



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

WELCOME TO

Worship

A PLACE TO

BELIEVE
& BELONG



FAITH



COMMUNITY



PURPOSE

Sunday, July 26th

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

2410 Creech Road—Raleigh, NC 27610

Welcomes You!

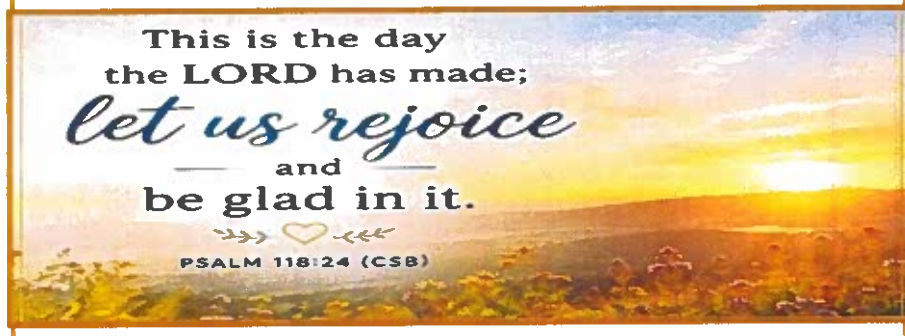


July 26, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Worship Celebration
Worship Leader—Rev. Carolyn Ingram

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice
and be glad in it." — Psalm 118:24*



- *CALL TO WORSHIPRev. Carolyn Ingram
- *OPENING SELECTION..... "Come Thou Fount" #14
- *INVOCATION..... Congregation in Unison

Gracious and loving God, we come before You on this fourth Sunday with thankful hearts and expectant spirits. We gather in Your holy name to worship, to listen, to learn, and to be renewed by Your presence.

Lord, quiet every anxious thought, lift every burdened heart, and draw us closer to You. May our songs be filled with praise, our prayers be offered in faith, and our hearts be open to Your Word. Let Your Holy Spirit move among us, bringing peace, wisdom, healing, and unity.

Guide those who lead, bless those who serve, strengthen those who are weary, and encourage all who seek You today. May this service honor You in all that is said and done, and may we leave this place better prepared to love You, serve one another, and walk faithfully in Your ways. It is in the Precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen!

***Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER.....Rev. Carolyn Ingram
CHORAL RESPONSE*"Even Me" #131*
OFFERTORY APPEAL &
PRAYER.....Rev. Carolyn Ingram
"Here We Stand Lord, In your Presence"

RECOGNITION OF
VISITORS.....Rev. Carolyn Ingram
Announcements

SPECIAL SELECTION
"Bless the Lord, O My Soul" Psalm 103
Duet: Deacon Hew and Deaconess Emma Dorssett

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERRev. Carolyn Ingram

*PRE-SERMONIC. PREPARATION SELECTION
"Lift Him Up" #411

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE & MESSAGE
Rev. Daniel R. Blackmond

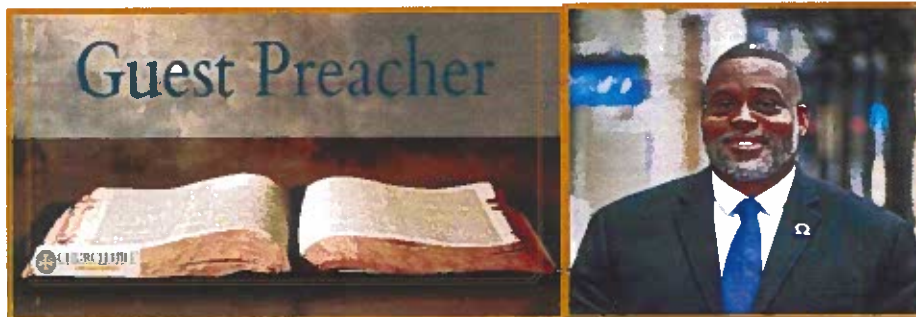
SONG OF INVITATIONFCC Sanctuary Choir

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

- * CLOSING SONGFCC Sanctuary Choir
- THE BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
"Sevenfold Amen"

Sister Monica Keele-Jones, Organist
Deacon Crinnie Allen, Accompanied by Brother Martin Banks, Jr.

***Denotes to stand**



Rev. Daniel R. Blackmond, MDiv

Rev. Blackmond is an experienced preacher of the gospel who has served the Wake County community as a mentor, coach, pastor, and friend for over 25 years.

Rev. Blackmond aims to preach the Good News to God's people and serve them with compassion.

Education: 1995 Shaw University bachelor's in computer science/Minor in Math

Notable: First Student to graduate from Shaw University with a computer science degree.

