

Under Pastor Thom's leadership, with the help of Bruce Jordan, the church started providing videos of services to the world via the internet. Pastor Thom did something else a little differently, he hired Rev. Scott Grigonis to intern under him in his final year here before passing the torch to Pastor Scott, who became lead pastor in June of 2015.

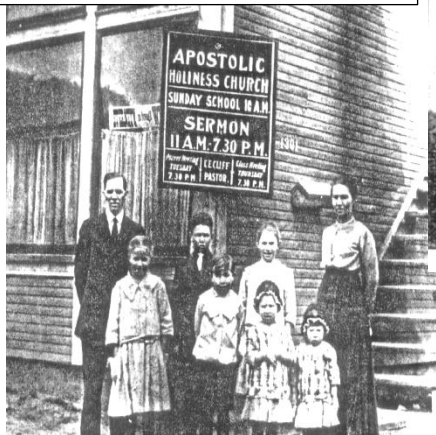
Through Pastor Scott's vision and leadership, new lighting and much needed technology updates were made to the main sanctuary and the downstairs worship room as well. Pastor Scott led us through uncharted territory when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020 where we had to stop meeting in person and moved to a fully online church. We were very thankful that he stayed to lead us back into our first in-person service before leaving in June of that year.

In July of 2020, Rev. John Kral became the new lead pastor. He led us through reacclimating from being away due to the pandemic. Pastor John was a dynamic speaker and served until March 2022.

In May of 2022, we were blessed to have Rev. Bill Kinnan bridge the gap as interim pastor for nearly a year as we searched for a new lead pastor.

In April of 2023, Rev. Chad and Rev. Amy Amoss became the Bi-Vocational Co-Lead Pastors of Flint First. With them, we celebrated our first female lead pastor! They are also unique as they grew up attending the youth group at the church when Ray and Betty Sturgill were the leaders. Pastors Chad and Amy were involved in various ministries including being co-leaders of the youth group for 15 years! The church was blessed that after they both became ordained ministers in 2023, they answered the call to continue on here at Flint First.

Church Beginning 1913



Bennett & Olive 1920



Davison Road 1963



# Flint First Wesleyan Church

3825 Davison Road  
Flint, Michigan 48506



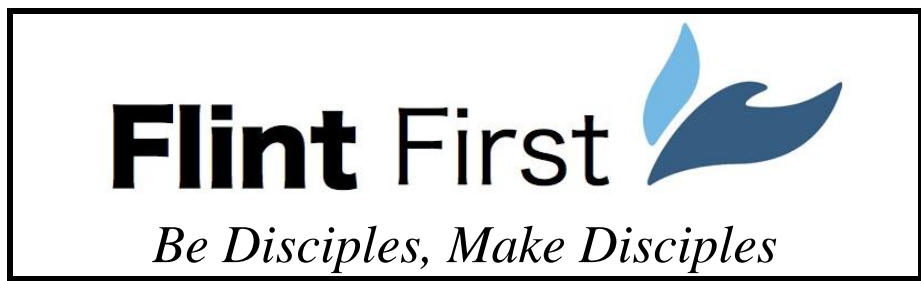
In Jesus name we press on  
Sunday, October 29, 2023  
110 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
1913 – 2023  
110 Years of Serving

Good morning and welcome back to Flint First. Whether you were just here last week, or it's been a while since you have joined us, we are excited to share this moment with you 'Remembering Flint First's Past, Embracing the Present, and Anticipating the Future.' This morning, we will celebrate together. We will recall our past programs, special memories, and we will recall the many ways that God has been so faithful at Flint First.

We will also take time to recognize what God is doing at Flint First right now. As we bring back family from across the country, we will worship our Lord and Savior together again. In addition, we will look ahead to the future, because we know that God is not done in Flint. While God calls us to remember our past and where we've come from, He also calls us to look ahead to the future. Our future is bright because as we grow in Him, we can see all the blessings from our past, the blessings that are all around us now, and even anticipate our future blessings as we see God at work in our lives. God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Eph. 3:20).

There will be a dinner to follow our "Homecoming 2023" and we invite you to stay and walk down "memory lane" as you reconnect with friends and establish new ones. After our service, we also invite you to take pictures in the Sanctuary as you catch up with friends. Our prayer is that you have a great day and blessed time as we welcome you back home!

Pastor Chad Amoss & Pastor Amy Amoss



The members of the congregation worked very hard to pay for, build and grow the church. Before construction, bonds were sold and members were able to purchase shares of the church as each family took on the financial responsibility of making the new building a reality. Many of the men in the congregation rolled up their sleeves and went to the actual work of constructing the building. The women went to work as well, the work of growing and raising the next generation in the 1962 baby boom.

The dedication service for the new church here at 3825 Davison Rd. was held on October 20, 1963, fifty years after service had first started in a basement. Our church had outgrown three spaces and finally had room for their expanding ministries.

In 1966, Rev. Roy B. Webster came to be our pastor. During his time of ministry, the new parsonage at 2116 Thistlewood Drive was built.

After many conferences, on June 26, 1968 the Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America were united to form The Wesleyan Church.

In 1977, Rev. Jay DeNeff was called as pastor at First Wesleyan Church. He ministered here for 11 years.

In just 14 short years after our church building was completed, in November of 1977, they had completely paid off the mortgage and had a mortgage burning celebration.

In 1988, Rev. Ken Boschee became our pastor. He served our church until 1992 when he was elected District Superintendent of the East Michigan District.

Rev. Dale Freed was called to pastor from 1992 to 1997. Then, for one year, we were honored to have Rev. Max Amstutz as interim pastor.

In 1997 we celebrated another baby boom in our congregation. You may recognize some familiar faces here, like Andrea Villarreal on the left, Carol Richardson standing in the middle holding baby Hannah Krupp and Nikki Boka sitting in the front.

