



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

A PEOPLE
A PLACE
A PURPOSE

FAITH | COMMUNITY | PURPOSE

WELCOME TO Worship

COMMUNION SUNDAY

REMEMBER • REFLECT • RENEW



REMEMBER
HIS SACRIFICE



REFLECT
HIS LOVE



RENEW
OUR COMMITMENT

Labor Day
WEEKEND

A TIME TO HONOR
HARD WORK AND FAITHFUL SERVICE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

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
Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
Pastor

Welcome
TO OUR CHURCH

September 6, 2026

11:00 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday Worship Celebration
Worship Leader — Deacon LaMonte Jones



- *CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon LaMonte Jones
- *OPENING SELECTION..... "I Feel Like Praising Him"
- *INVOCATION..... Congregation in Unison

Holy and Eternal God, on this First Sunday, we come before You with humble hearts, grateful spirits, and a longing to be renewed in Your presence. As we enter this sacred time of worship, quiet every distraction, lift every burden, and prepare us to receive what You desire to pour into our lives. Meet us in the songs we sing, the prayers we offer, the Word we hear, and the fellowship we share.

On this day of Holy Communion, we remember with grateful hearts our Savior's death, burial, and resurrection. Draw us closer to the table of grace, remind us of Your saving love, and cleanse our hearts for faithful service.

Sanctify this worship service, bless every soul gathered here and online, make us one in faith, love, and purpose. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

***Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER Deacon LaMonte Jones

CHORAL RESPONSE "You Deserve it"

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

OFFERTORY
APPEAL & PRAYER Deacon LaMonte Jones

DOXOLOGY..... Congregation in Unison
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

PREPARATION SELECTION "O Lord I Need You...."
Pastoral Remarks
Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

HOLY SCRIPTURE READING . Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
2 Kings 4:1-7

PRE-SERMONIC MEDITATION SELECTION
"Jesus Cares"

SERMON
Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

SONG OF
INVITATION Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers

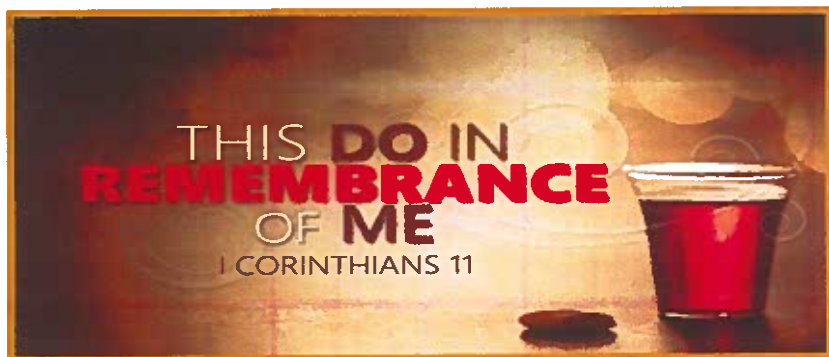
CALL TO
DISCIPLESHIP..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

***Denotes to stand**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION OBSERVANCE



INVITATION TO
HOLY COMMUNION... . *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston**

APOSTLES' CREED *Congregation in Unison*

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

PARTAKING OF
BREAD AND CUP..... *Congregation in Unison*

* CLOSING
SONG *Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers*

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

*Sister Janice Vick, Pianist
Brother Todd Freeman, Drummer*

**Denotes to stand*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**Congregation in Unison*

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

*in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried.*

*He descended into hell; the third day
He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven*

*and
sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge
the living
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and
life everlasting.
Amen.*

**Denotes to stand*



Spiritual Revival In the Body of Christ

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Heavenly Father, we are encouraged by the early church and how Your great power was evident in their lives. I pray for a similar spiritual revival in the body of Christ. Pour out Your Spirit on us so we will be effective witnesses in our homes and communities. Remove divisions and distractions and grant us the spirit of unity and oneness in the body of Christ. Fill us with your grace, mercy, and love.

Father God, help us to have compassion on the lost as Jesus had. May we stand as the body of Christ, boldly declaring the Gospel to the world. Guide us and give us wisdom, understanding, and knowledge so we can use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God. Move more people through a personal revival to be Your ambassadors in their schools, workplaces, and communities so that more and more people will repent and turn to You.

