



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

COMMUNION

Sunday

THE LORD'S TABLE. OUR SHARED JOY.
EVERYONE WELCOME.



Sunday,
JUNE 7TH



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

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

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."*

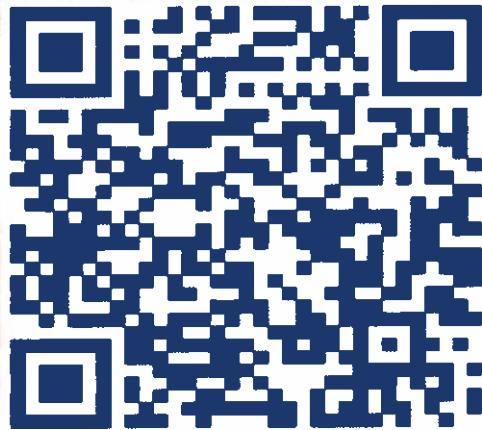
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2410 Crech Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

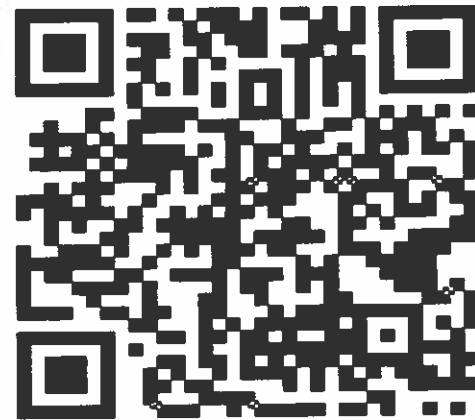


OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



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

June 7, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Worship Celebration

Worship Leader—Deacon LaMonte Jones

*I was glad when they said
unto me,
Let us go into the house of the
LORD.
Psalm 122:1*

- CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon LaMonte Jones
- OPENING SELECTION. " Hallelujah, You're Worthy..."
- INVOCATION..... Congregation in Unison

Gracious and loving God, we come before You on this First Sunday with grateful hearts, thankful for the gift of a new month and the blessing of gathering in Your presence. We acknowledge that You are holy, faithful, and worthy of all praise. As we enter this time of worship, quiet our minds, open our hearts, and turn our attention fully to You.

Lord, we invite Your presence into this place. Let Your Spirit move among us, bringing peace to the troubled, strength to the weary, and hope to every soul. Bless the songs that will be sung, the prayers that will be lifted, and the Word that will be proclaimed. May everything said and done in this service bring glory to Your name and draw us closer to Your will.

Father, we ask that You prepare us to receive what You have for us today. Renew our faith, unite us in love, and help us to leave this place encouraged, challenged, and transformed. We dedicate this service to You and ask for Your guidance in every moment.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

CHORAL RESPONSE " I've Decided To Make Jesus My Choice"

OFFERTORY APPEAL & PRAYER..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

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

Announcements

PREPARATION SELECTION
"Lord, Help Me To hold Out"

HOLY SCRIPTURE..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
James 1:19-27

*PRE-SERMONIC MEDITATION SELECTION
"More Than Anything"

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

Responding Instead of Reacting

SONG OF INVITATION.....Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers

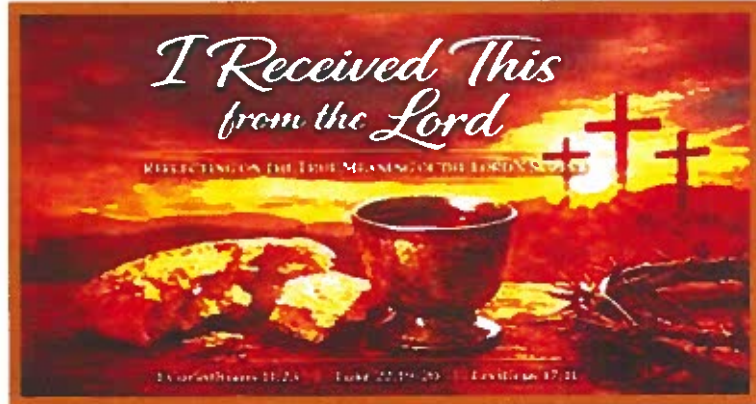
CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP.....Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

