



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COMMUNITY

Connect

— ★ SUNDAY, MAY 17 ★ —

★ MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY ★



★ ★ ★
2 TIMOTHY 2:3

“ENDURE HARDSHIP LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER”

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."*

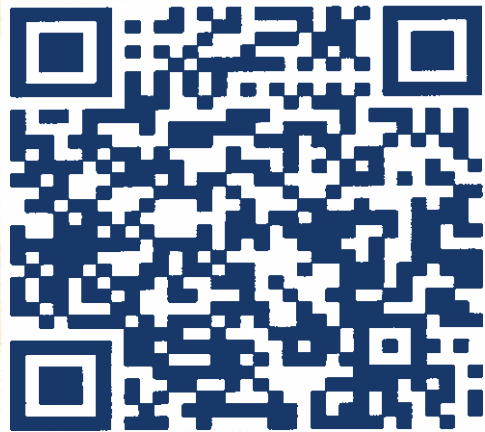
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2410 Crech Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

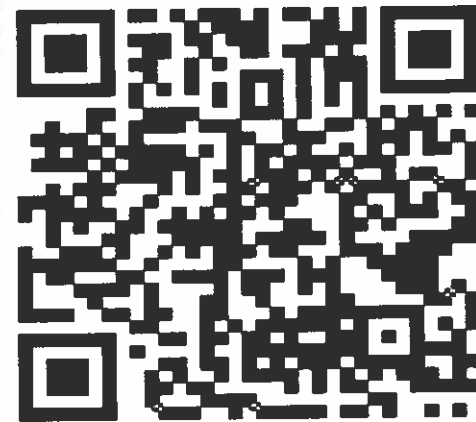


OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



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 17, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Worship Celebration

Worship Leader

Worship Leader—Grady Walston



- *CALL TO WORSHIP *Deacon Grady Walston*
- OPENING SELECTION. *"When We All Get..." #249*

Gracious and loving God, we gather today with thankful hearts to honor the courage, sacrifice, and faithful service of our military men and women, past and present. We thank You for those who answered the call to serve, who stood in the gap for freedom, and who bore burdens many of us will never fully understand. Surround them with Your peace, strengthen them with Your grace, and bless them with the comfort of Your presence. Heal wounds seen and unseen, renew weary spirits, and remind them that their labor and sacrifice are not forgotten. As we worship today, help us to remember that true strength is found not only in valor, but also in compassion, humility, and love. May this service be a time of reflection, gratitude, and hope. Guide us, O Lord, to be people who pursue peace, honor service, and care for one another with grateful hearts.

In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER *Deacon Grady Walston*

CHORAL RESPONSE *"I Sing Praises To Your Name"*

**Denotes to stand*

OFFERTORY APPEAL & PRAYER *Deacon Grady Walston*

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS . . *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PREPARATION

SELECTION. *"My Help"*

HOLY SCRIPTURE. *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*
Acts 1:1-11

*PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION

"You Fight On"

MESSAGE *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

"The Power to live a transformed life"

- SONG OF INVITATION *"For your Glory"*

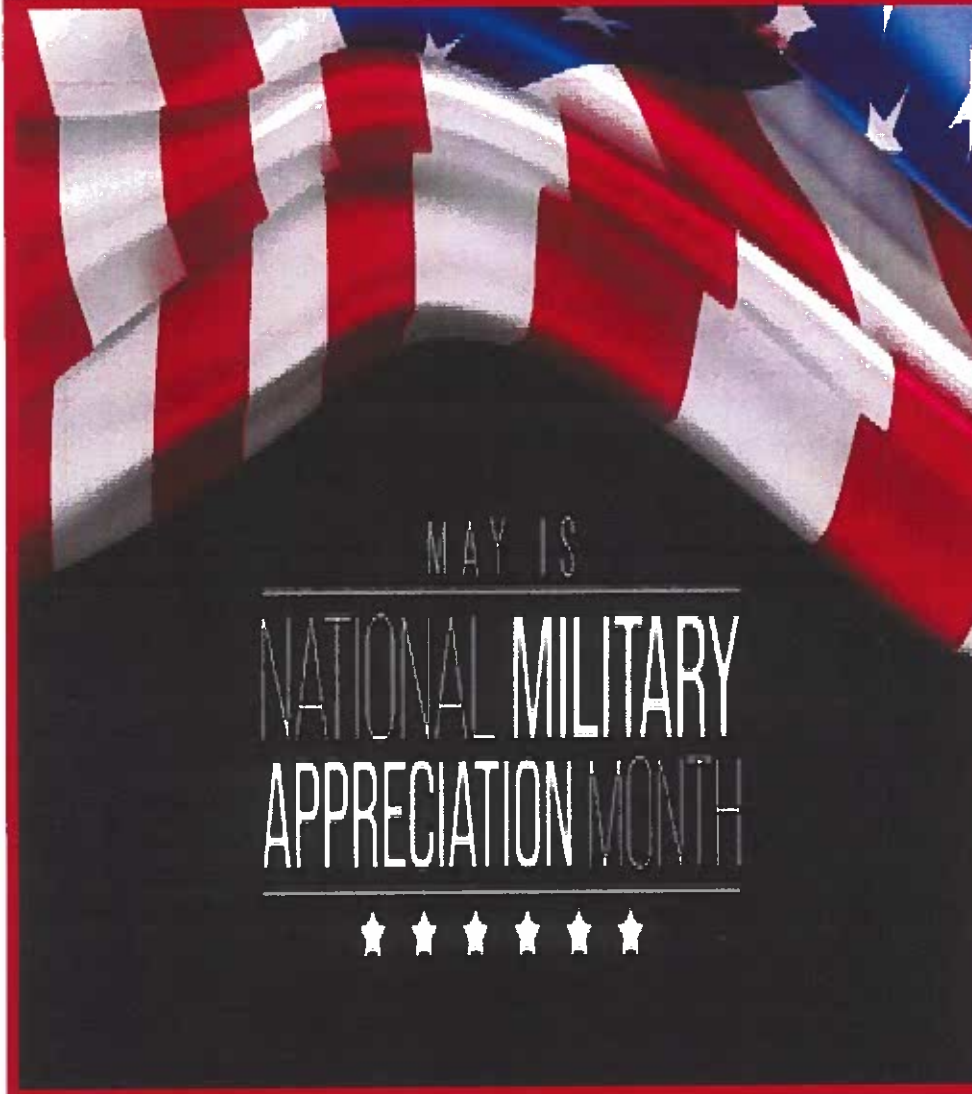
CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

