



First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

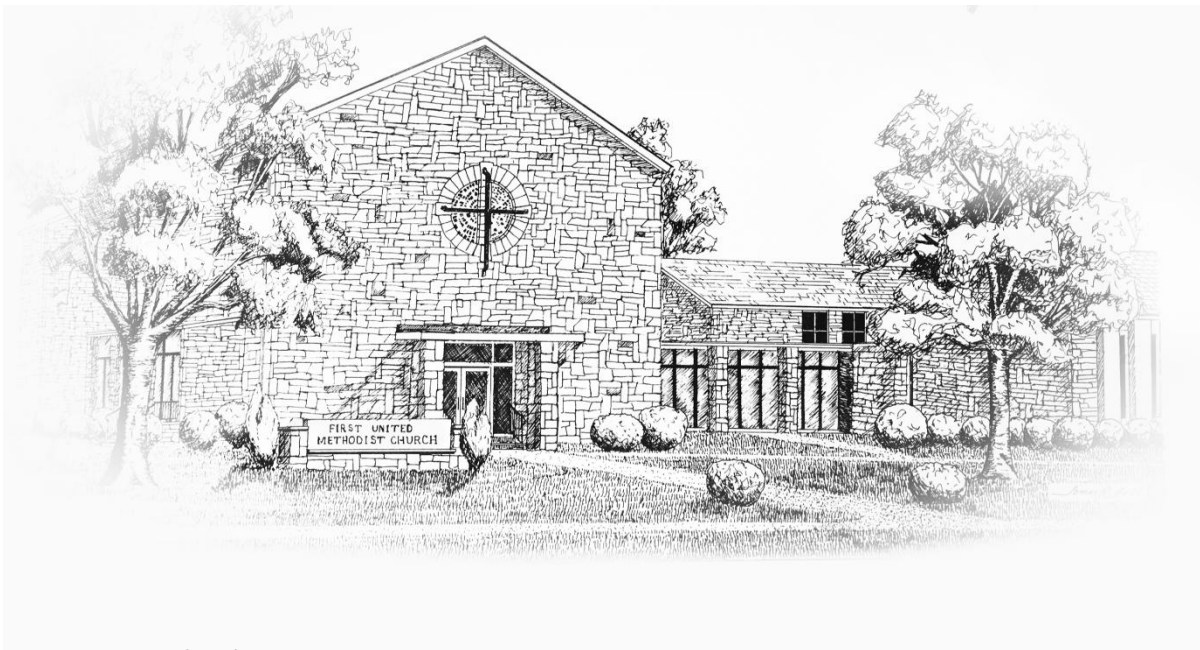
www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Frizzell

Praise Ringers

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We are persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

If Christ is risen, then we will rise with him.

If we will rise, then all things will be made new.

Worship the risen Lord; sing praises to his name; Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

†OPENING HYMN

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

(UMH #304)*

1. Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us
to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.

†SHARING THE PEACE

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

Proclamation

MISSION MOMENT

Miracle Sunday Initiative

Margaret Skulnik

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We come as seekers, O God. Open our ears, kindle a fire in our hearts, and nourish our souls with your Word. Enlighten us that we might better use our gifts to serve you and each other. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

[1 Peter 1:17-23](#)

Linda Fogleman

¹⁷ Since you call upon a Father who judges all people according to their actions without favoritism, you should conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your dwelling in a strange land. ¹⁸ Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors.

¹⁹ Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. ²⁰ Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, ²¹ who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

²² As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. ²³ Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn't. This seed is God's life-giving and enduring word.

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Brian Yoder

Childcare is available for children aged 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

We Have Seen the Risen Lord

Pethel

In the darkness, in the quiet,
we had come to anoint Him;
heavy hearted, drenched in sorrow,
how could we live without Him?

Suddenly we saw there an angel all in white,
then we knew that He had risen.

We have seen the risen Lord,
we have heard His gentle voice
saying, "Be not afraid."
We have felt His conqu'ring power,
known the glory of this hour,
we have seen the risen Lord.

We were walking to Emmaus,
we were speaking about Him;
things had happened, we were helpless,
there was no hope without Him.
Then another joined us,
and strangely warmed our hearts,
and we knew that He had risen.

We have seen the risen Lord,
we have heard His gentle voice
saying, "Be not afraid."
We have felt His conqu'ring power,
known the glory of this hour,
we have seen the risen Lord.

We were fishing, catching nothing,
wond'ring what to do without Him.
In the misty light of morning,
our lives were empty without Him.
Then a man called to us, standing on the shore,
and we knew that He had risen.

We have seen the risen Lord,
we have heard His gentle voice
saying, "Be not afraid."
We have felt His conqu'ring power,
known the glory of this hour,
we have seen the risen Lord.

We have seen the risen Lord,
we have heard His gentle voice
saying, "Be not afraid."
We have felt His conqu'ring power,
known the glory of this hour,
we have seen the risen Lord,
we have seen the risen Lord,
the risen Lord!

†SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON [Luke 24:13-35](#)

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had

happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

“Recognizing Jesus”

Pastor Duane

Response

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(UMH #895)*

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

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(UMH #881)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

†GLORIA PATRI

(UMH #71)*

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Sending Forth

RESPOND TO THE WORD

The altar is always open if you would like to pray. Feel free to stay as long as you desire. If people remain in prayer after the dismissal, those who must leave are asked to move quietly and reverently toward the back of the sanctuary.

†CLOSING HYMN

Christ Is Alive

(UMH #318)*

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.

3. Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)*

Amen, amen, amen.

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

Trumpet in Dialogue

Clerambault

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