2005 Master of Divinity Degree, Shaw University- Area of Study: Homiletics & Pastoral Care
Divinity School student body president 2004-2005

Ministerial/Pastoral Experience

2018-Present Watts Chapel -Associate Minister,
Raleigh, NC

2003-2016 Pastor, Now Faith Community Baptist Church,
Knightsdale, NC

Family

Husband to Terri Blackmond

5 sons: Zachary, Daniel, David, Darren & Drew

Community Engagement: Scholarship Chairman

Notable: Helped raise over \$125k in scholarships for high school students preparing for college.

Mentor- Black males of various ages

Volunteer football coach in Wake Forest, NC.

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



**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**

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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)**

**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.)**

**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)**

**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 Hick Perryman (Sister of Mr. Freddie Hicks)**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Smith (Cousin Mr. Jarvis Richardson)**

### **P R A Y E R L I S T**

# 4TH WARD

WEST SOUTH STREET, RALEIGH, NC

With the burgeoning of Hayti, Cannon Lands, and adjoining tracts, southwest Raleigh—the Fourth Ward—became a dominant district. In 1896, 66% of its 3,200 residents were black, signifying the greatest percentage of blacks among any of Raleigh's four wards. Politically, the southwest sector as a local force for a quarter of a century. Between 1875 (during were five gerrymandered wards) and 1900, the Fourth Ward consistently elected black aldermen. No other ward could claim such black political influence.<sup>56</sup>



## *Fourth Ward Gospel Extravaganza*

*FCC family, you are invited to join Pastor Leaston and the First Congregational Church Combined Choir for the Fourth Ward Gospel Extravaganza on Sunday, August 23, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Fletcher Hall in the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh.*

*This special event celebrates the rich history and legacy of Raleigh's Fourth Ward, a community where First Congregational Church played an important role.*

*During the late 1800s, the Fourth Ward became one of Raleigh's most vibrant Black communities and a center of faith, leadership, and civic influence.*

*Pastor Leaston will be one of the featured speakers, and the FCC Combined Choir will be performing. This program is always filled with inspiring gospel music, meaningful history, and powerful stories.*

*Other FCC members will also share personal reflections on what it was like to grow up in this remarkable community and how its rich legacy of faith, family, and service continues to inspire future generations.*

*We hope you will join us for this memorable afternoon as we celebrate our history, honor our heritage, and give God the glory.*

# ANNA INTERCESSORY PRAYER CALENDAR AUGUST 2026

| Sunday                                                                                    | Monday                                                                             | Tuesday                                                                                                 | Wednesday                                                         | Thursday                                                                             | Friday                                                                          | Saturday                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Psalm 118:8 (ESV)</b><br>It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. |                                                                                    |                                                                                                         |                                                                   |                                                                                      |                                                                                 | <b>1</b><br><b>Glorious Communion Service</b><br>Carolyn Banks   |
| <b>2</b><br><b>Prayer For Our Nation and Leaders</b><br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>         | <b>3</b><br><b>Peace and Calm In Our Nation</b><br><br>Lamonte Jones               | <b>4</b><br><b>Military Families Who Have Lost Loved One</b><br><br>Paulette Kearney                    | <b>5</b><br><b>Intercessory Prayer List</b><br><br>Annie Holloway | <b>6</b><br><b>Victims of Abuse</b><br><br>Amelia Judd                               | <b>7</b><br><b>Families That Lost Children Tragically</b><br><br>Patrice Hinton | <b>8</b><br><b>Glorious Worship Service</b><br><br>Linda Wilson  |
| <b>9</b><br><b>God's Mercy Upon Our Nation</b><br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>               | <b>10</b><br><b>Food &amp; Shelter For Poor And Suffering</b><br><br>Grady Walston | <b>11</b><br><b>Church Growth New Members</b><br><br>Gloria Wilder                                      | <b>12</b><br><b>Intercessory Prayer List</b><br><br>Mardecia Bell | <b>13</b><br><b>Courage To Face Trials and Opposition</b><br><br>Carolyn Ingram      | <b>14</b><br><b>All FCC Musicians</b><br><br>Emma Dorssett                      | <b>15</b><br><b>Glorious Worship Service</b><br><br>Linwood Dunn |
| <b>16</b><br><b>All Law Enforcement</b><br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>                      | <b>17</b><br><b>All Children and Youth</b><br><br>Grady Perkins                    | <b>18</b><br><b>God's Wisdom and Blessing on All Leaders of FCC</b><br>Lillian McNeill                  | <b>19</b><br><b>Intercessory Prayer List</b><br><br>Wades Judd    | <b>20</b><br><b>Refugees Around The World</b><br><br>Mardecia Bell                   | <b>21</b><br><b>Bereaved Families</b><br><br>Victoria Walker                    | <b>22</b><br><b>Glorious Worship Service</b><br><br>Norma Hodge  |
| <b>23</b><br><b>Persecuted Christians Around The World</b><br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>   | <b>24</b><br><b>Those Being Persecuted Around The World</b><br><br>Arnold Bell     | <b>25</b><br><b>Salvation of Our Family Members</b><br><br>William Walker                               | <b>26</b><br><b>Intercessory Prayer List</b><br><br>Linda Bowden  | <b>27</b><br><b>Hope For Those Going Through of Trials</b><br><br>Katherine Whitaker | <b>28</b><br><b>Person Incarcerated and Families</b><br><br>Linda Allen         | <b>29</b><br><b>Glorious Worship Service</b><br><br>Hope Sautler |
| <b>30</b><br><b>Revival In Our Nation</b><br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>                    | <b>Persons &amp; Families Dealing With All Types of Diseases</b><br><br>B C Cooper | <b>Psalm 37:3 (ESV)</b><br>Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. |                                                                   |                                                                                      |                                                                                 |                                                                  |



