



FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

# PENTECOST

## *Sunday*

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT.

*Sent to Share.*

📍 2410 Creech Rd, Raleigh NC, 27610

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston,**  
Pastor

Email: [pastoral@fccra.org](mailto:pastoral@fccra.org)

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

2410 Creech Rd

Raleigh, NC 27610

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**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."*

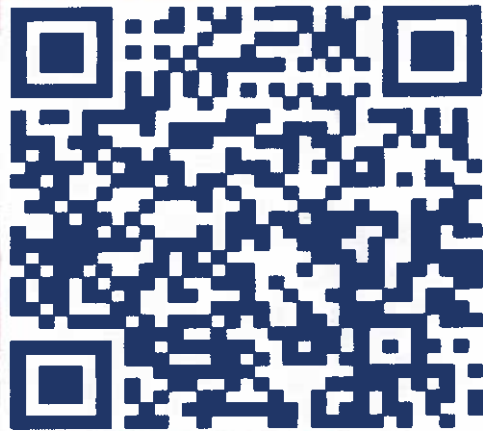
# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Raleigh, NC 27610

*Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor*

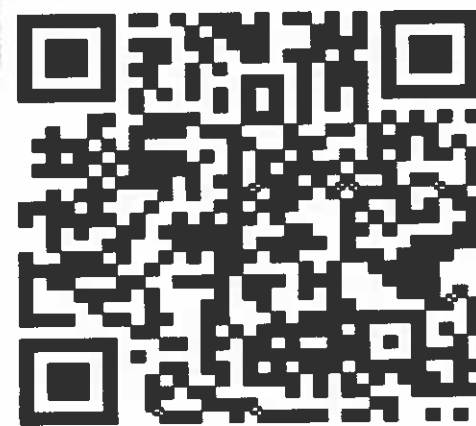


## OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



*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](http://www.fccraleigh.org)

May 24, 2026

11:00 am

# Sunday Worship Celebration

*Worship Leader—Deacon LaMonte Jones*



- CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones
- OPENING SELECTION..... "Revive Us Again" # 18
- INVOCATION.....Congregation in Unison

*Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our country. When the need was greatest, they stepped forward and did their duty to defend the freedoms that we enjoy.*

*Though their names may fade with the passing of generations, may we never forget what they have done. And most of all, what You have done: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life John 3:16.*

*In union with people of goodwill of every nation, encourage us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.*

*"Thank You Father", in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*\*Denotes to stand*

MORNING PRAYER ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

CHORAL RESPONSE ..... "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #123

OFFERTORY APPEAL & PRAYER .... Deacon LaMonte Jones

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL SELECTION....."The Battle Hymn"

HOLY SCRIPTURE..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston  
2 Timothy 1:6-14

### \*PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION

*"Lead Me, Guide Me" #355*

MESSAGE ..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

### *"When God Shows Up Out of Nowhere"*

SONG OF INVITATION ..... Sanctuary

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

CLOSING SONG ..... "The lord Bless You" #361

- THE BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston  
*"Sevenfold Amen"*

*Sister Monica Keele-Jone, Organist  
Sanctuary Choir*

*\*Denotes to stand*

**Memorial Day 2026** is observed on **Monday, May 25**. The federal holiday always falls on the last Monday of May, marking the unofficial beginning of the summer season and a three-day weekend.

**Memorial Day is exclusively for honoring military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, particularly those who died in combat or from wounds sustained in battle whether in wartime and peacetime.**

**Memorial Day honors fallen service members of the U.S. military. How do I honor it? Take a moment of silence at 3 pm, take part in local activities, or display a flag at half-staff from sunrise to noon.**

Americans began to recognize Memorial Day in 1868, and the country established it as a federal holiday in 1971.

Originally known as "**Decoration Day**," the holiday started with communities coming together to decorate the graves of those who died during service.

On Memorial Day, it's important to remember we are honoring our fallen. For many, this day is not a happy occasion but a solemn one. Here is some guidance on the appropriate messages to convey:

Rather than "**Happy Memorial Day**," say something like "**Have a meaningful Memorial Day**."

**It's also not appropriate to thank a service member for their service on this day, as it is a day for remembering and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

Take a moment to recognize and remember. You can even say, "Today and always, I'm remembering and say, the deceased name.."

