

# **Hanover United Methodist Church 1846-2021**

**Celebrating 175 Years of Living and Serving in Hanover, IN**



## **History of Hanover United Methodist Church 1846-2021**

*Note: This updated history was compiled by R. Keith Howard from histories written by Mrs. Clyde Jobe (1954), and Dr. Fredric M. Mullet (1984) obtained from the archives of the United Methodist Church housed at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN, the 1996 updated history prepared by Ken Schneider, and from the Hanover UMC archives (along with other materials), as well as the online archives of the Madison Courier, and with contributions by Alanagh Pimlott and Ken and Claudia Schneider*

Judge Williamson Dunn purchased the land area of modern Hanover from the federal government on November 28, 1808. The following year, Dunn resettled his entire family to the area, and they became the first residents of a town called "Dunn's Settlement," which would later come to be known as Hanover.

While the Hanover Presbyterian Church would be founded in 1820, it would be another 26 years before there was a permanent Methodist home in Hanover, though the Methodist Circuit Riders were certainly in the area well before then. Hanover would have been part of the Silver Creek Circuit, one of the first recognized circuits in Indiana. On July 2, 1846, Judge Dunn, and his wife Mary, deeded Lot No. 6 in the Trustee's Addition in Hanover to the following Trustees: Nathan T. Reed, Benjamin Thomas, David Thomas, Edwin E. G. Leland, and Basil H. Warfield for \$1.00, provided that they erect on this property, a house of worship, for the Hanover Methodist Episcopal (ME) Church, as it was known at its founding. Thus, began a tradition of service by Methodists in Hanover. The Reverend H.S. Talbot is the first recorded pastor in 1849.

The first church was built in 1847 but proved adequate for only a few years. While there were calls for a new and bigger building, that did not occur until 1878 when the old church was rebuilt and enlarged. It became a white frame, three room structure. At approximately the same time, the church bell, which is still in use in 2020, was acquired and presented by Mr. Samuel H. Tull.

The Ladies Aid Society was active from nearly the beginning of the Hanover M. E. Church. According to Brunger, Ladies Aid Societies were active in the Methodist church from the early 1850s. The Ladies Aid Society was described as:

The Ladies Aid Society is the backbone of most of our Churches, and . . . the most indispensable agency in the Church. Many a weak church, in town or country, depends on the Ladies Aid Society to bring up the pastor's salary, current expenses and benevolences, all of which would show serious deficits but for the efforts of these faithful and tireless workers. And when a building project is launched, or a debt-raising, in the average church the 'Ladies Aid' is expected to, and does, make the biggest subscription. And always pays it!

Over time, the Ladies Aid Society evolved to the current United Methodist Women (UMW). It is still the backbone of the church and HUMC is blessed to have an active UMW.



*A sketch of the former church building by Ken Schneider*

During the appointment of Reverend Guy Lowery (1924-25), the church organized a chapter of the Epworth League for the young people. The Epworth League is a Methodist young adult association for people aged 18 to 35 and was founded in 1889 in Cleveland, Ohio. It is now known as the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF).

While Reverend Grace Harris (1925-28) served the church, a Sunday School wing was added to the church. While there is not much recorded about Reverend Harris, her appointment would have been a progressive move in 1925, since according to “United Methodism in Indiana,” by John Baughman, the ordination of women in the church occurred 1920. Other sources indicate that women were given limited clergy rights in 1925. Reverend Harris did write an autobiography in 1971. Reverend Harris grew up in the Vevay, IN area. She was single at the time she served at Hanover. It was a four-point charge. She studied for two years at the Eliza Gamble Deaconess Home and Missionary Training School in Cincinnati. After graduation, she was consecrated at the annual conference in Lima, Ohio. She first served in a “slum district” in Cincinnati and later as a preacher’s aid in a large church (unspecified by her). She attended a District Conference in Madison and received her Local Preacher License and was appointed to a church in Madison for four years. She was then appointed to Hanover and the other churches in the charge. While at the charge, Reverend William Marshall, a retired Baptist preacher proposed to her. After prayerful consideration she accepted. After a couple of years, she retired from active service and they moved to Austin, IN, where she continued to be active in the life of the church, including playing a role in starting the local Pilgrim Holiness Church. We would not have another woman pastor appointed to serve our congregation until Reverend Betsy Baxendale in 1987. Reverend Marshall was the great-grandfather of Leonard Lichlyter.

