

news

Park Street Church to be renovated

GRACE SCARBERRY
Reporter

The sanctuary and gym of Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland are currently undergoing renovations in order to create a more adequate place of worship. “Our church has been blessed to experience significant growth in the last few years, especially among young families,” said Nate Bebout, senior pastor at Park Street Brethren Church. “We were forced to admit that our current spaces were no longer able to adequately serve our church’s needs.”

The church is converting the current gym into a new worship center and in the spring of 2021 they plan to begin the demolition of the old

sanctuary and turn it into a multipurpose space shared by the preschool and children’s ministry.

Bebout said the renovations and new additions are primarily for the purpose of allowing the continuation of serving the community.

The process began in 2016 with many members being involved in the planning, coordinating and fundraising aspects of the project.

In 2018 the church voted and 96 percent of the congregation affirmed the plan.

Jack Shultz, freshman entrepreneurship major at AU, has attended Park Street for five years and is most excited about a bigger space to hold more people.

“I’m excited to see everything that can be accomplished with a

bigger and newer space,” Schultz said.

“There’s no such thing as conflict-free change, but we’ve worked through this process to be honest, transparent and empathetic to those who are struggling with the transition,” said Bebout.

Megan Icenhour, sophomore integrated mathematics education major, has attended Park Street for her entire life. She thinks the renovations are going to be beneficial for the church but is sad to think of the loss.

“It will make things much easier for the staff and volunteers that help set up the spaces for Sunday morning services... I think it’s going to turn out to be a great space and a blessing for the church,”

Icenhour said. “It is a little sad to think that the sanctuary will be torn down. I’ve had a lot of memories in that space.”

Although the congregation is excited to see new spaces that fit their needs, Bebout said the congregation is ready to return to fulfilling their mission.

“The mission of our church remains the same—to empower authentic disciples who live life on a mission with God. I think the thing we’re most looking forward to is spending less time focusing on facilities and more time serving our community and sharing Christ’s love,” Bebout said.

There are still two services held on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., despite the construc-

tion, that fall into the blended worship style category. There are both traditional hymns and contemporary music.

When AU students are on campus, Sunday morning attendance jumps above 500 people, Bebout said.

The renovation of the gym is still five or six weeks away from completion and the sanctuary is still over a year away from starting renovation, but “this has been a faith building exercise for our community,” Bebout said. “It has been a joy to watch our church earnestly seeking His will and then stepping out in faith when we felt His leading.”



NIK DEMERS

Park Street Church will renovate their sanctuary in the spring of 2021.



NIK DEMERS

Interior pictures of the old space. The building will be torn down and there are plans to do a big reveal of the new space on November 24.

Professors meet for Fact or Fake News event

AVAERIE FITZGERALD
AU-Live Managing Editor

Four professors from opposite sides of the university all met together on Monday, Oct. 14 in the Hugo Young Theatre for “Fact or Fake News: An Ashland University Faculty Panel Discussion relating today’s world events to the play, ‘An Enemy of the People.’” Each professor had a different perspective to add to a play that touched on all different subjects—science, business, journalism and history.

Journalism Professor, Margaret Cogar; History Professor, Dr. John Moser; Dr. Rebecca Schmeller, assistant professor of management; and Dr. Jeffrey Weidenhamer, professor of chemistry were the featured speakers at the event, along with Dr. Teresa Durbin-Ames, artistic director of theatre and associate professor of theatre, who moderated the event.

“An Enemy of the People” was performed at AU on Oct. 11-13, and 18-19. Each show had at least

100 people in attendance. The inspiration for the play was based on Arthur Miller’s adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s work.

Miller is considered to be the most significant American playwright in history, with an extensive history of his plays seeing Broadway, “An Enemy of the People” included, making its big introduction in 1950.

Durbin-Ames started off Monday’s Fact or Fake News event by telling a room of approximately 100 people the reason for reintroducing Miller’s play.

“I was first approached by President Campo about doing an Arthur Miller play in April of 2018,” she said. “He wanted the university to host the Arthur Miller Societies Conference, which included a performance by the department.”

However, it was not just the persuasion of the president that led Durbin-Ames to direct “An Enemy of the People” in particular.

“I decided on ‘An Enemy of the People’ for the reasons we are

here to discuss. I saw in this play, a chance to explore important issues related to so many of the disciplines we study here on this campus,” she said to the crowd.

The focus of the play was on power and belief. A man, well-acquainted with scientific research, tried to tell his town about a concern of pollution in the waters, and after trying to go through the local newspaper with no luck, he had no one on his side defending him.

His town berated him and dismissed his studies because they did not want to face change and the reality that they could be poisoning themselves by way of water consumption.

Some lines from the play were given to the audience to get them thinking about the play and how it relates to sharing ideas with people and press, “What has this got to do with science? Don’t you think it is a citizen’s duty to share new ideas with the public? The liberal, free and independent press will stand up and do its duty.”

Cogar touched on objectivity and finding the absolute truth in a modern push for bias and favoritism in her introductory statement.

“What we think we know can be very different from the truth,” she said.

Moser, History professor, found himself troubled by the ending of the play.

“I would have liked to have seen what happened next in the play. Where I was disappointed in the end was, ‘wait a minute, nothing is resolved.’ Had he gone to a different town and published from there, that’s where the change is going to happen,” Moser said. “He was subject to tyranny where he was—the good news is, it was a local tyranny. Go to another town and he could have been treated like a king.”

Schmeller found the script “explosive” and admitted to scribbling notes in the dark theater as she watched the performance.

“This product is faulty,” Schmeller said. “This play was a constant refresher. I felt like I was reading a textbook case study—it was everything we teach across the street in the college of business.”

While Weidenhamer has used this exact play by Miller in his classrooms for a number of years to inform students about the risk of lead in drinking water, which was discovered by a physician.

Rev. Vickie Taylor, director of

Outreach Instructional Design at AU, attended the event and sat in the audience taking notes.

“There are two areas that really stood out to me. The first one is about the competing constituencies and how they each have their own responsibility: making money for the stockholders versus safety of people,” she said. “The whole concept of power and truth—who really controls truth? How do we decipher what the truth really is when we have so many competing voices talking to us? It’s important to become literate of the sources that are available to us.”

As the speakers all gave an insight of themes relating to their specific department, they all agreed on the importance of free speech and maintaining healthy balances between the fields.

When an issue arises that is important enough to change an entire city, the panel concluded that it should have been published. Most information from the play corresponds closely with topics arising in the media today, Weidenhamer brought up the Flint, Michigan crisis as an example.

When media bands together with business, scientific theories and lessons from past experiences, it is more likely that citizens will stick together on issues, like those in “An Enemy of the People.”

Spring 2020 - Explore elective (non-core) courses in Music and Theatre



Music Technology I

Music 265 with Dr. Stefan Swanson | MWF 2 p.m.

No prerequisites or musical experience necessary
Explore the hardware and software used in today’s music industry.



Acting for the Camera

Theatre 3SG with Robert Sean Parker | TTh 1:40 p.m.

No prerequisites or acting experience necessary
A hands-on course to learn techniques for appearing on camera.



Arts Management

Theatre 321 with Tricia Applegate | TTh 9:25 a.m.

No prerequisites
Learn how to manage the arts from finances, planning, programming, marketing, fundraising and more.



AVAERIE FITZGERALD

From left to right: Dr. Jeffrey Weidenhamer, Dr. Rebecca Schmeller, Dr. John Moser, Professor Margaret Cogar and Dr. Teresa Durbin-Ames sit on the panel for the Fact or Fake News event.