CLOSING SONG *Combined Choirs*

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

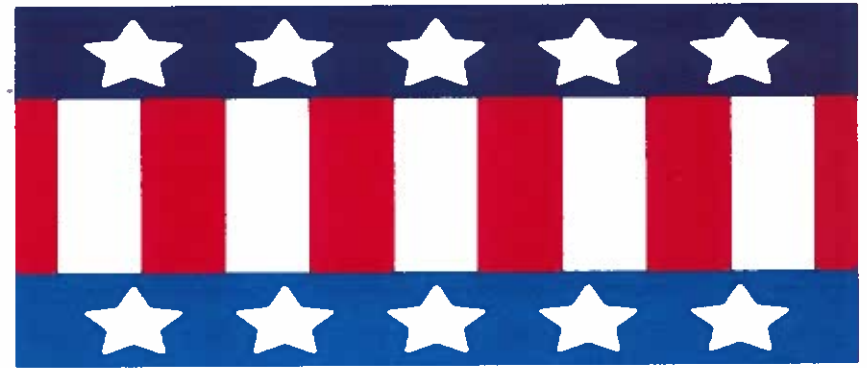
Sister Vickie Debnam, Pianist & Combined Choirs

**Denotes to stand*



National Military Appreciation Month is observed every May in the United States.

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is a month-long observance held every May to honor current service members, veterans, military families, and those who died in service to the United States .

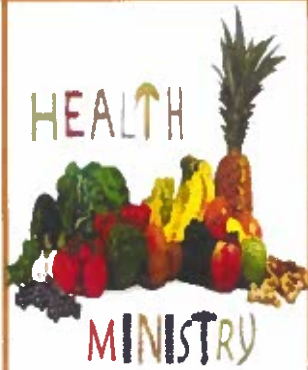


WE THANK YOU!
MILITARY
★ APPRECIATION MONTH ★

Crinnie Allen
Barbara Barnes
Steven Bell
Linwood Dunn
Douglas Freeman
Benjamin Guess

Immanuel Bynum Guess
Alfredo Hicks
Phillip Hinnant
Larry Holden,
Donzell Hunter
Donald Ingram, Sr.

Wades Judd
LaMonte Jones
Ralph Liriano
Grady Perkin
Debora Savage
William Walker



The Word tells us we need a strong spiritual heart and we must engage in prayer, forgiveness, and belief in God.

We must also have a strong physical heart, and if you want to know how to accomplish it, join us at the Health Seminar on Saturday, May 30th from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

For your convenience, a table will be setup outside the doors of the church for registration.



First Congregational Church

2410 Creech Road, Raleigh, NC 27610

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

Health SEMINAR

May 30, 2026 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Heart HEALTH

DIABETES



Nutritious Food



Fellowship



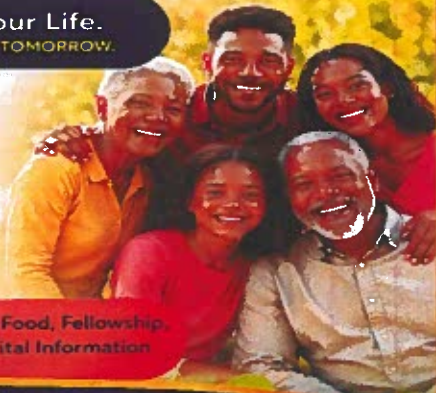
Vital Information



Your Heart. Your Health. Your Life.
SMALL CHOICES TODAY. BIG DIFFERENCE TOMORROW.