A few years after the addition, the trustees purchased the property of Miss Mary Stillhammer (around 1932-36). The home was remodeled into the parsonage. In 1952, property was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy LaGrange for a new parsonage which was built in 1953. That parsonage is still in use in 2020.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church joined to form the Methodist Church. At that time, the name of the church in Hanover was changed to Hanover Methodist Church.

In the fall of 1954, the congregation decided to construct a new modern house of worship. A fundraising campaign was held from February 6-13, 1955, under the guidance of the National Board of Missions. A successful drive was held, raising \$24,798.60 (\$240,846 in 2020 dollars) was raised in cash and pledges. Mr. and Mrs. LaGrange donated the two lots for the new church on land adjacent to the parsonage. The church purchased a third lot from the LaGrange's for a parking lot and future expansion.

In 1954, the men of the church caught up with the women and received a charter of the Methodist Men's group. The president was Wallace Patterson, vice president, Russel Smart, and secretary-treasurer, Uyda Hartley.

Groundbreaking was held on September 14, 1955, with District Superintendent Dr. Lee S. Jarrett presiding. Construction began in May 1956.



*Rev. Orville Carmichael & District Superintendent Lee Jarret at the groundbreaking  
(Photo courtesy of the Archives at DePauw University)*

After a final worship service at the old church on Palm Sunday, April 14, 1957, with much emotion, the congregation walked to the new church building singing "Onward Christian Soldiers". It did not have any pews and much work was still to be completed. Reverend Orville Carmichael was pastor and during this time and provided a significant amount of work on the new structure. The facility included a 260-seat sanctuary, a kitchen, dining room, and classrooms.



The old church building was sold to the First Baptist Church for \$11,000 with a date of possession of Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, the church building burned down shortly after First Baptist bought it.

The first worship service in the new building was held on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1957. Construction was completed on September 18, 1957 at a cost of \$57,500. The congregation obtained a loan of \$14,500 to be paid off over a ten-year period.

On December 8, 1957, Bishop Richard C. Raines consecrated the new church home.

The church bell was moved from the old church to the new facility. The bell has a special place in the history of the church. When the church was enlarged in 1878. According to Mr. Joseph Officer of Lancaster, IN, the bell had belonged to another denomination that had become inactive. A neighboring farmer wanted the land where the defunct church. The farmer had to track down the only known surviving member of that church, who, according to the story, “was brought low by drink” and sold the church and graveyard to the farmer. Mr. Samuel H. Tull bought the bell and gave it to the church. Either in 1957 or 1958 William Stillhammer removed the bell, by himself, from the old church, borrowed Ray Wingham’s truck and took it to the current church. Mr. Stillhammer and William Cole built a temporary structure with two poles and a crossbar to hand the bell until the memorial bell tower was consecrated in 1964.

The roadside bulletin board was erected in 1960 through memorial gifts as was as the bell tower in 1963.

Also, in 1963, an outreach program to students at Hanover College was started. It was called the Looseknits, an organization of Methodist students at the College that enabled those students to be part of the life of Hanover Methodist Church and to maintain ties to the Methodist Church while in college.

A joyous day occurred in the life of the congregation on February 7, 1967 with the celebration of paying off the ten-year loan for the facility. The Hanging of the Green event was started in 1967 as well.

On April 23, 1968, at a uniting conference held in Dallas, TX, the Methodist Church, and the Evangelical Brethren Church merged to become the United Methodist Church. Therefore, the name of the church was changed from Hanover Methodist Church to Hanover United Methodist Church.

The 125 anniversary of the founding of Hanover Methodist Church was held in July 1971. 1971 also saw the church become a one-point charge, meaning that it no longer shared a pastor with another United Methodist Church. This change required the buyout of Zoar United Methodist Church’s share of the parsonage.

The year 1974 was a memorable one for the citizens of Hanover as a tornado ripped through the community on April 3, 1974. While the church itself was unscathed, the homes and businesses of many members were damaged, and the high school was destroyed. The church served as a relief and supply center for many weeks after the storm.

The life of the church was impacted by the building of the Marble Hill Nuclear Power Plan just 12 miles away. The construction, which lasted from 1977 until the half-completed project was halted in 1984, brought many new families to the area, some who became active members of the church. The project was scrapped due to increasing costs and safety concerns over nuclear energy.