Thank You for the work of revival that You will be doing among us as a body of Christ. I pray for personal revival to start in my heart and in the hearts of Your children. Save us from being complacent in our walk with You. Increase our faith in this season and open our hearts to Your great power.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for You bore all our sins and cleansed us from every stain of sin. Revive us again, O Lord. Send Your revival fire to rekindle our souls. Teach our hearts to cling to the cross. May we find You as we seek You wholeheartedly. Fill us with a holy passion for Your Word and make us passionate about prayer.

In Your holy name, Amen.

FCC Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway

INTERCESSORY



**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, Ms. Lisa Stewart
Deaconess Beatrice Todd, Deaconess Victoria Walker**

**Ms. Mary Allen, (Sister of Deacon Crinnie Allen)
Mrs. Constance Becoat, (Dearest Friend of Carolyn Johnson)
Mr. David Bradley, (Brother of Deaconess Victoria Walker)
Ms. Pauline Burton (Family Friend of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Mr. James Cox, (Father of Mr. Jesse Reynolds)
Mr. Dameon Everett, (Nephew of Mrs. Patsy Rowland)
Mr. Charlie Farnham (Family Friend of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Mr. Donald Freeman, Jr. (Son of Mr. Donald Freeman, Sr.)**

PRAYER LIST

**Mr. Randolph Frazier (Friend of Ms. Daisler Watson)
Mr. Mrs. Howard & Jackie Haywood,
(Coworker of Mrs. Doris McKoy)
Mrs. Mary Johnson, (Sister of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Dr. Nikki Johnson, (Friend of Mrs. Lillian McNeill)
Ms. Stephanie Knowlton, (Ms. Carnetta Blakely's Caregiver)
Mr. Paul Lee (Husband of Deaconess Geraldine Lee)
Mr. Raymond Perkins (Brother of Deacon Grady Perkins)
Mr. John Poole, (Brother of Mrs. Cheryl Dendy)
Mrs. Carolyn Hicks Perryman (Sister of Mr. Freddie Hicks)
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith (Cousin Mr. Jarvis Richardson)**

★★★★★

Door-to-Door Canvassing

Community Connect • Roots & Branches

MEET AT THE CHURCH

Thursday, September 3rd & Thursday, September 17th

5:00 PM

 First Congregational Church
2410 Creech Road, Raleigh

Where Faith Grows and Families Flourish.

ONE FAMILY. ONE FAITH. ONE COMMUNITY.

Church Family, you are warmly invited to join us on Thursday, September 17th at 5:00 p.m. as we go into the community for door-to-door canvassing.

We will meet here at the church before going out together to invite our neighbors to the FCC Community Connect Family and Friends Day Event.

Your presence and participation will be a blessing as we reach out in love and fellowship.



Church family, get ready because Revival 2026 is almost here, and we are expecting a powerful, spirit-filled time in the Lord!

*Beginning **Wednesday, October 7**, we will welcome Rev. Dr. Bankole Akinbinu, Senior Pastor of Baptist Grove Church, along with the Baptist Grove Choir.*

*Then on **Thursday, October 8**, we will be blessed by Rev. Dr. Harry L. White, Jr., Senior Pastor of Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, along with the Watts Chapel Choir.*

*And we will close out on Friday, **October 9**, with Rev. Dr. Darian C. Bouie, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, along with the First Baptist Choir.*

Three nights, three powerful preachers, and three dynamic choirs!

Each night promises to be an exciting time of worship, preaching, praise, and renewal in the presence of the Lord. So, invite your family, invite your friends, and make plans now to join us because it is going to be an incredible three nights as we come together expecting God to move in a powerful way!

QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.

All church members are warmly encouraged to attend our upcoming Quarterly Church Meeting. This is an important opportunity to come together as a church family, receive updates, discuss church business, and participate in the life and direction of our ministry.

Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. Members are asked to bring a breakfast item to share and to have it at the church by 9:15 a.m. so there is time for setup before breakfast begins.

Please make plans to be present on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. Your voice, presence, and participation matter.

BACK TO SCHOOL OUTREACH

Church Family, our continued partnership with Southeast Raleigh Elementary School is very important. Your generosity through the years has been outstanding for this cause.

*The school has multiple needs. Listed below are items suggested for this coming school year to serve the children. Please bring items to the church Tuesdays-Fridays (10:00-4:30 pm). You may also bring them to church on Sundays. Items will be accepted through September 20th. All items should be placed on the table in the James Stroud Room. Needed items are listed, and listed on the FCC Website. **PLEASE, NO FOOD ITEMS WITH NUTS!!!***

If you have questions or concerns, please direct them to Youth Director William Walker

Back To School Outreach



First Congregational Church



Southeast Raleigh Elementary School

FCC and Southeast Raleigh Elementary School

Our continued partnership is crucial for the success of our students during the 2026-2027 school year. Your past generosity has made a profound difference.

