

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

August 2, 2026



AND HE TOOK THE FIVE
LOAVES AND THE TWO FISH,
AND LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN,
HE BLESSED AND BROKE AND
AND GAVE THE LOAVES TO
THE DISCIPLES; AND THE
DISCIPLES GAVE TO THE
MULTITUDES.

(MATTHEW 14:19)



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

Welcome in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



August 2, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Holy Communion
Worship Celebration
Worship Leader—Deacon Arnold Bell



- *CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Arnold Bell
- *OPENING SELECTION. "Just a Little Talk With Jesus" #298
- *INVOCATION. Congregation in Unison

Gracious and loving God, we come before You on this first Sunday in August with thankful hearts and open spirits. We pause to honor Your presence among us, to acknowledge Your goodness, and to seek Your guidance for the days ahead.

Lord, as we gather in worship, renew our minds, strengthen our faith, and fill this place with Your peace. May every song, every prayer, every word spoken, and every heart lifted be pleasing in Your sight. Help us to lay aside distractions and receive the blessings You have prepared for us today.

We ask that You bless our families, our church, our community, and all who stand in need of comfort, healing, direction, or hope. Lead us in love, unite us in purpose, and send us forth as faithful witnesses of Your grace. May this month begin with renewed joy, deeper trust, and a fresh commitment to walk in Your will. We invite Your Holy Spirit to move among us now and throughout this service. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Denotes to stand**

- MORNING PRAYER Deacon Arnold Bell
- CHORAL RESPONSE "Just to Be Close to You"
- OFFERTORY APPEAL &
PRAYER Deacon Arnold Bell
- 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.
Amen.*

- RECOGNITION OF
VISITORS Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

Announcements

PRE-SERMONIC PREPARATION SELECTION
"Come Thou Almighty King"

HOLY SCRIPTURE READING ... Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney
I Samuel 26:5-12

MEDITATION SELECTION
"Rev. 19:1"

MESSAGE Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

"Letting God Handle What You Want to Fix"

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

**CALL TO
DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney**

***Denotes to stand**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION OBSERVANCE



INVITATION TO
HOLY COMMUNION... .. Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

* APOSTLES' CREED Congregation in Unison

COMMUNION
PRAYER... .. Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

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

* CLOSING
SONG Cunningham/Ingram Gospel Singers

* THE BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

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

***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**

Prayer For Heart Revival

Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your Name. (Psalm 80:18)

Heavenly Father pour out Your Holy Spirit like a mighty flood into the hearts of all Your people, those who are called by Your name.

May our hearts be washed by the water of the Word and may the purifying light of the Holy Spirit cleanse the thoughts, wash the hearts and purify the minds of those who are part of the church, which is your Body.

Lord, I pray that you would purify the hearts and minds of all Your people so that our thoughts are ever turned toward the Lord Jesus. May we as individual members and also as a body of believers learn to seek Your will in our lives, so that our prayers are filtered through the light of Your will, so that they are tuned into Your perfect plan and purposes.

Lord, we pray that You would revive the hearts of all believers and especially those who have left their first love, become involved in a distorted gospel, fallen into legalism or become lukewarm toward You.

Draw each one back into a right relationship with You and with each other. Revive Your people and turn the hearts of all Your people back to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FCC Prayer Ministry
Sister Annie Holloway

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



**Mrs. Patricia Avery, Miss Carnetta Blakely,
Mrs. Jessle Freeman, Deaconess Lossie Hackett,
Deacon Donzell Hunter, Mrs. Yvonne Johnson,
Mrs. Amelia 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. Charle 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.⁵⁶



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.



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.