In September of 1980, due to increasing attendance, in part from Marble Hill, the church began offering two services, a practice that continues to this day.

A fun activity during this time was the women's and men's softball teams that played other area churches. The women's team was quite successful winning several trophies.



Men's softball team, circa late 1970's, early 1980's  
Photo courtesy of Mary Hallgarth

Front Row: Mark Gray, Chris Kindelspergee, Larry Wykoff, David Stucker, and Wayne Davis  
Second Row: Jim Loper, Rick Schnebelt, Jeff Shepherd, Mel Adams, and Darwin Hallgarth  
Third Row: Bob Pimlott, Chad Kleopfer, Larry Shepherd, Bob Cupp, and Bill Mann.

On April 26, 1981, the new pipe organ dedicated. Its purchase was facilitated by memorial funds including a rather large bequest by the estate of Mrs. Hazel Beck. Interestingly enough, she was the granddaughter of Samuel Tull who acquired and donated the church bell.

The parsonage was expanded and remodeled in 1982. Two bedrooms, a family room, and a bathroom were added. A dedication service was held on November 7, 1982. The Reverend Orville Carmichael, the first resident of the parsonage, returned for the dedication. He shared with the audience that he created the large cross that is still in use, even though he thought it would be used only temporarily!

In 1995, a long-awaited dream was realized with the addition of stained-glass windows. The front four-pane bay windows depict Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, the Nativity, and the Ascension of Christ. The side windows in the church and the narthex show the Crucifixion, Jesus the Good Shepherd, the Escape to Egypt, Christ and the Children, Christ Knocking at the Door, and Christ Praying at the Garden of Gethsemane.

In 1996, HUMC celebrated 150 Years of Walking the Faith in Hanover. A special postmark was created and used by the Hanover Post Office to celebrate the occasion on August 2, 1996. A Homecoming



Weekend was celebrated on September 14-15. On the 14<sup>th</sup> a pitch-in picnic was held along with a slide and video demonstration, concluding with a hymn sing. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the cornerstone was rededicated, a buffet dinner was held, with a celebration cake, and a historical drama. The celebration also included items for sale such as an 8 ½ inch plates, mugs, Christmas ornaments and notecards.

This period was a time of tremendous growth of the congregation. In 1994 and 1995, the average worship attendance was 104. In 1996, it increased to 126 and by 1999, the average worship attendance was 135.

In 1998, the Church had a facilities study performed by Byron Stuart Boyd and Associates, Architecture and Planning, PC. Among the recommendations of that report released in May 1998, was to purchase the Ponder properties (a vacant lot and home) north of the parsonage, relocate the sound system from the front of the sanctuary to the rear, consider purchasing a new parsonage (because it is no longer in vogue to have parsonages next to the church and would provide room for expansion), chancel area expansion, and building expansion and remodeling. The report further stated that if the parsonage were relocated and the Ponder properties acquired that a facility accommodating 250-400 worshipers could be built on the property.

Here is part of the closing statement from that report:

Hanover United Methodist Church is something of a victim of its own successful growth over the years. It is becoming more obvious that this growth is now being limited primarily by its building facility. There are short term things which can be done to make more active use of the existing facility at different times other than the traditional Sunday morning. Beyond that, this church must work with the District, Conference, and its own local congregation to determine ways to expand and remodel their building facility "TOOL" to meet the needs of the growing ministry in this growing community.

Back in 1993, Hanover United Methodist Church was not able to complete an expansion plan to assist Hanover College with a daycare operation. Now once again the Holy Spirit is knocking at the door with another REAL opportunity for this congregation to make a commitment to grow, to expand to better serve the growing needs of the community. As in 1993, the congregation is now at another of those important forks in the road where a major decision about the future must be made.

On September 11, 2001, tragedy struck our nation as 16 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners. Two were used to fly into the Twin Towers in New York City, leveling the two buildings. One was flown into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and the fourth landed in a field in Pennsylvania. On that following

Sunday, September. 16, 2001, the church bell that Mr. Samuel Tull acquired for the original building and moved to the current building rang, once every few seconds, on and on and on. Ironically, that Sunday had been previously designated as the International Day of Peace.

