

GAP Sunday

GOD'S ACTIVE PEOPLE

FAITH IN ACTION. HOPE IN MOTION. PURPOSE TOGETHER.



PASTOR
REV. DR. AL LEASTON



GUEST SPEAKER
REV. NICHOLAS IRION



First Congregational
Church of Raleigh

2410 Creech Rd, Raleigh, NC, 27610

SUNDAY
MAY 31

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

Email: pastoral@fccral.org

Rev. Donald R. Ingram, Sr., Pastor Emeritus

2410 Creech Rd

Raleigh, NC 27610

Office Telephone 919-832-4704

Office Fax 919-832-5625

Email – fccral@bellsouth.net

VISION STATEMENT: *The disciples of First Congregational Church vision is to obediently follow the Lord Jesus becoming more Christ-like in character and effective in ministry to others. By the power of the Holy Spirit we pray to reach, reconcile and restore lives to Jesus Christ by proclaiming the glorious Gospel of the Kingdom. Our vision will be realized when we have reached Christ-like maturity, the Gospel has been proclaimed in all the world, and the Kingdom of God has been fully established in the new age.*

MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of First Congregational Church is to obey Christ's command to seek and save the lost; to preach and teach the Word of God; to make and empower disciples through increasing and promoting our love for God and His word; to help meet the needs of human kind by "loving God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, so that it will mold and fashion our lives, and to love our neighbor as ourselves."*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2410 Crech Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor



OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



Scan to Give

VISITOR'S FORM



Scan to Connect

We're so glad you're here!
If this is your first time, please fill out our visitor's form.

www.fccraleigh.org

May 31, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Worship Celebration

Worship Leader—Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston



- CALL TO WORSHIP *Rev Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*
- OPENING SELECTION..... *" I Really Love The Lord"*
- INVOCATION..... *...Congregation in Unison*

Heavenly Father, we come before You this Sunday morning with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Thank You for the gift of life, for the blessing of this new day, and for the privilege of gathering in Your holy name. You are our Creator, our Sustainer, and our Redeemer, and there is no one like You.

Forgive us where we have fallen short, renew us by Your mercy, and make us ready to receive from You. Unite us as one body in Christ, regardless of our burdens, backgrounds, or circumstances. Let love fill this house, let peace rest upon every person, and let joy rise in every heart as we worship You together in spirit and in truth.

Bless every part of this gathering, from the first word to the final amen. Let the weary find strength, the broken find healing, the searching find truth, and the faithful be encouraged. Above all, Lord, be glorified in our midst. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen

**Denotes to stand*

MORNING PRAYER..... *Rev Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

CHORAL RESPONSE..... *"God Has Smiled On Me"*

OFFERTORY APPEAL & PRAYER..... *Rev Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL SELECTION..... *"I'm Walking With Jesus"*

HOLY SCRIPTURE..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

**PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION
"Come Fly With Me"*

MESSAGE..... *Rev. Nicholas Irion*

SONG OF INVITATION..... *"Here Am I"*

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

CLOSING SONG..... *" Blessed In The City"*

• THE BENEDICTION..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

*Deacon Grady Walston, Pianist
Combined Choir*

**Denotes to stand*

WELCOME TO GOD'S ACTIVE

People Sunday

(GAP SUNDAY)

CALLED. EQUIPPED. ENGAGED. EMPOWERED.



"As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's
varied grace."

1 PETER 4:10



MAY 31, 2026

We are honored to welcome

REV. NICHOLAS IRION

Rev. Nicholas Irion is a native of Buffalo, NY,
an ordained Elder in the AME Zion Church.



Rev. Nicholas Irion

is a native of Buffalo, NY, and is ordained Elder in the AME Zion Church, where he pastored 3 churches from Buffalo to Fayetteville, NC.

He is currently a Professor of the Practice at Duke University, where he teaches two courses, "The Study of African American Music" and "Formation for Ministry." He is also the newly elected President of the National Alumni Council for Duke Divinity School.

One of Rev. Irion's greatest joys today is using his experiences to help organizations across the country thrive and flourish through his work as a Senior Consultant, while also mentoring and advising students at Duke as they navigate their academic and professional journeys.

Rev. Irion has had the privilege of walking alongside countless young leaders who have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, public servants, and professional athletes in the NFL and NBA. Seeing the next generation grow into lives of purpose and impact remains one of the most meaningful parts of his work.

As of February of this year, he is the Inaugural Executive Director of Faith in Action NC.



Prayers and condolences is extended to Deacon LaMonte Jones in the passing of his aunt, Helen Holden, who was funeralized Friday, May 29th at Church of God and Prophecy, Wake Forest, NC

We also extend condolences and prayers to Ms. Norma Hodge and Ms. Patrice Hinton in the passing of their aunt, Betty Taylor, who was funeralized Wednesday, May 27th at Lea Funeral Home, Raleigh, NC.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

"A Book and a Bear Project"

The books will be given to the (Wake County Youth), the sick and shut- in members of the church and organizations that serve the community (involving youths) in various capacities.

We want them to know they are loved, and God has a special place in His heart for them. We are asking that you donate books for grades K-12. Books on all subject matters would be great. Books celebrating our community would be wonderful! A stuff animal other than a bear may also be donated.

