



Preservation House
2074 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313-6916

PROGRESS THROUGH PRESERVATION OF GREATER AKRON

Monthly Meeting for PTP Members and Guests Tuesday, March 27, 5 p.m. Former First United Presbyterian Church and Akron Glass Works



First United Presbyterian Church
Original building at Spicer & East Exchange streets



First United Presbyterian Church
Current building at Spicer & Crouse streets

The First United Presbyterian Church of Akron was organized in 1905 and from 1906 until the early 1930s met at a church located on the corner of Spicer and East Exchange streets. Finding themselves in need of more space and forced to abandon the old church due to the widening of Exchange Street, in 1931 ground was broken for a new church one block away, at the corner of Spicer and Crouse streets. The new church was built of stone and described in a newspaper article of the time as being in a “semi-Norman design, typical of the English village church.” The new church was described as having an auditorium large enough to seat 600, a banquet room that could accommodate 360, two small chapels, and 35 small classrooms. The congregation eventually raised \$100,000 for the project, but since it was built in the depth of the Great Depression, the new church was not completed and dedicated until Jan. 16, 1938. Over the years different Presbyterian congregations have used the church for services, but the sanctuary has been unused since 2013.

Larry Jenco, the current owner of this almost completely unaltered structure, will host our meeting and take us on a tour of two upper levels of the church. The basement is an excellent example of the adaptive reuse of a historic building. It has been remodeled to house the Akron Glass Works, a hot glass studio and gallery that offers glass blowing classes. As part of our tour we will be able to observe glass blowing and shop in the gallery.

In order to accommodate the glass blowing demonstration and to be able to see the church’s stained glass windows while there is still plenty of light, we will meet at the church at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27. If you cannot get there by 5 p.m., come later as we anticipate two tours of the building with the second starting about 5:45 p.m.

Directions: The church is located at 421 Spicer St. at the corner of Spicer and Crouse. From downtown, drive east on East Exchange Street and turn right onto Spicer. There is parking in back of the church and on both Crouse and Spicer. Enter the church up the stairs on Crouse Street.

Dinner: After the tour we will adjourn to Bricco at 1 West Exchange for dinner and drinks. We will order off the menu. Parking is free at meters on the street (they stop ticketing at 6 p.m.) or you can use the valet service for \$5 per car. **This month’s meeting is limited to PTP members and their guests.** Please RSVP to Alice Christie at 330-864-8364 or achristie@malone.edu by Friday, March 23 indicating whether you will be joining us for the tour, dinner at Bricco, or both.