The American Heart Association identifies diabetes as one of the main controllable risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD). High blood pressure is a major contributor to heart disease and stroke, making it essential to monitor and manage these conditions to reduce the risk of CVD.

If you are interested in learning facts about diabetes and heart disease, and how to avoid or eliminate these health challenges, consider joining the FCC Health Ministry outreach on the date and time listed above. The seminar will provide valuable information and practical strategies to help manage and prevent these serious health concerns.



Come Join Us! 

Good Food, Fellowship, and Vital Information



Presented by:
FCC Health Ministry

Coordinator:
Hope Sautler, PhD



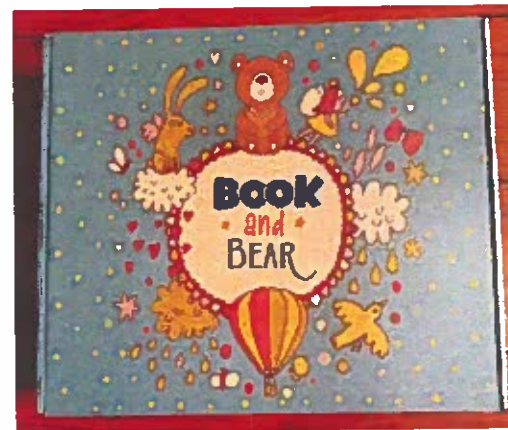
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

A Book and a Bear Project

It is time to kick off "The FCC Book and a Bear Project" for 2026".

We are not putting a number on the total of bears and books.

Please feel free to donate as many as you wish.



The books will be given to youths (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.

Sincere Condolences

to you and your family on the
loss of your loving mother.

Delores White



Homegoing Service for Delores Elizabeth White of Raleigh, NC, who departed this life on Thursday, May 14, 2026, will be as follows:

- Public Viewing: 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Lea Funeral Home, 2500 Poole Road, Raleigh, NC.
- Visitation: 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 20, 2026
preceding the funeral service
Lea Funeral Home
- Funeral Service: 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 20, 2026,
Lea Funeral Home.



A Prayer for Safety and Strength and A Prayer for Military Families

Heavenly Father, we lift up every service member deployed in this hour of conflict. Shield them with Your mighty hand. Give them clarity in every decision, courage under fire, and a peace that surpasses all understanding. Guard their bodies and minds, and bring them safely home when their mission is complete.

Lord, hold the families of service members close, and may they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give. Comfort the spouses and children who are separated due to military jobs—keep these relationships strong and replace their fear with faith. **IN JESUS' NAME!**

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 Lossle Hackett, Deacon Donzell Hunter,
Mrs. Yvonne Johnson, Mrs. Amella Judd,
Deaconess Geraldine Lee, Mrs. Irene Marks,
Deaconess Natalie Perkins, Mr. Jarvis Richardson,
Mrs. Tlara 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)

Miss Peyton Todd (Granddaughter of Deaconess Beatrice Todd)

Mr. Mitchell Yelverton (God-son Sister Lillian McNeill)

P R A Y E R L I S T

WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

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

weekly

PRAYER MEETING

WEDNESDAY—MAY 13, 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.

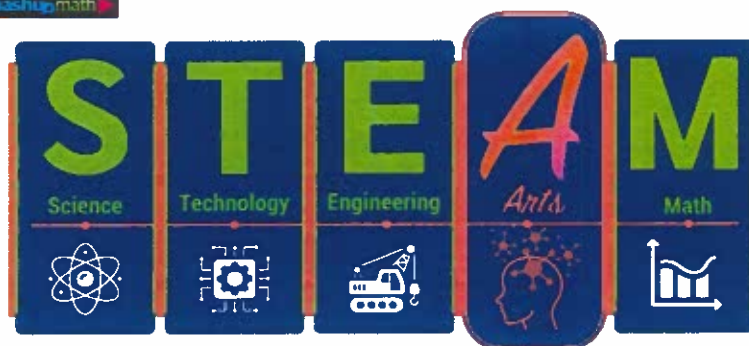
Vacation Bible School: Exploring God's Creation

VBS planning is already underway, and the excitement is building, but it's not too late to get involved.

This year's theme is Exploring God's Creation Through STEAM, as we teach our children about the power of the gospel while introducing them to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

We are building a team to help bring this vision to life. If you would like to serve and make an impact on the next generation, please contact the church office. Come be a part of something meaningful.

mashupmath



EDUCATION

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

TIME: 5:45– 8:00 PM

