



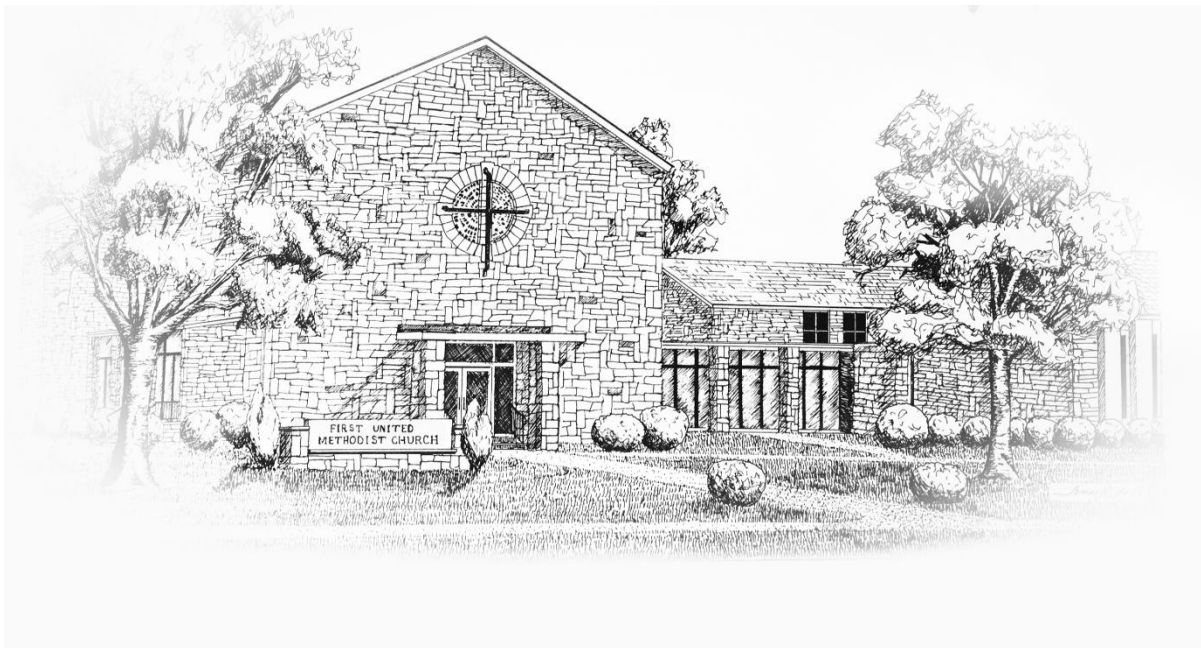
First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

My Lord Is Near Me All the Time

arr. Page

†CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;

Our eyes are opened when he breaks the bread.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

When Christ is revealed, we will be like him.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

Blessing and honor and glory to God!

†OPENING HYMN

In Unity We Lift Our Song

(TFWS #2221)*

1. In unity we lift our song
of grateful adoration,
for brothers brave and sisters strong.
What cause for celebration!
For those whose faithfulness
has kept us through distress,
who've shared with us our plight,
who've held us in the night,
the blessed congregation.

2. For stories told and told again
to every generation,
to give us strength in times of pain,
to give us consolation.
Our spirits to revive
to keep our dreams alive,
when we are far from home
and evil seasons come;
how firm is our foundation.

3. For sacred scriptures landed down,
a blessed trust and treasure,
which give us hope when hope is gone
and make us weep with pleasure.
And when our eyes grow blind
and death is close behind,
we shall recite them still
whose words our hearts can fill
with hope beyond all measure.

4. For God our way, our bread, our rest,
of all these gifts the Giver.
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast
whose hand will yet deliver.
Who keeps us till the day
when night shall pass away,
when hate and fear are gone
and all our work is done,
and we shall sing forever.

†SHARING THE PEACE

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

Proclamation

MISSION MOMENT

Feed the Hunger Food Packathon

Carol Stanley

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

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

ANTHEM

In This Very Room

Harris

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us.
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us.
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
to chase away any gloom.
For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love
for all the world. And in this very room there's
quite enough joy for all the world.
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, open wide the window of our spirits, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain you with all our powers of adoration and love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

SERMON

"How to Fight in Church"

Pastor Duane

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Holy Communion

INVITATION

Christ invites us to His table. It is not mine or yours. It is not the Church's table; it is not religion's table. The table belongs to Jesus, and those who come to this table and partake of bread and cup, body and blood, belong to Him. Jesus has invited us all today: the saint and the sinner, the lost and the lonely, the broken and the breaking, the tired and aching, who long for nourishment. He invites the puzzled and the perplexed, the doubting and the wondering, who long for company. He invites the proud and the pretentious, the sure and the superior, who long for the leveling found at His feast. He invites the glad, the generous, and the laughter makers who long for the deeper joys of His presence. Let all who come join in confessing our need of His mercy and grace.

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 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.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Lord Jesus, You have given Yourself to us; now we go to give ourselves to others. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through You, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with You. Amen.

Sending Forth

†CLOSING HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

(UMH #549)*

1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
bought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear
true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love Christ in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Maker is the same.

† THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)*

Amen, amen, amen.

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

Psalm of Glory

Saxton

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