



FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

WE WELCOME YOU TO

# Worship



Sunday, June 14

FCC

*A Place to*

BELIEVE & BELONG

 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

Office Telephone 919-832-4704

Office Fax 919-832-5625

Email – [fccra@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccra@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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Raleigh, NC 27610

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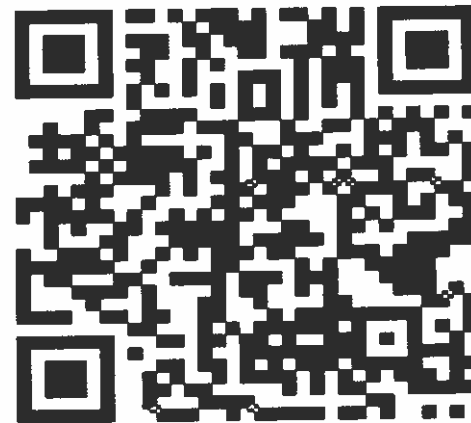


## OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



*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)

June 14, 2026

11:00 am

# Sunday Worship Celebration

Worship Leader—Deacon Arnold Bell



- CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Deacon Arnold Bell
- OPENING SELECTION. .... " Since Jesus Came Into.." #301
- INVOCATION..... Congregation in Unison

*Gracious and loving Father God, we thank You for bringing us together in this sacred moment. We come with grateful hearts and joyful spirits, lifting our voices, opening our hearts, and turning our minds toward You our Creator, and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Thank You for Your faithfulness, mercy, and grace.*

*Fill this place with Your Spirit. Strengthen the weary, comfort the hurting, encourage the faithful, and draw each of us closer to You. May our songs, prayers, words, and reflections be pleasing in Your sight. May this worship service be guided by the Holy Spirit today, and may we leave renewed in faith, united in love, and ready to serve You and one another.*

*This is the day the Lord has made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Thank You Father for Your blessings upon us today.*

*In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

**\*Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER ..... Deacon Arnold Bell

CHORAL RESPONSE ..... " I Need Thee"

OFFERTORY APPEAL & PRAYER ..... Deacon Arnold Bell

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

### Announcements

### PREPARATION SELECTION

*Male Chorus*

HOLY SCRIPTURE ..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston  
*John 21:15-25*

### \*PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION

*"God Has Been So Good To Me"*

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

*"The Danger of Comparison: When we lose our Focus"*

SONG OF INVITATION ..... *Male Chorus*

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

\* CLOSING SONG ..... *Male Chorus*

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

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

**\*Denotes to stand**

# Vacation Bible School

*We encourage every member to prayerfully invite children, parents, family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to attend.*

*Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you help spread the word and reach both children and adults with this special opportunity.*

***Sheets are on the bulletin board, and the table as you leave and enter the sanctuary for adults to signup for VBS.***

***This information is needed to determine the number of adults to prepare for.***

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

***VBS Dates: June 22–24, Monday through Wednesday***



*We are prayerfully for the 2026 Vacation Bible School (VBS). We would love your help. The last time we held VBS was in 2019, and we are excited about this opportunity to once again pour into the lives of our children and families through God's Word, fellowship, and fun.*

*Traditionally, VBS lasts five days and ends with a celebration on Saturday. However, since this will be our first VBS in several years, we are planning to begin with a three-day event, Monday through Wednesday.*

*Even with this shorter schedule, we will need caring, committed teachers and volunteers to help make it a blessing and a success.*

*God bless you, Norma Hodge.  
Sunday School Superintendent  
Linwood Dunn,  
Assistant Sunday School Superintend*

***VBS Dates: June 22–24, Monday through Wednesday***

## A Prayer For Our Communities

*And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. Jeremiah 29:7 (KJV)*

*Awesome Father, thank You for Your provisions for residents and businesses in our communities. We thank You, Lord, for safety and protection for every family. We thank You for having plans for good and not disaster for us, to give us a future and a hope. Thank You for blessing us with Your perfect peace as we keep our thoughts fixed on You. We sing praises to You, our Father, and declare that You are the King over all of the earth!*

*Father, You are the Light and Salvation for all in our communities, so we will not be afraid. You are our fortress, protecting us from danger so we will not tremble. By faith, we declare that we will live peacefully and safely in our dwellings and that our homes will be places of rest and relaxation. We will be kindhearted neighbors, working together to maintain a peaceful community. Lord, we expect You to place a wall of protection around us, our homes and properties. When our enemies come against us like a flood, we are confident that You will raise up a standard against them. Lord, we trust and believe that no good thing will be withheld from us as we walk uprightly before You.*

