



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

WE WELCOME YOU TO

Worship

— A PLACE TO —

**BELIEVE
& BELONG**

★ Sunday, July 19th ★

Community Connect Family Reunion Sunday

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."*



***Grace and Peace to each of you, and welcome to
Community Connect Family Reunion Sunday!***

Today, we gather with grateful hearts to celebrate the gift of family—both the families we were born into and the beloved church family God has joined together in love. Whether you are a longtime member, a returning friend, or worshipping with us for the first time, please know that you are warmly received, deeply valued, and truly welcome here.

***“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live
together in unity!”***

*Scripture reminds us that unity is not only beautiful—it is a blessing.
When we come together across generations, stories, neighborhoods, and experiences,
we reflect the heart of Christ and the strength of a community rooted in love.*

As Ephesians 4:3 encourages us, let us “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

*May this day be filled with joyful worship, meaningful reconnection,
shared memories, and renewed commitment to walk together as one family in faith.*

*Let us celebrate what God has done, honor the bonds that hold us together,
and open our hearts to the new relationships He is still forming among us.*

***Welcome home, church family, friends, and neighbors
we are blessed to be together.***



First Congregational Church

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Pastor

2410 Creech Road

July 19, 2026

11:00 am

**Community Connect Family Reunion
Sunday Worship Celebration
Worship Leader—Deacon Grady Walston**



*CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Grady Walston

*OPENING SELECTION. " Oh, I Want To See Him" #41

*INVOCATION..... .. Congregation in Unison

Holy and loving God, we gather this Sunday as one people, drawn together by Your grace and held together by Your love. In a world often divided by fear, difference, and misunderstanding, awaken in us a deeper spirit of unity.

Open our hearts to one another, strengthen our bonds of compassion, and remind us that we are members of one body, called to worship, serve, and love together.

May this service renew our shared faith, heal what separates us, and guide us toward peace in our church, our community, and our world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER..... Deacon Grady Walston

CHORAL RESPONSE "Standing on The Promise "

OFFERTORY APPEAL &

PRAYER..... Deacon Grady Walston

RECOGNITION OF

VISITORS..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Announcements

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Victoria Walker

PREPARATION SELECTION

"Believe For It"

HOLY SCRIPTURE..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Genesis 37:3-11, 23-28

*PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION

"How Excellent Is Your Name"

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

SONG OF INVITATION..... FCC Combined Choirs

CALL TO

DISCIPLESHIP..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

* CLOSING

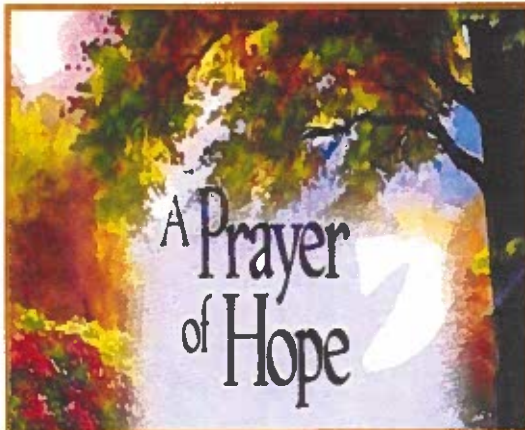
SONG..... FCC Combined Choirs

* THE BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Sister Vickie Debnam, Pianist,

Brother Lawrence Williams, Drummer, & Combined Choirs

***Denotes to stand**



Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love. Thank You for the plans that You have for each of our lives; plans for good and not for disaster so that we may each have a future and a hope.

Thank You that all of Your promises in Christ are Yes and in Him, Amen, to Your glory through us.

"The Lord heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds."
Psalms 147:3

Lord, we are joyful because we trust in You. You have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If we tried to recite all You wonderful deeds, we would never come to the end of them. Your throne, O God, lasts forever and ever.

Father, You send Your Word out and it always produces fruit. It will do just what You want it to and it prospers everywhere that You send it. So, Father, we declare that we will continue to circle the promises that You have made in Your Word and confess them daily, trusting that Your Word will produce fruit in our lives. We will not grow weary while we wait for Your promises. We confess that we walk by faith and not by sight. We refuse to give up on You. We refuse to give in to small goals, and we refuse to give out to fatigue or despair. Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ Jesus who loved us.

What do you need God to bless you and your family with? Find promises in His Word, and confess them over your life daily: Holy Spirit, help us to always pray God's Word in faith. Remind us that God's timing is always perfect, and He knows exactly when to send His promises. Help us to take care of the blessings that God has already brought into our lives. Remind us to always be grateful for all that God does for us.

