

First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

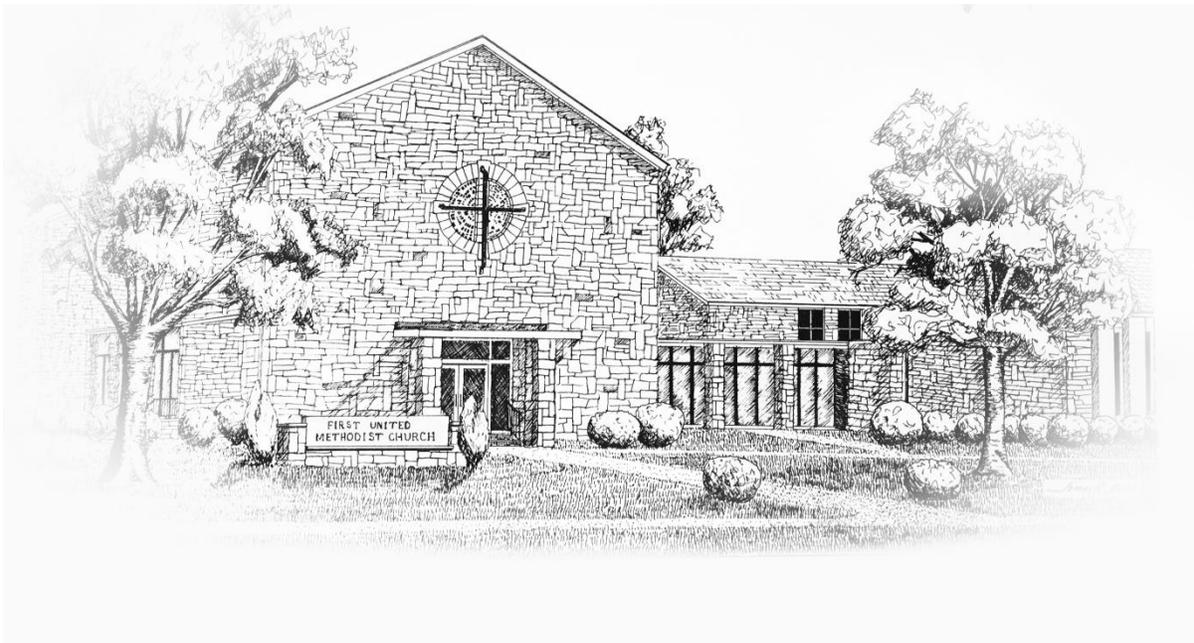
www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026



Our Mission

To make disciples for Jesus Christ through love and service

Our Vision

A loving and diverse community meeting the real needs of our neighbors through spirit-filled worship, intergenerational discipleship, and caring service

Come, Let Us Worship the Lord

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

Bach

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The voice of the Lord has gathered us today,
that we might take shelter under His wings.
For I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord.
Let us worship the Lord together.

†OPENING HYMN

To God Be the Glory

*(UMH #98)**

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

†SHARING THE PEACE

Please greet your neighbor and pass the Connect pads to register your attendance.

Proclamation

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

Childcare is available for children ages 5 and under in Room 121. Red drawstring "Worship Kid Kits" with children's bulletins are available in the entrance area each week for children to use throughout worship.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

Stainer

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who-so believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world, God sent not His Son
into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who-so believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, should not perish,
but have everlasting life, everlasting life,
everlasting, everlasting life.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
God so loved the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine the light of your Word on us, O God, that with deeper understanding of your truth and will, we may reflect the light of your love on all those around us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON

“Night School”

Pastor Duane

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Holy Communion

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, as we come to share in the richness of Your table, we confess our reluctance to share Your blessings. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. We cannot drink the cup and forget those who are thirsty. We cannot hear Your words of peace and forget a world at war. We cannot celebrate the feast of Your family and forget our divisions. Put our prosperity at the service of the poor. Put our fullness at the service of the empty. Turn our desire for power into a desire for peace. Heal Your church in every brokenness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH MUSICAL SETTINGS

(TFWS #2257a-d)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Amen, amen, amen,
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH #895)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom com,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending Forth

†CLOSING HYMN

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

(UMH #371)*

1. I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene,
and wonder how he could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!

2. For me it was in the garden
he prayed: "Not my will, but thine."
He had no tears for his own griefs,
but sweat-drops of blood for mine.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!

3. In pity angels beheld him,
and came from the world of light
to comfort him in the sorrows
he bore for my soul that night.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!

4. He took my sins and my sorrows,
he made them his very own;
he bore the burden to Calvary,
and suffered and died alone.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!

5. When with the ransomed in glory
his face I at last shall see,

'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of his love for me.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful
is my Savior's love for me!

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)*

Amen, amen, amen.

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

Praise to God

Bach

†Please stand if you are able.
*Songbooks are located in pew rack.