

First United Methodist Church Lancaster, Texas -- Timeline

Date	Pastor	Narrative
1868	Andrew Davis	The church was organized on May 25, 1868.
1868-1869	T.W. Hines	Services were held in the Masonic Hall. Several times in the Baptist Church.
1870-1871	William Price	
1872	A.D. Gaskill	
1873-1874	John S. Davis	First property purchased was a lot where the present sanctuary stands. A one room church was built on the lot, with separate entrances and seating arrangements for men and women.
1875	G.W. Groves	
1876	Samuel Morris	"The Big Revival" from December 16, 1876 to January 17, 1877 was held. All businesses were closed for worship.
1877	J. D. Shaw	Lancaster and Wesley Station. The first parsonage was built on the west side of Hall's Branch. The Ladies Aid Society was organized with 8 members. Earliest record shows 110 members of the Church.
1878-1879	M.D. Fly	Church services were slim. There were 5 stewards and trustees. The Ladies Aid Society purchased 2 cemetery lots for \$10.00
1880	H.S.P. Ashby	The pastor was transferred to Stephenville.
1881	J.T. Walkup	Membership roll was corrected. Charges were brought against those who did not pay, and if no good excuse, were dropped.

1882	H.B. Henry	Lancaster was made a circuit with Hutchins and Wheatland.
1884-1886	George B. Owens	Spiritual condition fair. Sunday School in good shape. The second parsonage was built on what is not Cedar Street. A second tract of land, in the middle of the lot, was also purchased.
1887	J.W. Owens	No pledges, members were assessed. The church picking up spiritually.
1888	C.H. Ellis	The first annual meeting of the Woman's Society in conference held. Church doing fairly well.
1889-1891	C.G. Shutt	Quarterly conferences were begun. Parents not using proper means to persuade children to attend Sunday School. Strong entrenchment of Satan (Sabbath breaking, gambling and profanity). Cotton the cause of lack of spirituality. People are not too religious when prosperous. The Epworth League is organized (a forerunner of MYF).
1892	J.P. Childreess	Church doing as well as could be expected. Joining the Church is stressed, but not "ye must be born again".
1893-1894	F.M. Winburne	Lancaster, Ferris and Waxahachie circuit. State of church seems in keeping with the Texas western church. Children given instruction concerning their salvation.
1895-1896	Seaborn Crutchfield	Was a pathfinder, blazing the trail for others to follow.
1897	P.A. Edwards	
1898-1899	C.A. Spraggins	Church spirituality increasing. Prospects look good.

1900	John W. Reynolds	
1901-1902	J.F. Archer	Prayer meetings slim on the part of the male members. Sunday School well officered. New name for the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society.
1903	J.F. Clifton	Through canvas of town interest of Sunday School. Church doing quiet well.
1904	J.G. Morelock	Need more family altars.
1905	C.E. Lamb	Pious men and women in the membership.
1906	Franklin Moorelook	Lancaster made a station. Many love God and will not bow their to Baal.
1907-1908	J.B. Davis	Tent revival resulted in abut 160 conversions. League had additives from converts. Sunday school meeting in one room; very crowded.
1908-1910	H.H. Vaughn	Encouraged building a new church. Spiritual condition good. Third tract of land, in northwest corner, purchased. Reverend Vaughn died in 1910.
1910	C.L. Dealy	Filled out year after Vaughn died. Praised his good work.
1911	T.G. Peterson	Second church built on northeast corner of lot.
1912-1914	S.T. Francis	Sunday School best in the history of the church. Union revival meeting.
1915-1916	E.L. Wright	Sunday School on a big boom. Two hundred sixty one on roll. Protracted meeting. Prayer meetings well attended. Spiritual interest good.
1917	W.C. Howell	Supporting a Bible woman in China. Church free from debt. Dedicated in June.

1918-1920	S.C. Riddle	Prayer meetings characterized by spiritual fervor. General condition good. Winter of 1918 so severe, meetings were interrupted.
1921	F.C. Adams	Nine Sunday School teachers received credits in teacher training at the Standard Training School held in Dallas. Primary and Beginners Departments have been separated by a curtain. No great issues have been fought out in the church.
1922-1924	T.J. Beckham	Interest growing in prayer meetings. Church moving along in a quiet, peaceably and progressive manner.
1925	Bert B. Hall	Church continuing to make progress. Had a good revival meeting. League in a slump, but plenty of good material. Pastor moved before his year was up.
1925	O.P. Kiker	Property needs complete renovation. Education Day observed.
1926	E.W. Alderson	Two hundred fifty members. Future looks good, Pastor labored under serious physical disability.
1927	W. Frazier Smith	Special drives or contests in Sunday School. New life and determination in Church.
1928-1929	Bert B. Hall	Hope to receive not less than 50 into the church the first year. Plans for special meetings each month when problems arise. Fourteen conference members.
1930	Earl M. Jones	New roof on parsonage and entire house papered. Attendance holding up pretty good in 90° weather. Nineteen on cradle roll.

