



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

WE WELCOME YOU TO

Worship

A PLACE TO

**BELIEVE
& BELONG**

Sunday, June 28th



Psalm 118:24:

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

📍 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."*

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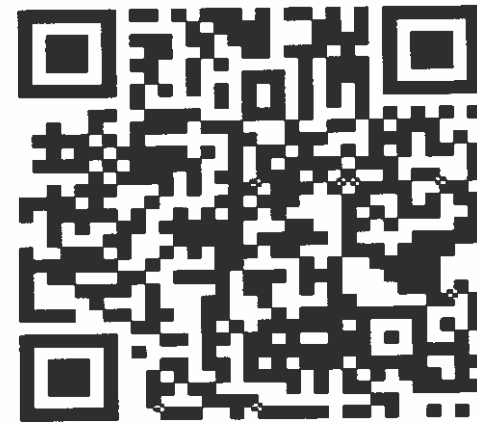


OFFERING / TITHE / SEED



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

June 28, 2026

11:00 am

Sunday Worship Celebration

Worship Leader—Deacon Arnold Bell



- CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Arnold Bell
- OPENING SELECTION... "Standing On the Promises" #279

Gracious and Eternal God, Creator of all people and Giver of every good gift, we gather before You with praise and thanksgiving on this day of remembrance and hope of 250 years of American Independence. With thankful hearts, we lift our praise to You and bless Your holy name.

We give You thanks for the blessings received, the lessons learned, and the hope renewed. We remember those whose courage, labor, sacrifice, wisdom, and faith have helped build and sustain our communities. We honor the many stories of this land—the struggles endured, the freedoms expanded, the healing still needed, and the mercy that continues to call us forward. Teach us to walk humbly, act justly, love mercy, and seek the peace of all people.

As we celebrate the anniversary of independence on July 4, 2026, awaken in us a spirit of gratitude without pride, patriotism without contempt, remembrance without bitterness, and service without hesitation. Make us faithful neighbors, responsible citizens, and instruments of reconciliation in our homes, our communities, and our nation. May our freedom be used for goodness, our strength for compassion, and our future for Your glory.

Bless this congregation and all who gather in worship today. Fill our praise with sincerity, our thanks with generosity, and our lives with renewed devotion to Your purposes. With thankful hearts, we praise You, O God, now and always. **In Jesus' name. Amen.**

***Denotes to stand**

MORNING PRAYER.....Deacon Arnold Bell
 CHORAL
 RESPONSE "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

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

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

Announcements

SPECIAL PREPARATION SELECTION

"Hide Your Word In My Heart"

HOLY SCRIPTURE..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
Luke 6:27-36

*PRE-SERMONIC. MEDITATION SELECTION

"My Father Watches Over Me" #214

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

"HOW TO LOVE DIFFICULT PEOPLE"

SONG OF
 INVITATION.....Sanctuary Choir

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

* CLOSING
 SONG..... Sanctuary Choir

♦ THE BENEDICTION..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
"Threefold Amen "

Mr. Martin Banks, Jr., Organist & Sanctuary Choir

***Denotes to stand**

Prayer For State And National Government

Before we lay our requests for our state and federal government before the Lord, let us remember to praise and thank Him for the great things He has already done for us as a state and nation and for all He is going to do.

"I praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 (ESV) "The Lord is my strength and my shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving." Psalm 28:7

Father, we thank You for the United States of America and for Your gift in raising up this country to be a shining light on a hill. Thank You, too, for this great Nation that You are raising up to be the brightest star. We acknowledge that such favor and stature come only from You.

Today we also thank You, God, for the gift of government, which You have established to serve the good of the people in North Carolina and our country.

We are grateful for our government, which provides protection from dangerous situations and from people intent on doing evil.

We thank You for all the state and federal laws that have been passed that protect life, family, and our religious liberties.

Today we praise and thank You, Lord, for the many righteous and integral men and women who serve us in every sphere of government, and we acknowledge that they are a gift from You.



Father God, we also ask forgiveness on behalf of our state and nation's leaders for passing bills and enacting laws contrary to Your biblical principles, specifically those that have a disregard for life, family, and other godly relationships.

We thank You, Lord, that when we ask You to forgive us, You do so freely and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9). We therefore receive Your cleansing and thank You for removing any barrier to our communication with You that would hinder our prayers on behalf of our state and nation.

Today, we also thank You, God, for the gift of government, which You have established to serve the good of the people in our country. We are grateful for our government, which provides protection from dangerous situations and from people intent on doing evil.

We thank You for all the state and federal laws passed to protect life, family, and our religious liberties.