***Denotes to stand**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION OBSERVANCE



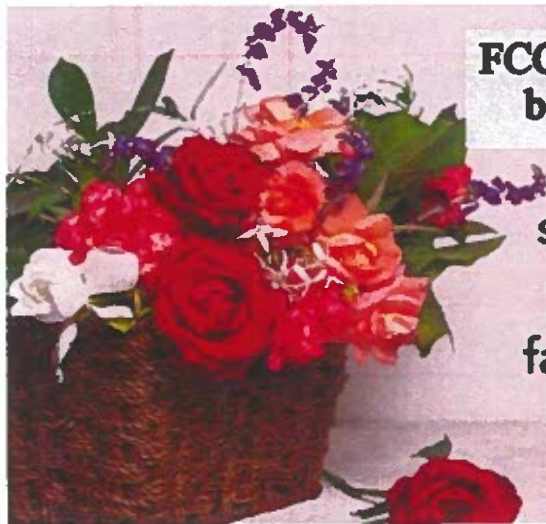
- INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION... .. *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*
- APOSTLES' CREED.....*Congregation in Unison*
- COMMUNION PRAYER... .. *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*
- PARTAKING OF BREAD AND CUP..... *Congregation in Unison*
- * CLOSING SONG..... *Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers*
- * THE BENEDICTION..... *Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

*Sister Janice Vick, Pianist
 Brother Todd Freeman, Drummer
 Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers*

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.*



FCC Family extend to both families our deepest sympathies to you and your family and pray that God will comfort you.

The Homegoing Service for Lucille Freeman Hines.

The sister of : Doris McKoy, Edith McDougal, Douglas Freeman, Donald Freeman, and Caroline Johnson will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Church of God of Prophecy, 1200 South State Street in Raleigh, NC. Visitation at 11 o'clock and continue until 12:00 noon, with the funeral service immediately following at noon. Lucille was a devoted Christian who served the Lord and mankind faithfully in many ways. Our prayers are with the Freeman and Hines families

The Homegoing Service for Johnny A. Gorman, the husband of Pastor Emeritus Donald Ingram's niece, Corryn, was held on Friday, June 5, 2026 in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Johnny served as a school guidance counselor and administrator, touching and inspiring many young lives. Reverends Donald and Carolyn Ingram our thoughts and prayer goes out to you and the Gorman Family

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

This scripture which reminds believers that because Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Him.

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**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**

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. 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)

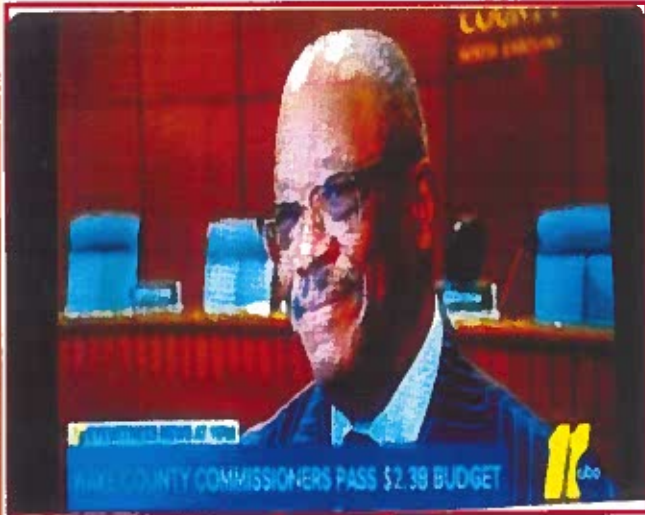
Mr. Raymond Perkins (Brother of Deacon Grady Perkins)

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)

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Thank you, Don Mial and the Wake County Board of Commissioners, for your dedicated service and for going above and beyond on behalf of the residents of Wake County. Your thoughtful leadership and commitment in adopting the \$2.28 billion Fiscal Year 2027 budget means so much, especially to homeowners who have been deeply concerned about rising property taxes.

Your integrity, compassion, and genuine concern for the well-being of our community are truly appreciated. With heartfelt appreciation, thank you for your service, your care, and your leadership.

Don Mial is the Chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners in North Carolina, representing District 1. The Wake County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night, June 1, 2026, to adopt a \$2.28 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which runs from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

This budget accounts for rising costs that stem from federal decisions, including the conflict in Iran and tariffs on foreign goods. It also subsidizes areas where state funding continues to fall short.