In 2003, The Trustees took out a 30-year loan of \$150,000 from church members Charles and Pauline Hensler to purchase the three lots to the east of the parsonage from Mr. Maynard Ponder. Two of the lots were vacant, with the middle lot having a home. On March 17, 2003, the sale of the Ponder property was recorded with the Jefferson County Clerk's office. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, a grand opening was held for the The Open Hands, Open Hearts House. After spending years in a garage, an apartment, and then a church basement, the Hanover United Methodist and Hanover Presbyterian churches' thrift shop relocated into the former Ponder residence. At that time, the thrift shop and food pantry were 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday.

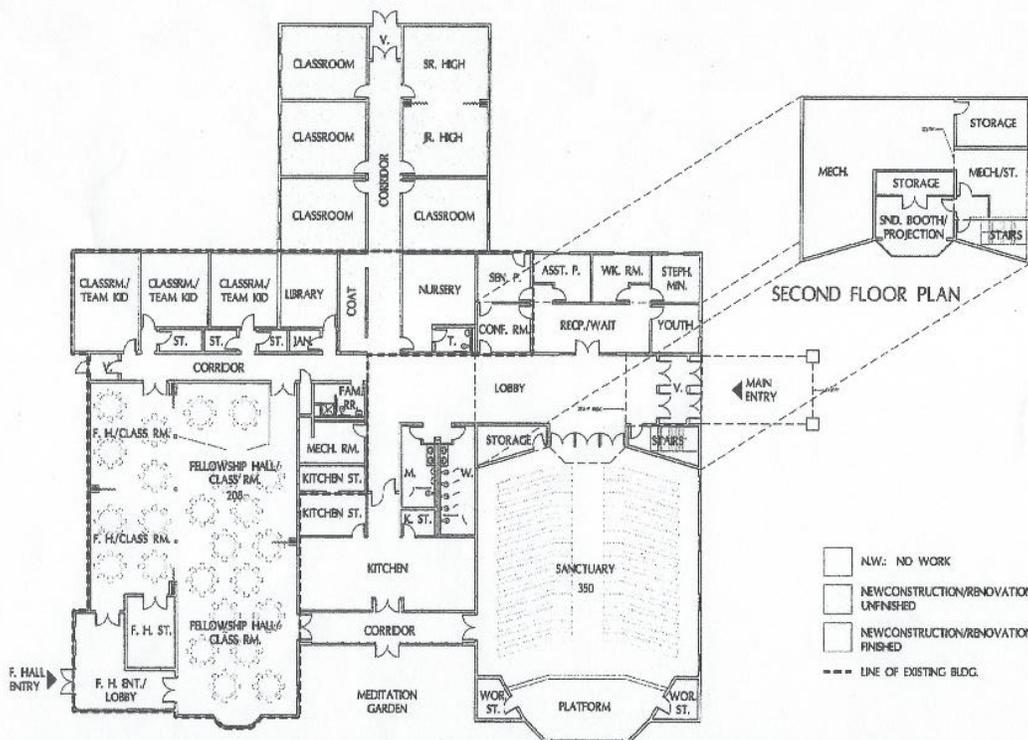
By 2005, the average attendance number had surged to 190 in worship. This put considerable pressure on the physical plant, so on April 17<sup>th</sup> of that year, a Charge Conference was held, and a Building Committee was commissioned. A land survey and topographical study was done, a church-wide needs assessment



*Groundbreaking with Norma Croxton*

was completed, and an architectural Master Plan was developed. The South Indiana Conference assisted with some of these expenses through a redevelopment grant. The decision was made to only build what could be paid for by the total of cash raised and two-year pledges. The congregation prioritized their needs and elected to build an expanded fellowship hall and commercial-grade kitchen. On June 25, 2008, a groundbreaking ceremony was held with four shovels in a circle, each symbolizing a different part of the church's journey; one shovel for the past, one for the present, one for the future and another for the Holy Spirit.

Given the directive to only build the amount of space that was funded, the east wall of the expansion was not going to be all the way out to the existing east wall of the old fellowship hall. In a final funding campaign named "Move That Wall", enough additional money was raised to square up the footprint of the building. One Sunday after worship, the congregation went out to the construction area, and using markers wrote on the wall studs their hopes, dreams, and prayers for the use of the space. The construction was completed in the spring of 2009. The area was consecrated on June 14, 2009, with Reverends. Brian White, Southeast District Superintendent, Greg Pimlott, former member, and son of members Bob and Alanagh Pimlott, and Vickie Perkins and Glenn Perkins, pastors, HUMC.