Remember to speak from the heart and with sincerity, acknowledging the significance of the day and the sacrifices made by those we honor.



You have taught us that no love is greater than that which gives itself for another. John 15:12-13: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Thank You Father, for those who gave the most precious gift they had, life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country - and for us.

Help us to honor their memory by caring for the family members they have left behind, by ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for, by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives.





**First Congregational Church**  
 2410 Creech Road, Raleigh, NC 27610  
 Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor



**Do you have diabetes? Do you know someone who has diabetes? If you answered "Yes" to either question, join us at the Health Seminar on May 30. Register as you exit the church.**  
**For your convenience, a table will be set up outside the church doors for registration.**

# Health SEMINAR



May 30, 2026 | 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Heart HEALTH**

**DIABETES**



Nutritious Food



Fellowship



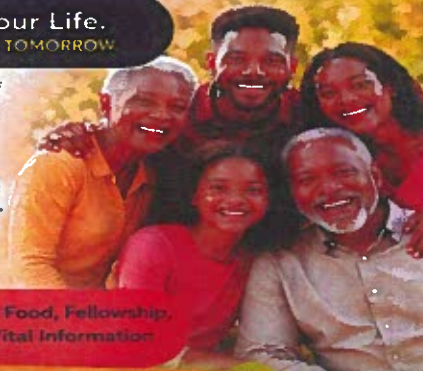
Vital Information



**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



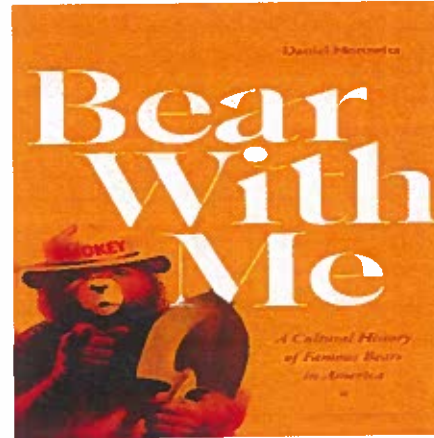
Presented by:  
 FCC Health Ministry

Coordinator:  
 Hope Sautter, 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 stuffed 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.**

**ANNA INTERCESSORY PRAYER CALENDAR JUNE 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>Shine The Light Of God's Wisdom On National Leaders</p> <p><b>Grady Perkins</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Safety For Graduation Services High Schools &amp; Colleges</p> <p><b>Sandra Dunn</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p><b>Katherine Whitaker</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Protection Of The Elderly during This Season</p> <p><b>Bessie Bukhay</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Christians Being Persecuted Worldwide</p> <p><b>Linda Wilson</b></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Glorious Communion Service</p> <p><b>Linda Bowden</b></p>
<p>7 God's Justice In Our Nation</p> <p><b>Worship Leader</b></p>	<p>8 Christians to Stand for the Truth Of God's Word</p> <p><b>Lamonte Jones</b></p>	<p>9 Families Dealing with Any Loss Of Jobs Or Loved Ones</p> <p><b>Donald Ingram</b></p>	<p>10 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p><b>Paulette Keamey</b></p>	<p>11 Wisdom And Discernment In 2026 For FCC</p> <p><b>Amelia Judd</b></p>	<p>12 Prayer For The Backslider</p> <p><b>Gloria Wilder</b></p>	<p>13 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p><b>Carolyn Banks</b></p>
<p>14 Political Climate In Our Nation Today</p> <p><b>Worship Leader</b></p>	<p>15 Those Who Are In Need of Employment</p> <p><b>Arnold Bell</b></p>	<p>16 Justice For all In Our Nation</p> <p><b>Mardecia Bell</b></p>	<p>17 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p><b>Hew Dorsett</b></p>	<p>18 Stand On God's Word in Time Of Need</p> <p><b>Patrice Hinton</b></p>	<p>19 Guidance For Graduates Moving Forward</p> <p><b>Carolyn Ingram</b></p>	<p>20 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p><b>Mavis Weldon</b></p>
<p>21 Children Of Incarcerated Families</p> <p><b>Worship Leader</b></p>	<p>22 Homeless Being Displaced</p> <p><b>B C Cooper</b></p>	<p>23 Safety For Those Traveling During Summer</p> <p><b>Linwood Dunn</b></p>	<p>24 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p><b>Emma Dorsett</b></p>	<p>25 Godly Wisdom for Parents</p> <p><b>Linda Allen</b></p>	<p>26 Safety for All Seniors</p> <p><b>Monica Jones</b></p>	<p>27 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p><b>Wades Judd</b></p>
<p>28 Pastors and Associate Pastors</p> <p><b>Worship Leader</b></p>	<p>29 Provision for the Homeless and Jobless</p> <p><b>Grady Walston</b></p>	<p>30 Praying For Unrest In the Nations</p> <p><b>Victoria Walker</b></p>				

