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Oberlin Celebrates Historic First Female Minister Antoinette Brown Blackwell with a Hymn Sing and Ohio Historical Marker

All are invited to attend a very special celebration of music and history on **Sunday, November 9, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** when The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. and the Oberlin Heritage Center present “**Oberlin Connections through Hymns**” and the “**Dedication of an Ohio Historical Marker for Antoinette Brown Blackwell and First Church.**” The event will be held in Oberlin’s historic First Church (106 North Main Street, corner of State Routes 511 and 58), and it is free and open to the public. Special welcome will be given to women in the ministry and those active in other aspects of religious leadership.

Join community members, visitors, area churches, religious leaders, and dignitaries for a stirring hour-long “sing” of historic hymns in the Meeting House, which concludes with the dedication of a new Ohio Historical Marker that will be installed on the grounds of First Church. The marker recognizes Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921) who graduated from Oberlin College in 1847 and became the first woman ordained as a minister in 1853, at a time when most people considered it highly inappropriate for a woman to give public speeches, let alone become a minister. The marker also commemorates The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ, which was built in the 1840s, and at that time was home to internationally famous minister Charles Grandison Finney. Through the years, the church has been a speaking venue for such notable figures as Frederick Douglas, Mark Twain, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For more information about the historic marker, please contact Pat Murphy patm@oberlinheritage.org. For information about the hymn sing, contact Mary Louise Van Dyke at mlvandyke@oberlin.net.

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