*The First Congregational Trustee Ministry Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the following scholarships:*

*FCC Scholarship  
The Lawrence Wilson Scholarship  
Edward A. & Lena A. Johnson Scholarship*

*Please read and adhere to the requirements for each scholarship listed below:*

*The FCC Scholarship is a renewable scholarship open to members and children/guardians of FCC members enrolled in college.*

*The Lawrence Wilson Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship. Applicants must show support for the community in which they live or show volunteer involvement.*

*The Edward A. and Lena A. Johnson Scholarship is a scholarship that is open to children of FCC whose parents/guardians are members of FCC.*

- 1. Applications are being accepted starting Sunday, July 19, 2026, with a deadline of Sunday, August 2, 2026. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline date;*
- 2. Applications will be available through the church Secretary's Office during regular business hours or the FCC Church website;*
- 3. Each Scholarship requires a separate application;*
- 4. Applicants must attach a copy of their transcript/grades from the previous semester or most recent school semester attended that shows their Grade Point Average (GPA) and student ID (if applicable);*
- 5. Applicants may deliver the application in a sealed envelope to the Church Secretary's Office during regular office hours or the Trustee Ministry's Mailbox.*

***Important:*** *For the Lawrence Wilson Scholarship only, in addition to the application, applicants must attach a one-page essay describing their community or volunteer work/activities.*

*Applicants will be notified no later than August 16, 2026.*

*If you have any questions, please contact members of the Trustee Ministry Scholarship Committee:*

*Michael Saulter at [msaulter1@yahoo.com](mailto:msaulter1@yahoo.com)  
by phone at (919) 780-8431*

*Helen Dickens at [hwdickens@yahoo.com](mailto:hwdickens@yahoo.com)  
by phone at (919) 783-4743.*



EVERY SUNDAY  
9:30 AM

Teach me your way, Lord,  
that I may rely on your  
faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.

Psalms 86:11

A sign for Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. The top half has a dark background with several colorful hands (yellow, green, red, blue) reaching upwards. The text 'PRAYER MEETING' is in large, white, serif capital letters, with 'EVERYONE IS WELCOME' in smaller white capital letters below it. The date and time 'WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH @ 6:30 PM' are in white capital letters. The bottom half has a gold background with an open Bible in the center. The text 'BIBLE STUDY' is in large, bold, brown capital letters. Below it, 'WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH @ 7:00 PM' is in brown capital letters. At the bottom right, 'Let's Dig In together' is written in a white script font.

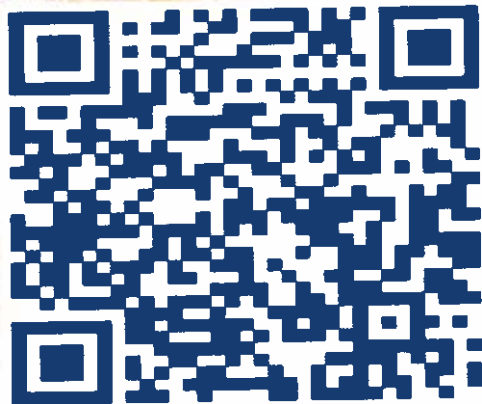
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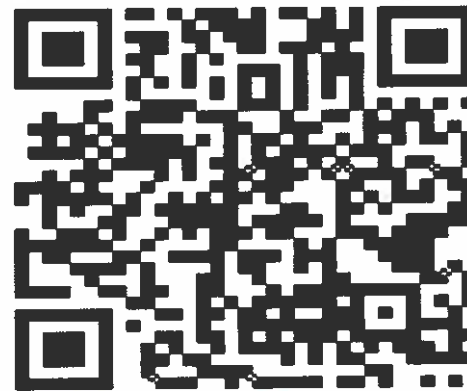


## OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



*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)

