



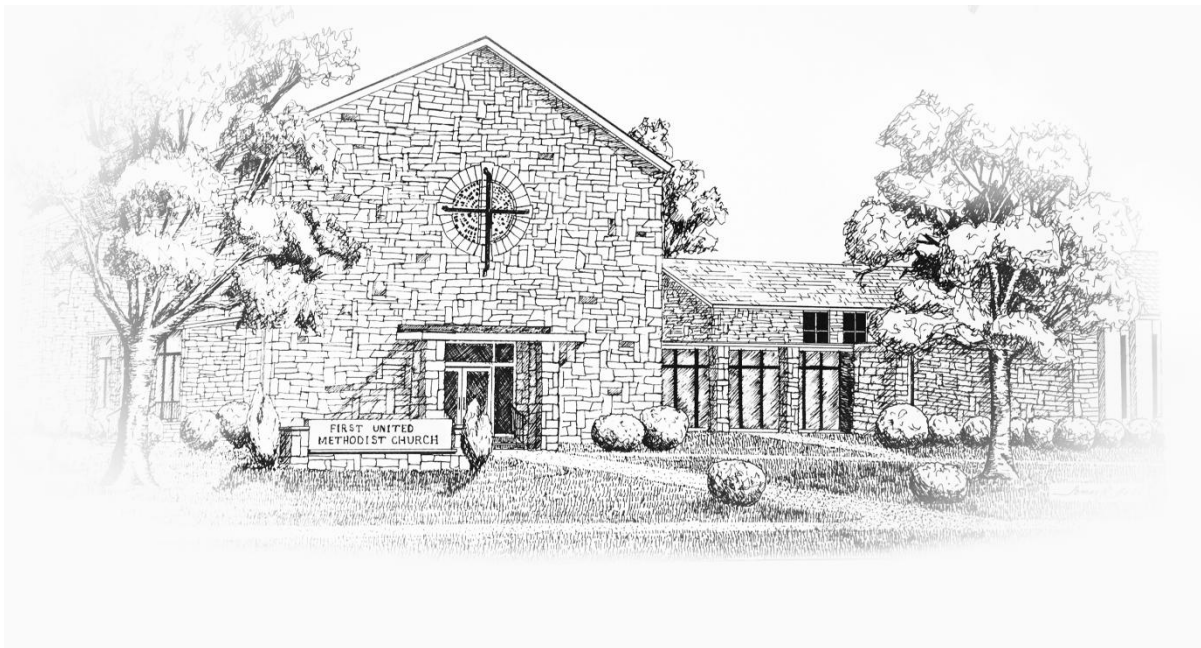
First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Thou Shalt Bring Them In

Handel

†CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began:

God was.

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven:

God is.

In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment:

God will be.

Not denying the world but delighting in it; not understanding the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit:

God was, God is, God will be.

†OPENING HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

*(UMH #189)**

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels heaven can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.

†SHARING THE PEACE

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

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Isaiah 55:10-13](#)

Ray Dorsett

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don't return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,
¹¹ so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.
¹² Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
¹³ In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This will attest to the Lord's stature,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

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

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place

arr. Schrader

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face; surely the presence
of the Lord is in this place.

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace, His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face; Surely the presence
of the Lord is in this place.

Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me, never to part, never to part.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace, His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face; surely the presence,
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
is in this place.

†GOSPEL LESSON

[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

SERMON

“Seeds of Hope”

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

Hymn of Promise

*(UMH #707)**

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

† THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

*(UMH #898)**

Amen, amen, amen.

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

Ye Sons and Daughters of the King

Willan

†Please stand if you are able.

**Songbooks are located in pew rack.*