net



You are Invited—Weekly Activities

Monday: Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry—9:00 a.m. (Rm #127) Prayer Shawl Knitting Group—6:00 p.m. (Panera Bread-Brighton Mall)

Tuesday: Men with Tools— 8:30 a.m. (Library)

Thursday: Prayer Ministry—9:30 a.m. (Quiet Room) Women of the Word (WOW)—9:30 a.m. (Rm #129/Nursery) (No WOW on 2nd Thursday of month)

Saturday: Men of Faith—8:30 a.m. (Library)

Prayers For Our Church Family

Ida Bergsma, Gary Pressey, Mark Wood, Maria & Eduardo Cartes, Tom Marx & Lynn Marx, Don Horner, Marcia Outlaw, Rev. Earl Downing & Gloria Downing, Rev. Eric Hammar, Steve Walters, Kevin Wagg, Pete Facione, Lottie Smail, Toby May, Brian Shuell, Vernillia Williams, Karen Cotton, Jill Jozwiak, Miriam Osterhoff, Betty Lewarchik, Steve Gaggin, Larry Kipp, Karen Thorsen, Bill Thorsen, John Miller, Jerry Goode, Eric Wylie, Rev. Ronda Hawkins, Pam Gaggin, Linda Victory

Newsletter
DEADLINE

The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, **October 9**, 2016. This is for the November 2016 newsletter.