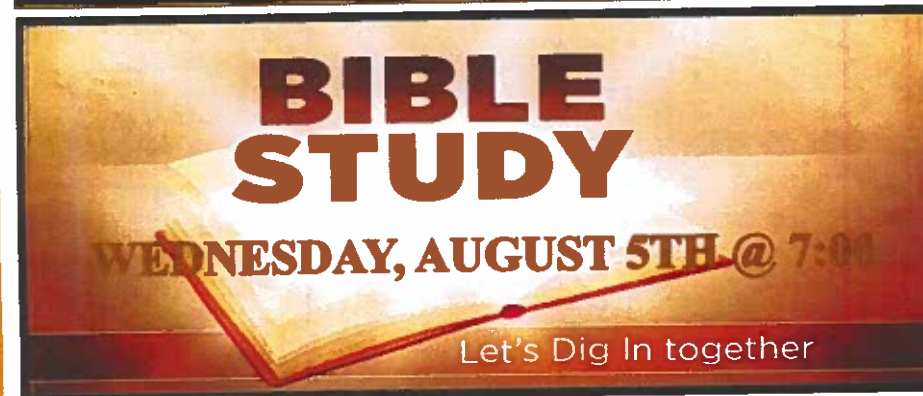
If you have any questions, please contact members of the Trustee Ministry Scholarship Committee:

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

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



EVERY SUNDAY 9:30 AM



REV. LEASTON'S WORKING VACATION

Rev. Leaston, began his working vacation last Sunday, July 26. His vacation will continue for the next two weeks. Sunday, July 26: Rev. Daniel Blackmond served as guest preacher. Holy Communion Sunday, August 2: Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney will serve. Second Sunday, August 9: Rev. Carolyn Ingram will serve. Third and fourth Sundays, August 16 and 23: Rev. Leaston will return. GAP Sunday, August 30: Rev. Bessie Bukhay will serve. Bible Study on Wednesday, August 5 and Wednesday, August 12 will be taught by Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney.

REV. BUKHAY'S WORKING SCHEDULE

Dear Church Family. Please note that Rev. Bessie Bukhay's office hours will be flexible over the next two weeks, August 3-7 and August 10-14. During this time, she will be working both from home and in the church office, Monday through Friday. Also, Church Clerk Linda Allen will be available. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued grace during this time.

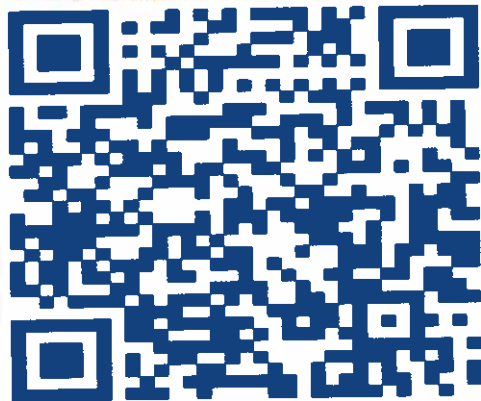
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2410 Creach Road
Raleigh, NC 27610

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor

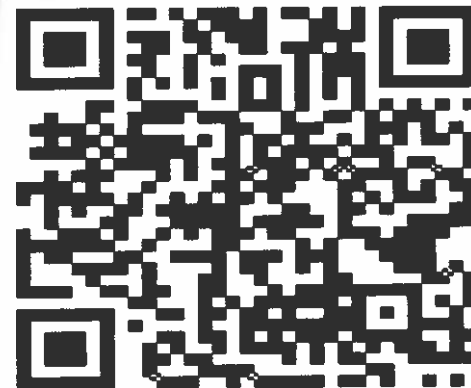


OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



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



First Congregational Church

August 3- 9. 2026

Monday	03	5:00 pm	Male Chorus Rehearsal
Tuesday	04	6:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	05	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting Bible Study
Thursday	06		OPEN
Friday	07	5:00 pm	Male Chorus Rehearsal
Saturday	08	10:00 am	Trustee Ministry Meeting
Sunday	09	9:30 am 11:00 am	Sunday School <i>Worship Celebration</i> SUNDAY Rev. Carolyn Ingram <i>Associate Minister</i>

Quarterly Usher Meeting (Immediately after today's service)

NOTES FROM TODAY'S SERMON

Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

Sunday, August 2, 2026

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. On the left side, there is a vertical orange margin strip. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet of paper. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.