



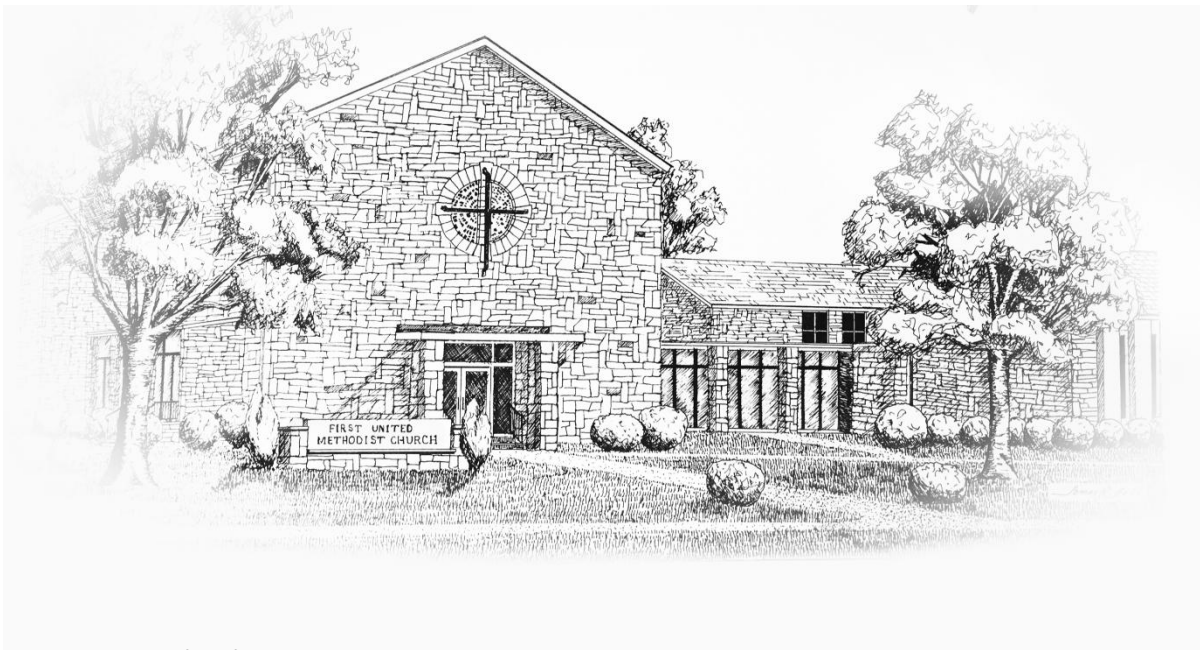
First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name

Bach

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of God's name;

give to Him glorious praise!

Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!

All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;

they sing praises to your name.

†OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*(UMH #103)**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

†SHARING THE PEACE

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

Proclamation

MISSION MOMENT

VBS Recap

Chris Fulkerson

BAPTISM

Arthur Jackson Ruggiero
Son of Drew and Laura Brink Ruggiero

Pastor:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Pastor to the parents and other sponsors:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

Pastor to the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this person with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal Father, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Pastor:

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

Congregation:

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Pastor:

Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

Congregation:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, you have given us your Word as a light to shine upon our path. Grant that we may meditate on that Word and follow its teaching, finding in it the Light that shines more and more until the perfect day. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24](#)

Roger Jones

- ¹ Lord, you have examined me.
You know me.
- ² You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
- ³ You study my traveling and resting.
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,
that you don't already know completely.
- ⁵ You surround me—front and back.
You put your hand on me.
- ⁶ That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.
- ⁷ Where could I go to get away from your spirit?
Where could I go to escape your presence?
- ⁸ If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
If I went down to the grave,[a] you would be there too!
- ⁹ If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
- ¹⁰ even there your hand would guide me;
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
- ¹¹ If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;
the light will become night around me,"
- ¹² even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!
Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!
- ²³ Examine me, God! Look at my heart!
Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!
- ²⁴ Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!

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

People Need the Lord

arr. Larson

Every day they pass me by,
I can see it in their eyes;
Empty people filled with care,
headed who knows where.
On they go through private pain,

living fear to fear;
Laughter hides their silent cries only Jesus hears.

People need the Lord, people need the Lord;
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door.
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.
When will we realize people need the Lord?

We are called to take His light
to a world where wrong seems right.
What could be too great a cost
for sharing life with one who's lost?
Through His love, our hearts can feel
all the grief they bear;
They must hear the words of life
only we can share. People need the Lord.

People need the Lord, people need the Lord;
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door,
the open door. People need the Lord,
people need the Lord. When will we realize
that we must give our lives, for people need the Lord,
the Lord? People need the Lord, people need the Lord,
people need the Lord. People need the Lord.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON [Genesis 28:10-19a](#)

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel.

SERMON

"Running Down a Dream"

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.**

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

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

(UMH #418)*

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder;
we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder;
soldiers of the cross.
2. Every round goes higher, higher;
every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher;
soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher;
we are climbing higher, higher,

we are climbing higher, higher;
soldiers of the cross.

† THE BLESSING

† CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)*

Amen, amen, amen.

† CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

† POSTLUDE

The Righteous Will Live Forever

Ritter

† Please stand if you are able.

*Songbooks are located in pew rack.