*Plans for Final Church New Construction and Renovation*

participating. The project cost \$388,238. This did not include outfitting the kitchen. Ms. Andy Buxton led the charge of outfitting the kitchen buying appropriate industrial kitchen equipment, often times traveling to auctions and other places to buy new and gently used items.

In March of 2007, the church was given \$2,000 by the Town of Hanover to fix up the basement boiler room as a storm shelter. The funding will provide plumbing, moving of a sump pump and hot water heater, painting and leveling of floors, storage for water and blankets, benches and general clean-up. The shelter can accommodate 80 people. While Southwestern Elementary School and Hanover Presbyterian Church had shelters, there were no nearby shelters for residents living near the church. The Madison Courier, in an editorial, cited this partnership as a good thing and it doesn't take much money, instead, "All it takes is a willingness to open our doors to serve others."

The year 2008 marked a major milestone in the life of Indiana Methodists as the two conference that made up the Indiana Area, the North Indiana, and the South Indiana (which is the conference Hanover was located) conferences, voted to merge into one conference, the Indiana Conference with the Reverend Michael Coyner serving as bishop.

In 2014, at the August 26<sup>th</sup> special charge conference, the leadership voted to move from having a board of trustees to a board of directors. This was undertaken to gain added legal protections for the church.

On June 28, 2015, the church celebrated the retirement of the mortgage taken out to purchase the Ponder properties with a mortgage burning party between the two worship services.



*Living room of Hannah's Harbor*

As a church looking for ways to serve the community, the former Ponder home took on a new role in 2018. The Church partnered with Jefferson County Transitional Services Inc. (JCTS), operators of the Ruth Haven home for women in substance abuse recovery in Madison, to have the home become Hannah's Harbor. An open house for the new home was held on January 14, 2018. As previously noted, the home has been used to house the food pantry. The home can accommodate up to three women at a time, who will stay six months to a year, as they continue to attend meetings, work and pay rent. They will have the added responsibility of paying utilities and buying their own food. They also will be expected to mentor women at the Ruth Haven house, but they will no longer be monitored 24/7 and, therefore, will have considerably more freedom.

The year 2020 is unlike any year since 1918. In March, not only the country, but most of the world was shut down due to the pandemic known as COVID-19 or the Coronavirus. Indiana Conference Bishop Julius C. Trimble, along with the Indiana Governor, Eric Holcomb (a Hanover College graduate) asked churches to stop meeting in person. The church was closed from the middle of March until a limited reopening on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the congregation learned new ways to serve the community. The Food Pantry, which operates on the second and fourth Friday of the month, moved to preparing boxes to be loaded into cars as they drove past the north door of the Fellowship Hall. Ken and Claudia Schneider organized a free plant give-away. A free will donation for pie and ice cream was held to support the Kids Unplugged program, which unfortunately, had to be suspended. The annual Trunk or Treat program was still held following social distancing and we participated in the Halloween Drive through at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. During the shutdown, Pastor Harley began to broadcast sermons and communion over Facebook. We continue to broadcast our 8:00 sermon over Facebook because we learned we reached an audience that was not coming to our building to worship, plus shut-ins and others could be a part of our church family. Pastor Harley also developed a Bible Bed Times Stories with Pastor Harley and Mr. Cuddles via Facebook to reach out to families during the pandemic.



*Bedtime stories with Pastor Harley and Mr. Cuddles*

The pandemic continued into 2021. The church was able to open again in April, just before Easter. The turn of the calendar brought another change as Pastor Harley was placed on medical leave. However, as one door closes another one opens. Former pastor, Steve Cherry returned on an interim basis until Pastor Luke Richards was appointed to begin on July 1, 2021. We were blessed to have Reverend Cherry return to bring stability and provide a transition for Pastor Luke.

## Images of Hanover UMC during the Pandemic of 2020-2021



*Drive thru pie and ice cream*



Zoom

*A sign on the pew for social distancing*



*Operation Christmas Child*



*Zoom coffee hour*



*A service during COVID-19*

## **In conclusion**

The community of faith known as Hanover United Methodist Church will be celebrating 175 wonderful years on July 11, 2021. Reverend Allen Amstutz will return to the pulpit to share with us, just as he did for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will also welcome our new pastor, the Reverend Luke Richards and his family that Sunday.