We called Rev. Jim Salo to be our pastor in 1998. It was under his direction that the church underwent some much-needed remodeling. Rev. Salo went on to minister as Chaplin for the Michigan State police in 2003, then Rev. Parson became our pastor. Under his guidance, we became "Flint First Wesleyan Church."

In 2009, Flint First Wesleyan Church called Rev. Thom VerWys to be our pastor. God led the church in new directions with believers who made the decision to stand together for the cause of Christ.

## History of The Flint First Wesleyan Church

The Flint First Wesleyan Church we know, started 110 years ago in the basement of a man named William Hamilton. Weekly services were led by Jay Morningstar, a lay pastor. Little did they know that their small act of faith would begin a ministry in Flint, MI that would last more than a century! This two-story building on Lyman Street was called the Apostolic Holiness Church. In 1915, Rev. Charles Cliff was appointed pastor by the Pilgrim Holiness Church. The main floor of the building was used for service and his family used the second floor for their home.

Just two short years later Rev. B.O. Shattuck became the new pastor. Under his leadership, the next church building was built at the corner of Bennet and Olive Avenue with the church being dedicated in 1920.

In the fall of 1923, Rev. L.W. Sturk was called to be the new pastor. He served faithfully for 14 years until he was elected General Superintendent of the denomination. Rev. J.C. Brillhart followed in 1937. Two years later, Rev. A.S. Joppie took the reins and served our church for six years.

Rev. A.C. Doehring followed in 1945. It was during his ministry that a parsonage was purchased at 506 Crapo St. The congregation was growing following the end of WWII and the vacated parsonage next door to the church was needed as space for Sunday School rooms and a place for various activities.

Seven years later, in 1952, Rev. W.N. Miller came to the Flint Pilgrim Holiness Church. During his leadership the property for 3825 Davison Rd. was purchased before moving on to become the District Superintendent.

While still at the church on Bennet and Olive Avenue, in 1953, the church came together for the annual Rally Day.

Rev. D. Wayne Brown was called as pastor in 1954. It was during his direction that this very church we are standing in today, was constructed. They broke ground on April 30, 1961 and held the first service in the building just under two years later on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1963. Three years later, Rev. Brown was elected General Secretary/Treasurer of the Pilgrim Holiness denomination.

In 1955, under the direction of Eula Irish, the Junior Choir of 38 children performed often in church. In 1960 they became the Youth Choir and were chosen to attend and perform at the National Pilgrim Youth Convention in Winona Lake, Indiana.

This close-knit group continues to meet today. They're now known as the 50's/60's group. Many of them still attend and are involved in ministries here at Flint First still today.

## LAY MINISTER

Lay Minister Jay Morningstar 1913 – 1915

## PASTORS

Rev. Charles Cliff	1915 – 1917
Rev. B.O. Shattuck	1917 – 1923
Rev. L. W. Sturk	1923 – 1937
Rev. J. C. Brillhart	1937 – 1939
Dr. Alton S. Joppie	1939 – 1945
Rev. August C. Doehring	1945 – 1952
Rev. W. Nelson Miller	1952 – 1954
Rev. D. Wayne Brown	1954 – 1966
Rev. Roy Webster	1966 – 1977
Rev. Jay DeNeff	1977 – 1988
Rev. Kenneth J. Boschee	1988 – 1992
Rev. Dale V. Freed	1992 – 1997
Rev. Max Amstutz (Interim)	1997 – 1998
Rev. Jim M. Salo	1998 – 2003
Rev. Roger A. Parsons	2003 – 2009
Rev. Thom VerWys	2009 – 2015
Rev. Scott Grigonis	2015 – 2020
Rev. John Kral	2020 – 2022
Rev. Bill Kinnan (Interim)	2022 – 2023
Rev. Chad and Rev. Amy Amoss	2023 – Present

“Therefore, my dear brothers stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”  
1 Corinthians 15:58



# 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Remembering the Past – Embracing the Present – Anticipating the Future*

Prelude Music - Recorded	Mary Ann Green Church Pianist Over 50 Years
Welcome & Remarks	Pastors Chad & Amy Amoss
“House of the Lord”	Praise Team, Director Cora Amoss
Historical Presentation	Narrated by Pastor Amy Amoss
Honoring Longest Living Member Enid (Doehring) Reed	Ida Mae Hodgson
“Every Need Supplied” - Solo	Betty Ann (McCulley) Merritt
City of Flint Proclamation Presented	Pastor Dennis Rouse
Remembering the Past	Mark Wagner
Prayer & Offering Prayer	Pastor Amy Amoss
Offering – Recorded	Mary Ann Green
Note from Rev. Micah Rogers	Judy Hendrix
Video from Former Pastor	Pastor Roger Parsons
“Oceans”	Praise Team, Director Cora Amoss All former choir members to platform during last chorus
Choir “Press On”	Directed by Gloria (Young) Bujak
Video from Former Pastor	Pastor Dale Freed
Embracing the Present	Pastor Chad Amoss

Video Greeting from Great Lakes Region Rev. Chris Conrad

“Mercy Came Running” Pastor Chad & Bruce Jordan

Anticipating our Future from Pastor Jay DeNeff Mark Wagner

Prayer for our Pastors/Leaders/Future Mark Wagner

Closing Words & Benediction Pastor Chad Amoss

Closing Music – Recorded Mary Ann Green

Please remain in your pews until dismissed by ushers.



We extend our sincere thanks to all those individuals who so willingly gave of their time and talents to make this day possible.

The Historic Committee



DVDs of the service are available for a donation of \$5.00. Please see someone at the Welcome Desk after the luncheon.