1931	F. B. Wheeler	Fourth Sunday is observed as Missionary Day. Adopted the weekly payment plan as the method of raising church finances. Revival began Easter Sunday.
1932	Earl G. Hamilton	Deeper evidence of Christian discipleship. Morning worship services well attended. Pastor made and printed all bulletins. Ten minute instruction to children each Sunday morning before Sunday School. Board of Religious Education functioning.
1933-1934	W.J. Fenton	Pastor made proposition to Conference - if he did not visit every home in the charge at least 4 times during the year the church would owe him nothing. He was paid. Personal solicitations and envelope system. Membership 350. League re-organized.
1935-1937	J. W. Slagle	Found some indifference, but no objectionable attitudes. Bishop's Crusade observed. Furnishings of church and parsonage improved.
1938-1940	L.B. (Pete) Trone	Attendance in public worship increasing. Morning worship prior to Sunday School. Weekly summer services conducted at Camp Cedarbrook. Eight to two hundred children each week. Eighteen stewards, 9, trustees, 48 in Woman's Society.
1941	Emmett G. Camster	Spiritual growth in church. Both morning and evening services well attended. Revival held in the spring.
1942	J.W. Polk	Some growth in Sunday Schools. Parents are asked to have their children make pledges. Need all pews filled.

1943	W.G. Barr	Pastor given the authority to write letters to those member who are in arrears. \$555 invested in war bonds. Building fund accumulation for future use. Tithe box place in the church.
1945	C.L. Bounds	First electronic organ in honor of soldiers killed in WWII. Group insurance plan of North Texas Confederate endorsed by church. Parsonage leveled and repaired.
1946	S.P. Farler	Lay delegate to annual conference could not stay entire time due to wheat harvest. Welcoming committee to greet new members and tell them about envelop system.
1948-1949	W.W. Pittman	First year of the Lancaster Methodist Messenger, forerunner of the Spire, written by the Pastor. First typewriter purchased. New educational building. General assembly of church school every 5th Sunday. Birthday parties for church members held each month with good programs.
1950	David Spradling	Pastor for a short time; left to serve as a navy Chaplin. Joint brotherhood meetings held monthly at the Community House. Church to buy flowers for all deceased church members. Ralph Slagle served as interim pastor.

1950-1952	A.T. Mays	Methodist Men organized. Authority given Pastor by stewards to reinstate any member upon request. Union Revival, exchange of churches and pastors. After last Board meeting of the year, the pastor entertained members with a chicken supper.
1953-1960	Neyland Hester	Moved sanctuary furnishings from east/west to north/south. Chancel area in north. Parsonage sold to a member and moved directly back of church lot. Present sanctuary built and opened for worship by Bishop Martin. Most all of the furnishings were from memorials. Acolyte program began along with an altar Guild. A new parsonage at 201 Melrose was purchased. Educational Building dedicated. a wide awake and active church. First live Nativity Scene in 1957.
1961-1962	Olin Tunnell	Nativity Scene continued and enlarged. Lord's Acre Plan adopted. Methodist Men reorganized. Began taking collection at Sunday evening services -- finances need a boost, Worship services well attended.
1963-1964	Luther Hill	New building with a Fellowship Hall, classrooms, and kitchen erected and consecrated. Enchanted Tree program replaced Lord's Acre plan. Board accepts gift of Hammond organ from Cedar Crest Methodist Church which closed. A very informative booklet by pastor, "Our Church" was published. Cushions for sanctuary pews given as Honor and Memorial gifts.