As we celebrate our 175 years of service, worship, fellowship, and caring in Hanover and Jefferson County, we are extremely thankful for those who paved the way and demonstrated to us how to faithfully serve God and to love one another. That celebration will mark the beginning of the ministry of Luke Richards as the next pastor of HUMC.

While we do not know what tomorrow brings, let alone, the next 25 years, we look forward with a smile on our face and joy in our heart to learn what God has in store for the community of faith called Hanover United Methodist Church. We will open our hearts and minds as we discern God's call for the future.

We thank the many pastors and their families who served our church over the past 175 years. Each one of them, in ways great and small, made us a better congregation. You have been with us through the good times and bad times in our lives. You picked us up when we were down, and you guided us through difficult times. We know that we were probably not always easy to live with and we thank you for your loving us anyway.

We also thank the musicians, the Sunday School teachers, trustees, chairs and members of all of the various committees, administrative assistants, custodial staff, and the hundreds of volunteers that made a difference in the lives of our young people.

Finally, we are so happy that we serve the risen Savior together as a church family.

## Pastors of Hanover Methodist Episcopal Church, Hanover Methodist Church and Hanover United Methodist Church

### Pastors Before 1900

Up to the 1900 's the ministers are known by name, but not definite years of service.

G. S. Potts	E.W. Melander	Gilbert Curtis	W.W. Snyder (2 terms)
Michael Black	B. Morrison	Samuel Weeks	W.R. Lathrop
Sidney Tinker	William McGinnis	W.S. Jordan	A.B. Hester
C. C. Haliday	S. A. Bright	J.G. O'Neal	R.S. Golbert
William Weeks	C.B. Larabee	L. Forbes	Lewis King
William Harrison	D.C. Benjamin	A.M. Lowden	John Miller
J.G. Chafee	J. L. Funkhouser	L. D Adkinson	James Beswick
E. P. Jewett	I. W. Allen	W. C. Crawford	W. R. Plummer

### Pastors From 1900 through 2021

<u>Served</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Served</u>	<u>Name</u>	
	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>		<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>
1900-01	J. N.	German	1947-1949	Byron	Bastin
1901-02	H. M.	Elwyn	1948-1949	Edward	Richards
1903-1904	H.A.	Broadwell	1950-1952	Ronall	Woodall
1905-1907	S.A.	Morrow	1952		Farr
1908-1910	H. J.	Leddel	1952	Clyde	Black
1911-1913	T. J.	Hart	1952	Ronald	Williams
1914-1916		Henderson	1952-1960	Orville	Carmichael
1917	Joseph	Cooper	1960-1964	William	Huckabone
1918	I. W.	Dennis	1964-1966	Jack	Wallace
1919		Regan	1966-1969	John Curtis	Beatty
1920	Enoch	Brindley	1969-1971	James Edward	Taylor
1921-1923	R. W.	Parsley	1971-1974	Stephen Ray	Cherry
1924	Guy	Lowery	1975-1984	Allen W.	Amstutz
1925-1928	Grace	Harris	1984-1987	Mitchell Curtis	Giesleman
1929	H. I.	Holden	1987-1991	Betsey McCallum	Baxendale
1930-32	J. M	Taylor	1991-1996	Laurence Landon	Stewart
1932-36	C. O.	Carnes	1996-2010	Vicki Burr	Perkins
1936-1940	George	Curtis	2002-2010	Glenn	Perkins (associate pastor)
1940-1941	Clyde	Onyet	2010-2013	Jeanne Susan	Winter
1941-1942	Lawrence	Terrell	2013-2016	Robert Leo	Cannon
1943-1944	Emery	Fulling	2016-2019	Melissa	Englehart
1945-1946	Robert	Roland	2019-2021	Daniel "Harley"	Helm
			2021 -	Luke	Richards

# Recent Pictures Celebrating the Life of Hanover United Methodist Church









## Our Pastors During the Last 25 Years



*Vickie Perkins, 1996-2010*



*Jeanne Winter, 2010-2013*



*Bob Cannon, 2013-2016*



*Melissa Englehart, 2016-2019*



*Daniel "Harley" Helm, 2019-2021*

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