



# First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

[www.fumcgraham-nc.org](http://www.fumcgraham-nc.org)

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

***August 30, 2026***



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

### **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

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Christian Education Sunday*

*August 30, 2026*

## WE GATHER

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Led by Olivia Fox

God is our Creator.

**Wow God!**

God knows everything.

**Wow God!**

God is our Safe Place.

**Wow God!**

God is Love.

**Wow God!**

God is forever.

**Wow God!**

### Hymn

#### *To God Be the Glory*

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.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry 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.

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.

Welcoming One Another

Emerson Garland

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Anthem

*Who Will Teach the Children?*

Page

Choir

Who will teach the children,  
shape their hearts and minds?  
Who will guide their feet along the way?  
Who will teach the children,  
guard their souls from sin?  
Commit them to the Father when you pray.

Love the Lord with all your soul and strength;  
love the Lord with all your heart.  
Love your neighbor as you love yourself;  
from these commands, do not depart.

Will you teach the children,  
shape their hearts and minds?  
Will you guide their feet along the way?  
Will you teach the children,  
guard their souls from sin?  
Commit them to the Father when you pray.

Let the morning bring word of Your love,  
for I have placed my trust in You.  
Teach me Your will, Lord, for You are my God;  
may Your spirit guide my heart to truth.

We will teach the children,  
shape their hearts and minds.  
We will guide their feet along the way.  
We will teach the children,  
guide their souls from sin,  
commit them to the Father when we pray,  
commit them to the Father when we pray.

## Liturgy of Beginning

*Today, we officially welcome Luc Stadler as our student intern.*

PASTOR: We are a people of diverse gifts come to worship the Living God.

**CONGREGATION: We stand as witnesses to a loving God who has blessed us richly and called us to service.**

PASTOR: We have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.

**CONGREGATION: We are a diverse community, blessed by God and touched by God's grace and mercy.**

LAY LEADER: Today we celebrate a new blessing as we welcome Luc Stadler, our student intern minister.

INTERN: I have come to serve and learn with this church family. We have been called as a congregation to be for First UMC a teaching and learning community.

**CONGREGATION: We welcome you into our community as God's representative. Our homes, our hospitals and nursing homes, our classrooms and programs, our sanctuary, our lives, are all open to you.**

INTERN: With God's help I seek to learn about ministry within this congregation, to earn your trust, and to be a fellow laborer in Jesus Christ with you. I seek your support and your response to me as one who is preparing to serve as an ordained minister.

PASTOR: Let us pray . . .

## Mission Moment

## Christian Education

Chris Fulkerson

+ Bible Presentation

+ Teacher Recognition

+ Sunday School (slides of classes; announce move-up for next Sunday, Sept. 6)

Children's Sunday School

Nursery: birth to 3-years-old

Young Elementary: 4-years-old to 2nd Grade

Older Elementary: 3rd to 5th Grade

Move-up next Sunday

Youth Sunday School

Youth I

Youth II

Adult Sunday School

Young Adults

Faith Journeys

Gordon Painter

T. J. Whitehead

Reflections

## Reception of New Members

*Today, we welcome Chad Faucette, Airel Gregory, Tyler and Taylor James, and Carson Nash into the FUMC family of faith!*

PASTOR: Do you reaffirm your commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

NEW MEMBERS: I do.

PASTOR: As members of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

PASTOR: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

PASTOR: Members of the household of God,  
I commend these persons to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them 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.**

## The Sacrament of Baptism

*Today, we celebrate the baptism of Summerly Rose Ickes.*

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

**CONGREGATION: We do.**

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

**CONGREGATION: 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.**

PASTOR: 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?

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

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**CONGREGATION: 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.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**CONGREGATION: 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 she who receives it, to wash away her sin and clothe her in righteousness throughout her life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, she 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: We give thanks...

**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 members 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 her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her 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.**

Sharing Faith with All of God's Children

Chris Fulkerson

*Care for children up to age 5 is in Room 121. Worship Kits for children, containing crayons and puzzle sheets based on Scripture, may be found in the entrance area.*

Song

*Holy Forever/Holy Holy Holy*

Verse 1

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us  
And all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus

(Jesus) Your name is the highest

Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1  
And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

Verse 2  
If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen

Chorus 2  
Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever

Refrain 1  
Holy holy holy  
Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy holy holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

Refrain 2  
Holy holy holy  
Lord God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth and sky and sea  
Holy holy holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity

Scripture Lesson

[Matthew 16:21-28](#)

Hannah Cummings

The Message

“From a Rock to a Block”

Pastor Duane

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering Our Gifts

#### Prayers of the People

#### *Charles Wesley's Prayer for Children*

1 Come, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
To whom we for our children cry;  
The good desired and wanted most  
Out of thy richest grace supply;  
The sacred discipline be given,  
To train and bring them up for heaven.

2 Answer on them the end of all  
Our cares, and pains, and studies here;  
On them, recovered from their fall,  
Stamped with the humble character,  
Raised by the nurture of the Lord,  
To all their paradise restored.

3 Error and ignorance remove,  
Their blindness both of heart and mind;  
Give them the wisdom from above,  
Spotless, and peaceable, and kind;  
In knowledge pure their minds renew,  
And store with thoughts divinely true.

4 Learning's redundant part and vain  
Be all cut off, and cast aside,  
But let them, Lord, the substance gain,  
In every solid truth abide;  
Swiftly acquire, and ne'er forego,  
The knowledge fit for man to know.

5 Unite the pair so long disjoined,  
Knowledge and vital piety:  
Learning and holiness combined,  
And truth and love, let all men see  
In those whom up to thee we give,  
Thine, wholly thine, to die and live.

6 Father, accept them through thy Son,  
And ever by thy Spirit guide!  
Thy wisdom in their lives be shown,  
Thy name confessed and glorified;  
Thy power and love diffused abroad,  
Till all the earth is filled with God.

The Lord's Prayer

Led by Luke Fox

**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.**

### **WE ARE SENT TO SERVE**

The Blessing of Backpacks

Video Song

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*  
(from *Rainforest Falls*)

Led by FUMC Children