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Photo available upon request

An Evening with Antoinette Brown Blackwell

Oberlin native and ordained minister Beth Marshall portrays Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921) in a costumed historical presentation that takes place **Thursday, March 26 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event, which is hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, is free and open to the public.

Last fall, an Ohio Historical Marker was placed outside The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ, honoring Brown Blackwell as the first woman since New Testament times ordained as a Christian minister. Tonight's program brings "Nettie" to life with an up-close-and-personal view of the world in her own words as seen through the pages of her letters, sermons and lecture notes. Find out what one modern minister has learned from an important foremother in this eloquent and thought-provoking first-person portrayal.

Antoinette Brown studied theology at Oberlin College, led prayer meetings at Oberlin's First Church, U.C.C. and subsequently was called to serve the Congregational Church in South Butler, NY where she was ordained in 1853. In 1856, she married abolitionist Samuel Blackwell, and together they raised five daughters. Brown Blackwell later joined the Unitarian Church and continued to preach in churches through the age of 90. As a visionary and leader, she fervently dreamed of a day when gender inequalities would be erased and women would have the same opportunities and rewards as men.

In recognition of a lifetime of good work, Oberlin College awarded Antoinette Brown Blackwell an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1908. The United Church of Christ established the Antoinette Brown Award for outstanding clergywomen in 1975, and this summer will launch the Antoinette Brown Society to encourage and support women as pastoral leaders in the church.

Beth Marshall graduated from Bowling Green State University with a BA in English and received her Masters of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Divinity School in Chicago, Illinois. She was ordained a Unitarian minister in 2003 and presently is senior pastor at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo.

For more information about this program or other upcoming events offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, please visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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