*Holy Spirit, help us to share Christ with our unsaved neighbors. Incline their hearts to seek You first and search Your Word for wisdom as we all live peaceably among one another. Impress upon us to extend our gifts and talents to community opportunities, such as nearby schools and businesses. Unify our communities and help us to stand against violence, crime and injustice. Remind us to watch out for our neighbors, especially the children and seniors; let Your Spirit of love permeate our communities.*

*Eternal Lord, You are the blessed and Sovereign One; the King of kings, and the Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man can see. Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

**FCC Prayer Ministry— Sister Annie Holloway**

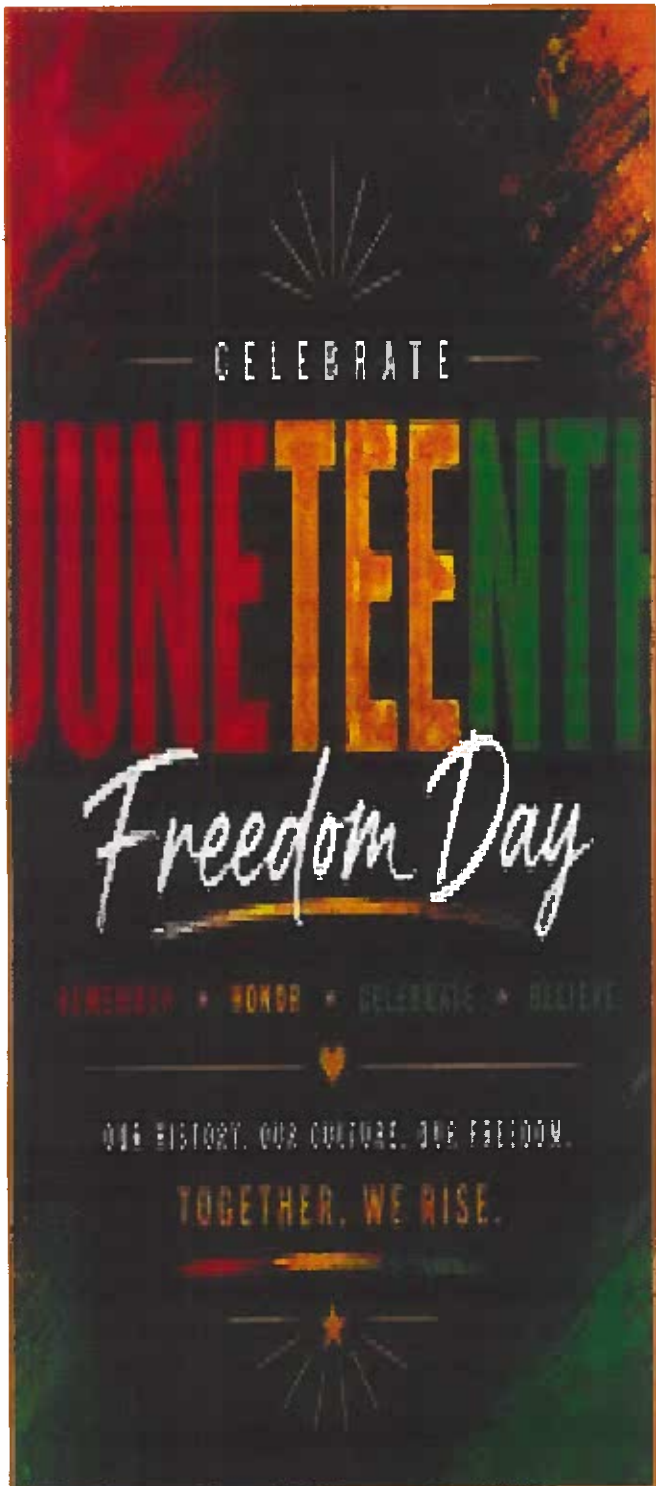
## I N T E R C E S S O R Y

**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,  
Mr. Jarvis Richardson,  
Mrs. Tiara Richardson, Deaconess Beatrice Todd,  
Deaconess Victoria Walker**

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**Ms. Mary Allen, (Sister of Deacon Crinnie Allen)  
Mrs. Constance Becoat, (Dearest Friend of Carolyn Johnson)  
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. Randolph Frazier (Friend of Ms. Daisler Watson)  
Mr. Mrs. Howard & Jackle Haywood,  
(Coworker of Mrs. Doris McKoy)  
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



**In 2026, Juneteenth  
(National Independence Day)**



**is observed on  
Friday, June 19.**

*Federal, state, and city offices, courts, and post offices are closed. Because it falls on a Friday, it creates a long weekend for many workers across the country.*

*Juneteenth marks the day — **June 19, 1865** — when enslaved African Americans in Texas finally heard word of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect.*

*More than 160 years later, communities across North Carolina are honoring that legacy with festivals, gospel nights, family cookouts, historical tours, and more. Here is your guide to Juneteenth 2026 events across the Triangle and surrounding areas. All events are free unless noted. Details are subject to change — confirm with organizers before you go.*