Gracious Father, forgive us for trusting people and things instead of You. Forgive us for growing weary while waiting for Your promises. Forgive us for not praying daily. Forgive us for doubting You and the promises You have given us. Father, please forgive me for any sins that I have committed. Lord, remind all of us of those we need to forgive; and help us to be quick to forgive. Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness. All glory, majesty, power and authority are Yours. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FCC Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway

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**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. Lesa 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)

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. Dalster 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)

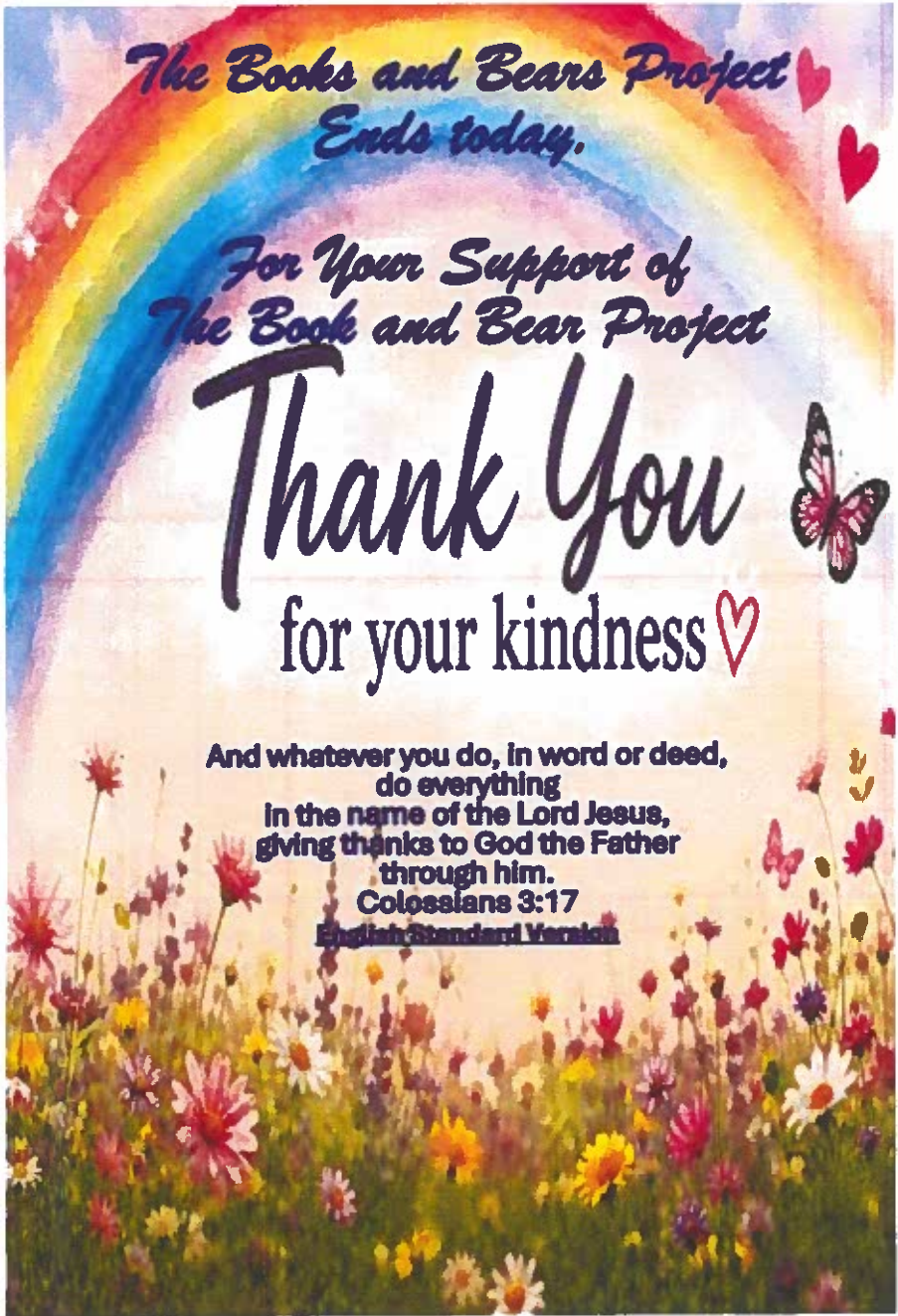
Mrs. Carolyn Hick Perryman (Sister of Mr. Freddie Hicks)

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith (Cousin Mr. Jarvis Richardson)

Mr. Mitchell Yelverton (God-son Sister Lillian McNeill)

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*The Books and Bears Project
Ends today.*

*For Your Support of
The Book and Bear Project*

Thank You
for your kindness

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father
through him.
Colossians 3:17
English Standard Version

Thank You for Your Generous Support

With sincere appreciation and gratitude, thank you for your generous support of the Book and Bear Project. Your gift of stuffed animals is more than a kind donation—it is a beautiful expression of love, comfort, and compassion.

