

# *Liberty's Past, Present and Future*

The Chapel is filled with memories of those coming to worship our Lord, with hands joined in prayer, tears shed at both weddings and funerals, bread broken, and songs sung for the past 200 years. "For all the Saints" is a favorite hymn, whose words capture our history.

Today, Liberty remains committed to deepening our Christian discipleship for all ages. Liberty members continue to share God's love across the globe and right here at home, from serving the homeless of Columbus, to partnering with our brothers and sisters in Honduras.

As we live into our third century, may we always stay true to our 2005 Mission Statement:

*"To help people connect or reconnect with our Lord and build a lifetime of discipleship."* Amen.

*"I have consecrated this house,  
which you have built,  
by putting my Name there forever.  
My eyes and my heart will always be there."  
1 Kings 9:3*



## *Our Thanks*

*Special thanks to the Worship and Fellowship committees for their help with this celebration, and to everyone who shared their memories with us.*

Pastors John & Becky Hart, Kyle Doebler

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# *200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapel*

*"My eyes and heart will  
always be there."  
1 Kings 9:3*



# History

*“Those who are wise will take all this to heart;  
they will see in our history  
the faithful love of the LORD.”*

*Psalm 107:43*

Liberty Presbyterian Church was founded in 1810 by three families: the Cellars, the McKinnies, and the Monroes. Like many of the pioneering families in Delaware County, they came from the east in search of land, liberty and religious freedom.

Thomas Cellar was born in 1740 in Maryland and served in the Revolutionary War. In the 1770's, he bought 4,000 acres on the east side of the Olentangy River. In 1801, he decided to permanently locate to Ohio to build a cabin about half a mile north of the current location of Liberty church. His wife, Sarah, joined him a year later and together they raised six sons and three daughters. In 1810, a handful of recent settlers met in the Cellar cabin to organize Liberty Presbyterian Church.

This tiny frontier church was composed of three united congregations—Radnor, Delaware, and Liberty—overseen by a combined Session and sharing one pastor, Joseph Smith Hughes. Pastor Hughes served from 1810-1823. Many of the early worship services were hosted in homes.

In 1820, the Cellar brothers, George and John, contracted to build a Chapel frame for \$70. It was a simple 28'x40' structure with a 12' ceiling. Plaster walls, two stoves, plus a pulpit and benches were added in the 1830s. It wasn't until 1902 that the Chapel's present belfry and spire were constructed. Electricity was installed in 1934. The first-floor wing was added in 1964, and then a second floor for Administrative offices was constructed in 1979.

The Chapel served Liberty's congregation for more than 150 years, however, the growing church needed a larger worship facility. Ultimately, a barn structure was chosen, in keeping with the history of the church. Constructed by a crew of Amish from Holmes County, the Barn was dedicated to the glory of God on October 1, 1995. In 2009, the Carriage House was added to provide for the many programs that serve the 1,350 members at Liberty today.



# Traditions



## Ringing of the Old Chapel Bell

The ringing of the Liberty chapel bell begins and ends all Liberty services. The bell dates to 1902, thus, it is assumed that this tradition has been in place since then. Even during winter months, the windows in the Barn are slightly open to allow the bell's resonance be heard by the congregation.

*Special thanks to Ralph Wells (1922-2019), who rang the bell for over 40 years.*



## Events

- \* Join us Wednesday evenings, March 4<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, before and after our 7:00 p.m. Lenten Chapel services, for our special Art Gallery and video featuring the Chapel over the years. Our Art Gallery will also be set up on Sunday mornings March 1<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- \* Memories of the Chapel will be shared in worship and online throughout Lent, at our website: [www.libertybarnchurch.com](http://www.libertybarnchurch.com).
- \* Pastor John Hart will share about the history of the Chapel on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> between services.
- \* On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chapel in worship, with a special fellowship meal to follow at noon, and a commemorative coin.