"This has been a challenging budget for our board because of the roughly \$35 million revenue shortfall created by a growing number of property tax appeals and the Blue Ridge property tax loophole," said Chair Don Mial. "We committed the \$8 million in new revenue available in FY2027 to important public safety needs such as reopening the jail annex and adding new EMTs to meet the demands of growth."

During their deliberations, the board made one addition to County Manager David Ellis' recommended budget. They approved adding \$110,000 to the budget to fund two food security programs:

Double bucks at farmers markets – This program allows market patrons who receive SNAP/EBT benefits to receive additional tokens when they swipe their EBT cards at nine different farmers markets across the county.

This program delivers customizable boxes of fresh produce, eggs, jams and honey from local farms directly to 15 family childcare homes and four childcare centers in Wake County. These programs were originally funded using American Recovery Plan Act dollars; however, with ARPA ending in December, they would have gone unsupported without the board's action.

Education

Funding education is a significant part of the adopted budget. It includes the following investments:

- ◆ \$25.3 million to fully fund the Wake County Board of Education's request for the Wake County Public School System. This is in addition to the \$743 million the county provided WCPSS in FY2026 for facility maintenance and operations.
- ◆ \$1.8 million to Wake Technical Community College to support facility maintenance, pay IT and administrative staff, and cover rising utility costs. These additional funds are on top of the \$42 million the county provided to Wake Tech in FY2026 for building upkeep and operating expenses.
- ◆ \$2 million to Wake County Smart Start to add 50 new seats to Wake Three School for 3-year-olds while continuing to support Pre-K for 4-year-olds who meet income requirements. These dollars are in addition to the \$8 million the county invested in Smart Start in FY2026.

The adopted FY2027 budget totals \$2,282,021,000. It includes a 2-cent property tax increase, which will raise the property tax rate to 53.71 cents and generate an additional \$62 million. The owner of a \$450,000 home will see a \$90 increase in their tax bill.



The Bible clearly commands believers to pray for government leaders and those in authority. This instruction is not an endorsement of specific policies, but an act of obedience designed to promote peace, justice, and the spread of the gospel.

The Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, specifically urges that "petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING

For those unable to attend in person please use the call-in conference line 701 801 6123



Saturday, June 13@ 10:00 am



**Breakfast items will be served 9:30-10am
Please bring your prepared breakfast items
by 9:20am to allow for setting up.**



**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

Nominations are now being accepted to fill three (3) open positions that were not addressed at the December 2025 Quarterly Church Meeting.

- ◆ **Two active church members are needed to serve on the Activities Review Committee. This committee meets once each year in June and completes its work by August 1.**
- ◆ **One Member-at-Large is needed to serve on the Personnel Committee.**
- ◆ **To submit a nomination or request additional information, please contact Victoria Walker or Carolyn Johnson.**



A Book and a Bear Project" 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 if you have

Children who read...



Are more likely to overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities



Are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem



Are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum



Are more likely to develop empathy and creativity



We are prayerfully preparing to bring back Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year, and 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 Superintendent*

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.

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

VBS Dates: June 22-24, Monday through Wednesday

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 _____

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.

A Prayer of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Beloved Father, thank You for loving, forgiving and saving us. Thank You for giving us opportunities each day to show love and forgiveness to others. Thank You for increasing Your presence, power, anointing and abundance in our lives. Lord, You are great! You are most worthy of praise! No one can measure Your greatness.

Righteous Father, Your Word says that we are to make allowance for the faults of others and forgive anyone who offends us. We remember that You forgave us, so we, therefore, must forgive others.

Holy Spirit, help us understand that You love us unconditionally and that You are a forgiving God. Reveal any unforgiveness that is in our hearts and give us wisdom and courage to seek spiritual and/or professional counseling. Touch and renew our hearts so that we release the past and go forward, fully forgiving others of any offenses. Give us the peace and freedom that come from letting go and allowing You to fill our hearts with love.

Lord, forgive me for any sins that I have committed. Holy Spirit, remind all of us of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, brings to my remembrance those I need to forgive.

Triumphant Lord, You are the eternal King; Your rule is everlasting.. All of Your acts are just and true. You alone have held the oceans in Your hand. You measured the heavens with Your fingers and know the weight of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is Your Name.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Sister Annie Holloway
FCC Prayer Ministry