**RALEIGH  
Juneteenth: A Chavis Celebration**

*The City of Raleigh Parks brings two back-to-back celebrations to one of Raleigh's most historically significant parks — **John Chavis Memorial Park**, named for one of the first African Americans to attend a U.S. university.*

**Date: Friday, June 19, 2026**  
**Time: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Day Party) | 5–9 p.m. (Night Party)**  
**Location: John Chavis Memorial Park,**  
**505 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27601**  
**Admission: Free**

**&**  
**The Capital City Juneteenth Celebration at Dorothea Dix Park**  
**in Raleigh takes place on**  
**Saturday, June 20, 2026.**

*This free, family-friendly event runs from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM on Harvey Hill (adjacent to Gipson Play Plaza) and features live music, local food trucks, a vendor marketplace, and cultural activities*

*Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and settle in on Harvey Hill at Dix Park for an afternoon of live entertainment, kids activities, vendors, food trucks and community connection.*

# Techniques for reading aloud



**WORLD  
READ  
ALoud DAY**

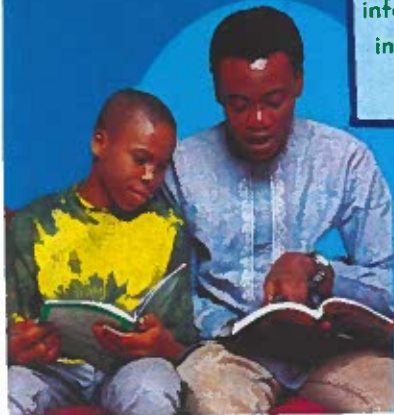
1. Let the child choose the book he wants to read

2. Reading with intonation, or expressive body language

3. While reading point to every word in the book

4. Invite children to retell the contents of the book

★ Reading aloud is the most effective method of teaching reading for children. When we read aloud, we transmit information through the child's ear, this information will form the foundation in the child's brain



## *Book and a Bear Project"* *June ends June 28th*

*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 subjects matters would be great. Books celebrating our community would be wonderful!*

*A stuffed animal other than a bear may also be donate.*

*Please contact William Walker, Youth Director*





## Community Connect

**Engage. Empower. Elevate**

*Church family, next Sunday is Community Connect Sunday, and we will be celebrating Juneteenth as we come together to recognize freedom, faith, and the strength of community.*

*We will also have a special Father's Day recognition as we honor and celebrate the fathers and father figures who have made a difference in our lives.*

*This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to worship with us. Community Connect Sunday is all about building relationships, extending hospitality, and sharing the love of Christ with those around us.*

*Please make plans to join us, invite someone, and help us connect with our community. It's going to be a great celebration, and we look forward to worshipping with you!*



*We're using media to share the message that changes lives. From livestreams to social media, from our website to digital outreach, this ministry helps us reach beyond the walls of the church and into the hearts of people right where they are.*

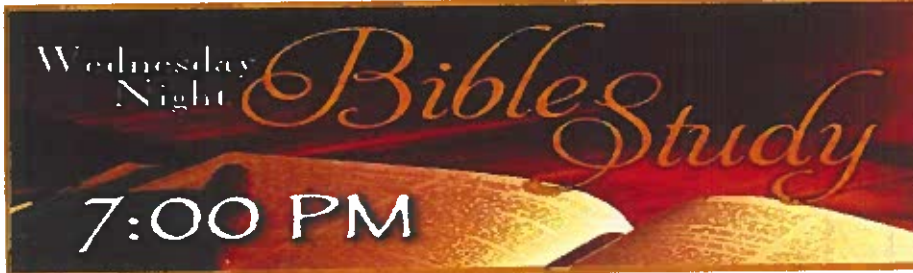
*Every post, every video, every click is an opportunity to spread the Gospel, encourage faith, and invite others into a growing relationship with God.*

*At FCC, We believe ministry doesn't stop on Sunday, and through media, we stay connected all week long. If you have a passion for creativity, technology, or helping share the message of Christ, we would love for you to be part of this ministry.*

**To get involved,  
please contact the church office at:  
[fccral@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccral@bellsouth.net)**

6:00 -7:00 pm  
Wednesday Night

*Prayer Meeting*



*Our Bible Study on June 17 will focus on Sunday's message.*

*There will be no Bible Study on June 24 because of Vacation Bible School.*

### **Beginning July 1**

*Please complete the following weekly reading assignment:*

*Genesis 1-3,  
Genesis 12:1-9,  
Genesis 50:15-21  
and  
Romans 5:12-21*

## **Sunday School Invitation**

*Join us for Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 AM! All ages are welcome—we would love to have you with us for a time of learning, fellowship, and faith.*



*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.*