Because of your thoughtfulness, a child or adult may receive a soft reminder that they are seen, cared for, and not forgotten. Each stuffed animal has the opportunity to brighten someone's day, bring a smile, and share a little hope during a moment when it may be needed most.

We are truly grateful for your willingness to give from the heart and to be part of this meaningful ministry. May God bless you richly for your kindness, and may every bear given through this project bring comfort, joy, and encouragement for the glory of God.

Thank you again for helping us share God's love in such a gentle and meaningful way.

*Mr. William Walker
FCC Youth Director*



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.*

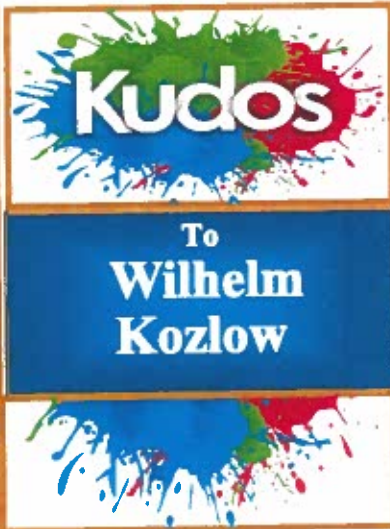
***Important:** For the Lawrence Wilson Scholarship only, in addition to the application, applicants must attach a one-page essay describing their community or volunteer work/activities.*

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
by phone at (919) 780-8431*

*Helen Dickens at hw Dickens@yahoo.com
by phone at (919) 783-4743.*



In the Sunday's, July 5, 2026 , bulletin Wilhelm received KUDOS

for his participation in the 4H Middle Ground Homeschool Garden Club.

Wilhelm and the members of his local 4H Club were all awarded Silver and Gold for their presentations and are now headed to the 4H State level District Day Activities at Enloe High School in Raleigh on Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

Wilhelm and the other students from around the state will be competing for prizes and cash award.

The 4-H state event will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026.. Wilhelm's age group (8-10) will begin presenting at 12:30pm. The room he should be in is the technology room and that room number is 1605. The order in which he will present is unknown; however, he could be the first or the last or somewhere in between but they should be finished well before 3:00.

If your schedule allows, please support Wilhelm on Tuesday, July 21, 2026



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***



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.

Psalm 86:11

All are welcome

Join Us for
Corporate

PRAYER

Wednesday, July 22nd @ 6:30 pm

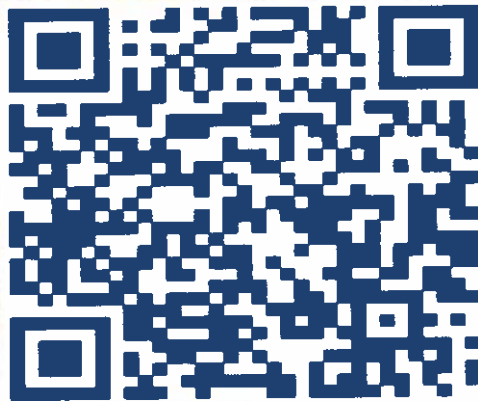
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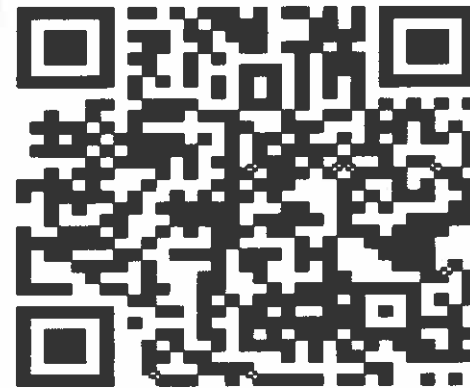


OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



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

FCC

Monday	20	5:00 pm	Male Chorus Rehearsal
Tuesday	21	6:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	22	6:30 pm	Corporate Prayer Meeting
Thursday	23	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	CIGC Rehearsal Activities Review Committee
Friday	24	5:00 pm	Male Chorus Rehearsal
Saturday	25	9:30 am 10:00 am	Men's Fellowship Pauline Missionary
Sunday	26	9:30 am 11:00 am	Sunday School <i>Worship Celebration</i> <i>SUNDAY</i> Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, <i>Pastor</i>

Sunday, July 19, 2026[illegible]