1967-1973	Gray Regan	<p>A big Thanksgiving Dinner (the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving) held at the church for families and friends was well attended. Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren -- name became United Methodist Church 1968. Bus fund started. Bible Credit Program began in 1969. The lot in back of Educational building was also purchased. Woman's Society now United Methodist Women. 100th Anniversary of the church observed. Many former members and friends attended. Mortgage on parsonage paid and dedicated. We purchased lot on corner of Cedar and Elm. Lord's Acre changed to Harvest Festival changed to Harvest Festival.</p>
1974-1975	Gaither Day	<p>Pulpit exchange with Presbyterian, Christian, Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist churches during Christian Unity Week. Lay Witness Mission. Share groups for prayer, renewal witnessing and Bible Study. We had a Quaker prayer service on the National Day of Prayer.</p>

1976-1984	Bourdon Smith	<p>Transactional Analysis Series on Sunday evenings. New Allen organ installed and dedicated. Dedication of Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall with note burning. Bicentennial year of 1984 featured special services, films, etc. Church celebrated 108th anniversary with families meeting for devotional and a meal. Historical marker presented and dedicated on May 22, 1977. UMW celebrated their 100th anniversary with a birthday party. MYF held Vacation Church School for a mission church at La Feria. Church assumed responsibility for pastoral oversight of Skyline UMC. "Pony Express" financial campaign plan presented. We helped relocate a Vietnamese family. Building committee elected with project of children/youth building, and remodeling educational building. Active Family Ministries, First Crimson tree and annual nativity scene.</p>
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1984-1985	James Gatlin	<p>Pastor asked that we make full use of opportunities in worship, study, recreation and service. Worship packets were placed in pews for children to use during worship services. "Music of Broadway" presented by combined choirs (Chancel, Cherub and Glory Singers). "Building Life's Splendor - very enlighten and inspirational program expressing thanks from the building committee. Harvest Festival proceeds paid off the organ. Balance placed CD for a newer church van. Children's Christmas program was excellent.</p>
1975-1989	David Blackmon	<p>Allen organ dedicated. The addition of the new bell choir brings the total to 5 choirs for a first. Dedication of the TRAG (Transportation Agriculture) gift vehicle for 3rd World farmers. "Day Spring" Program -- renewal and regeneration for Church. Pulpit exchange with the pastor and Rev. Keith Garner, Darlington, England. United Methodist Reporter replaces "Spire" for about 2 months. Church purchase "White House". Church adopts Ejido Maria Anya in Mexico. First work team to ejido in June, 1989. Computer system installed. Sermons taped for shut-ins. New hymnals dedicated. "Walk Through the Bible", Old Testament, was a fascinating journey. Sponsored New Horizons Methodist Church.</p>
1990-1994	Joe Saylor, Jr.	<p>Charge conference voted to support the building and remodeling project. Church logo contest winner</p>

1994-1997	Don H. Yeager	<p>Clean up and repair from the tornado continued during the summer of 1994. Morning worship moved back into the sanctuary in July. New steeple installed in January, 1995. Mission trips to do flood relief in Kansas in 1994. Mission trips to Mexico in 1995 and 1996. After School Program begun in January, 1997. Believers Sunday School class started in October, 1994. Disciples Bible Study began in Fall 1994 and continued each year: 1995-1996, 1996-1997. Crusaders Sunday School Class celebrated 50 year anniversary (1946-1996).</p>
1997-2000	Rob Spencer	<p>Members received from Porter's Chapel United Methodist when church was closed Increased participation in Disciples Bible Study. Additional programs and staff added with Joan Humphries serving her internship. Mission trips to Mexico in 1997, 1998, and 1999. "Kids Day Out" program expanded. Goggans property purchased across the street. Ministry Fair held in February 1999.</p>

2000-2002	Larry C. Krohn	<p>Lancaster Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (LIMA) was reactivated and a community Unity March was held. Disciple I and II Bible studies were held along with Experiencing God study. Changed Sunday School program to rotational format. Returned to Administrative Board and Council on Ministries. Mission trips to Mexico in 2000 and the McCurdy School in 2001. New young adult class, "Alive" taught by Vic Combs. Voted to build new parsonage on Diann Street to meet North Texas Conference standards and sell parsonage on Melrose Street. Church-wide revival held, Rev. John Check. Began visioning group to establish new church mission statements. Plans begun to extend Kid's Day out Program to full day.</p>
2002-2006	Mel Caraway	<p>Mission trip to Sagar-Brown UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, LA. Disciple I and IV Bible Study. New parsonage celebrations included groundbreaking party, autographing messages on studs and beams of house, Charge conference and dedication of new parsonage on November 17, 2002. Moving day to 216 Diann was December 13, 2002. Parsonage at 201 Melrose was sold in March, 2003. Rev. Natalie Woods hired as Associate Pastor on September 15, 2002 and new organist, Whit Whittington, joined staff on February 15, 2003.</p>
2007-2009	Sara Hardaway	

2010-presented	Rick Hawkins	
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