## **Prayer For New Believers**

**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**Father Thank you for making them a part of Your church that follows your command. Thank you for giving them the gift of faith to declare Jesus as Lord by your Holy Spirit. Thank you for their baptism into Christ and making them co-heirs with him!**

**We pray for the seed of faith in these new converts as it begins to grow. May their roots reach past the rocky soil that cannot endure drought or heat of persecution. May their roots be free of thorns and weeds of worldliness that choke out fruitfulness. Let the faith of these new believers find deep, good soil, that they may bear much fruit for your glory, Lord. Transform them, day by day, to become more and more like Christ. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)**

**We Pray that they may know the will of God for their personal lives, that they may be established in the faith. "That Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (Ephesians 3:17).**

**We Pray that they will not give up when trial and test comes, that they will be filled with the exact knowledge of God's Word. They will not fall for false teachings. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" (Colossians 1:9)**

**We Pray that they may be discerning and know things that really matter from things that are not. That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;" We Pray that they will be fruit bearing both in prayer and witnessing. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:10-11)**

**We Pray that they will be on fire for God and remain vibrant in spirit serving the Lord. "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" (Romans 12:11)**

**We thank You Father for encamping your angels around them, to keep them in all their ways. (Ps. 91:11)**

**In Jesus Name Amen!  
FCC Prayer Ministry**

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

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

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**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 & Jackie 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**

# 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

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.

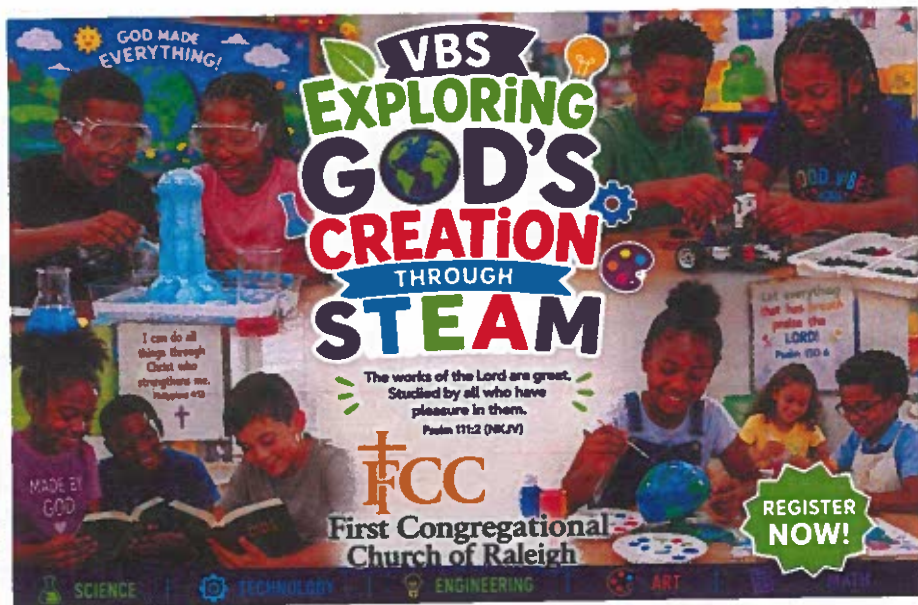
Registration is now open on the FCC website, and the registration link can easily be shared through text or email with family and friends. Let's come together to inspire the next generation to grow in faith, explore God's creation, and discover all God has empowered them to become.



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATHEMATICS

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