A collection of suggested items has been compiled to meet the urgent needs of the school. Items will be gratefully accepted until September 20, 2026. Collection is at the FCC location. Drop-off times remain as: Tuesdays - Fridays (10:00 AM - 4:30 PM), or on Sundays. Items should be placed on the table in the James Stroud Room.

IMPORTANT: NO FOOD ITEMS WITH NUTS.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Youth Director William Walker.

Pantry Items

(Cheerios, Goldfish, Apple Sauce, Nutri-Grain Bars, Welch's Gummies)

School Attire

Kiniki Bottoms & White, Blue Polo Shirts (All sizes Pre-K through 5th Grade)

New Undergarments for girls and boys (All sizes)

School Supplies

- Book-bags/Back-packs
- Three-ring Binders
- #2 Pencils
- Pens (Black, Red, Blue)
- Color Markers
- Color Pencils

- Crayola Crayons
- Notebook Paper (Wide & College rule)
- Composition Books (Wide & College rule)
- Index Cards
- Folders

FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND

Community Connect

SATURDAY SEP 19TH 2026
FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

• Games • Music • Fellowship • Fun

SUNDAY SEP 20TH 2026
COMMUNITY CONNECT
SUNDAY

* Purpose * Worship * Community * Truth

♥ COME CONNECT WITH US THIS WEEKEND! ♥

Family & Friends' Day 2026 T-Shirt Form

Men's Fellowship T-Shirt Order Form - Design Style 1 (UNC Blue)

Pricing & Sizes

Category	Prices Available	Price Each
YOUTH / Youth	Youth S - Youth XL	\$16.00
Adults (S-XL)	Small - Medium - Large - XL	\$20.00
Adults (XX & Up)	2XL - 3XL - 4XL	\$25.00

Perfect for: Family Gatherings & Reunions • Family & Friends' Day • Community Celebrations



Special thanks to Reverend Carolyn Ingram for her part in our new designs!

Order Form

Completes one row per shirt. Return with payment to Deacon Cooper

#	Design	Size	Qty	Unit Price	Total Price
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Buyer / Contact Information

Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Payment Method: ☐ Cash / ☐ Cash App / ☐ Check (circle one)

Payment Instructions

• Cash: Give all cash payments to Deacon Cooper

• Cash App: MensFellowship4FCC

• Checks: Make payable to FCC Cooper

Please give completed order form to Deacon Cooper. Deadline: September 6, 2026!

Original Deadline August 30, 2026 • Forms & payments to Deacon Cooper or Brother Donald Freeman • Page 1



Calling all ladies of First Congregational Church! Your wonderful baking gifts and loving support are warmly invited as we prepare for Family and Friends' Day on Saturday, September 19th.

The FCC Men's Fellowship will be preparing the fish, burgers, hot dogs, drinks, and side dishes, and we would love for our ladies to help make the day even sweeter by bringing a delicious dessert to share.

Every dessert, whether homemade or store-bought, will be a blessing to our church family and guests. Please contact Victoria Walker or Carolyn Johnson to let them know what dessert you plan to bring. All desserts should be at the church by 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and sweet treats as we come together in fellowship and love!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2410 Creech Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

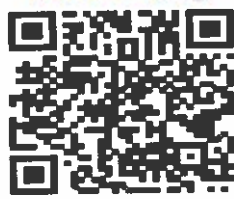


OFFERING / TITHES / SEED



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

JOIN US FOR OUR QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING

Saturday, September 12, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Breakfast will be served at 9:30 am

Every Sunday @ 9:30 am for all ages

Sunday School

Wednesday, September 2 @ 6:30 pm

Prayer Meeting

BIBLE Study

Wednesday, September 2 @ 7:00 pm



HAPPY
LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2026

Tuesday	08	6:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	09	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting Bible Study
Thursday	10	1:00 pm	Health Ministry Meeting
Friday	11	5:00 pm	Male Chorus
Saturday	12	10:00 am	Quarterly Church Meeting
Sunday	13	9:30 am 11:00 am	Sunday School <i>Worship Celebration</i> <i>Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston</i>

NOTES FROM TODAY'S SERMON

Rev. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

Sunday, September 6, 2026

NOTES