***The project will end on June 28, 2026.
Thanking you in advance.***



**Please contact William Walker,
Youth Director
if you have questions.**

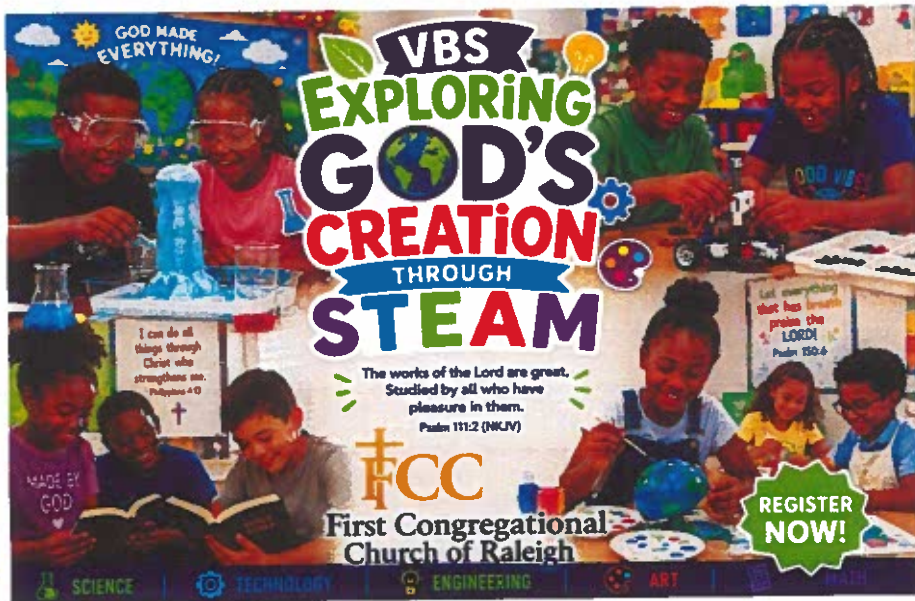
I N T E R C E S S O R Y

**Deaconess Linda Allen, Mrs. Patricia Avery,
Miss Carnetta Blakely, Mrs. Jessle Freeman,
Deaconess Lossie Hackett, Deacon Donzell Hunter,
Mrs. Yvonne Johnson, Mrs. Amella Judd,
Deaconess Geraldine Lee, Mrs. Irene Marks,
Mr. Jarvis Richardson,
Mrs. Tiara Richardson, Deaconess Beatrice Todd,
Deaconess Victoria Walker**

**Ms. Mary Allen, (Sister of Deacon Crinnie Allen)
Mr. David Bradley, (Brother of Deaconess Victoria Walker)
Mr. James Cox, (Father of Mr. Jesse Reynolds)
Mr. Dameon Everett, (Nephew of Mrs. Patsy Rowland)
Mr. Donald Freeman, Jr. (Son of Mr. Donald Freeman, Sr.)
Mr. Mrs. Howard & Jackle Haywood,
(Coworker of Mrs. Doris McKoy)
Mrs. Lucille Freeman Hines (Sister Freeman Children)
Mrs. Mary Johnson, (Sister of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Dr. Nikki Johnson, (Friend of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Mr. Ken Laws (Son of late Cheryl Laws)
Mr. Paul Lee (Husband of Deaconess Geraldine Lee)
Ms. Annette Malone, (Sister of Mrs. Paulette Hicks)
Mr. Raymond Perkins (Brother of Deacon Grady Perkins)
Mr. John Poole, (Brother of Mrs. Cheryl Dendy)
Ms. Amanda Stancil (Young friend of Sister Lillian McNeill)
Mr. Mitchell Yelverton (God-son Sister Lillian McNeill)**

P R A Y E R L I S T

Copies of the application are available for distribution
to family members, neighbors, and friends inviting
children and adults to this power packed
2026 Vacation Bible School



**FCC Vacation Bible School Registration
Form**

Welcome to FCC Vacation Bible School: Exploring God's Creation Through STEAM.

We are excited that you are choosing to expose your child to the life-changing power of the gospel while exploring the wonders of God's creation through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

This year's VBS will feature engaging Bible lessons, hands-on STEAM activities, fellowship, and interactive learning experiences designed to inspire both faith and curiosity. We will offer classes for children, youth, and adults, creating an immersive learning environment for the entire family.

We look forward to learning, growing, and exploring together.

VBS Dates: June 22–24, Monday through Wednesday
Dinner and Fellowship: 5:45 PM

Child Information

Child's Full Name _____
Age _____
Grade Completed _____
Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
Home Address _____

Emergency Information

Emergency Contact Name _____
Emergency Contact Phone Number _____
Relationship to Child _____

Medical and Safety Information

Allergies or Medical Conditions _____
Food Restrictions _____
Special Needs or Accommodations _____

Permissions

- I give permission for photos/videos to be used for church purposes.
- I authorize emergency medical treatment if needed.

Connection Information

Church Home or Visiting Guest _____

How did you hear about VBS _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday School for all ages every Sunday @ 9:30 am

weekly

PRAYER MEETING

WEDNESDAY—June 3, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday Night

Bible Study

7:00 PM



We are excited to announce that graduation season has arrived, and it is time to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2026!

All graduates are encouraged to participate in this special occasion. If you are graduating in 2026, please make sure to sign the sheet located on the bulletin board. This will help us keep track of everyone involved in the celebration.

Vacation Bible School: Exploring God's Creation

This year's Vacation Bible School is shaping up to be an exciting, Spirit-filled experience as we explore God's Creation Through STEAM.

Our children will not only learn about the love and power of God, but they will also discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through fun, engaging, and faith-centered activities.

We want every child to have the opportunity to experience the joy of learning about God and the amazing gifts and creativity He has placed within us.

Church family, we need your help spreading the word. Invite the children in your family, neighborhoods, schools, and communities to be a part of this incredible week.

Registration is now open on the FCC website, and the registration link can easily be shared through text or email with family and friends. Let's come together to inspire the next generation to grow in faith, explore God's creation, and discover all God has empowered them to become.



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATHEMATICS

DATE: Monday-Wednesday, June 22-24, 2026