Today we praise and thank You, Lord, for the many righteous and integral men and women who serve us in every sphere of government, and we acknowledge that they are a gift from You. We Praise You for all You do. In Jesus' Name. Amen

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)
*Beneath Heaven's gracious will- The stars of progress still
Our course do sway; In unity sublime To broader heights
we climb, Triumphant over Time,
God speeds our way!*

*Grand birthright of our sires, Our altars and our fires
Keep we still pure! Our starry flag unfurled,
The hope of all the world,
In peace and light impeared,
God hold secure*

Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance"

FCC Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway


ANNA INTERCESSORY PRAYER CALENDAR JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 250TH ANNIVERSARY 1776 - 2026</p>			<p>1 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">K. Whitaker</p>	<p>2 Protection Over President & Vice President</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Norma Hodge</p>	<p>3 FCC Family Members Dealing With Lost of Loved Ones</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Linda Wilson</p>	<p>4 Glorious Communion Service</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Wades Judd</p>
<p>5 Christians to Walk in Holiness and God's Peace</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Worship Leader</p>	<p>6 Safety In Our Neighborhoods</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Grady Walston</p>	<p>7 Families Dealing With Loss of Job/ Source of Income and</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Paulette Kearney</p>	<p>8 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Bessie Bukhay</p>	<p>9 Spiritual Discernment for FCC</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Amelia Judd</p>	<p>10 Protection of Our High School Graduates</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Hope Saulter</p>	<p>11 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Alice Johnson</p>
<p>12 Prayer for the Backslider</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Worship Leader</p>	<p>13 Single Mothers and Fathers</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Grady Perkins</p>	<p>14 Wisdom for all FCC Leaders and Ministers</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Mardecia Bell</p>	<p>15 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Annie Holloway</p>	<p>16 Stand on God's Word in times of Need</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Patrice Hinton</p>	<p>17 Persecuted Christians in the World</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Linda Wilson</p>	<p>18 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Mavis Weldon</p>
<p>19 Those Incarcerated and Their Families</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Worship Leader</p>	<p>20 Godly Wisdom & Guidance in Daily Decisions</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">B C Cooper</p>	<p>21 FCC Missions & Outreach</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Linwood Dunn</p>	<p>22 Intercessory Prayer List</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Emma Dorsett</p>	<p>23 Wisdom For Leaders of All Ministries</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Linda Allen</p>	<p>24 All Senior Disciples of FCC</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Victoria Walker</p>	<p>25 Glorious Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Hew Dorsett</p>
<p>26 Those dealing with Loneliness and Isolation</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Worship Leader</p>	<p>27 Provision for Homeless and Jobless</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Arnold Bell</p>	<p>28 Praying for the Nations</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Donald Ingram</p>	<p>29 Senior Disciples</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Monica Jones</p>	<p>30 Those impacted By Disasters</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Carolyn Banks</p>		



Our Deepest Condolences

Our deepest condolences go out to you during this difficult time. May cherished memories bring comfort and solace, and may you find strength in the love and support of those around you. Our thoughts are with you as you navigate this journey of grief.



With heartfelt sympathy,
FCC extend our deepest
condolences to the
Judd and Simeus
families, in the passing of
their beloved family mem-
ber.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 28th, from 1:00-2:00 pm for Mrs. Geraldine Judd Mitchell, the beloved aunt of Mr. Wades Judd, followed by the funeral service at 2:00 pm at Saint Augusta Missionary Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

A family memorial service will be held in Maryland for Mrs. Kathleen Dixon, the mother of Mrs. Deneice Simeus, who passed Thursday, June 18th.

INTERCESSORY

**Deaconess Linda Allen, Mrs. Patricia Avery,
Miss Carnetta Blakely, Mrs. Jessle Freeman,
Deaconess Lossie Hackett, Deacon Donzell Hunter,
Mrs. Yvonne Johnson, Mrs. Amella Judd,
Deaconess Geraldine Lee, Mrs. Irene Marks,
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. Daister 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. Paul Lee (Husband of Deaconess Geraldine Lee)

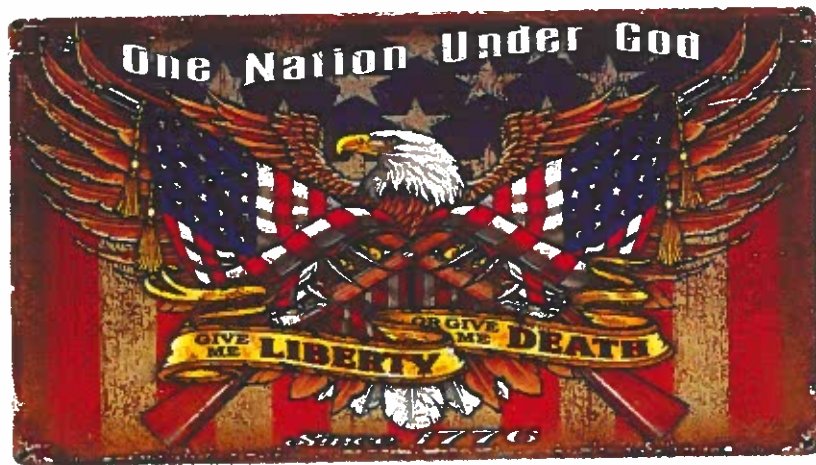
Mr. Raymond Perkins (Brother of Deacon Grady Perkins)

Mr. John Poole, (Brother of Mrs. Cheryl Dendy)

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

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

PRAYER LIST



America's 250th 4th of July celebration in 2026 marks the nation's semi quincennial. On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The 250th Fourth of July is called the Semiquincennial. Marking exactly two-and-a-half centuries since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, this historic milestone is also known by a few other names: Sestercentennial (two and a half centuries), Quarter Millennium, and The Big Two-Five-Oh.

The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Let us pray for our country and our people and rededicate ourselves as One Nation Under God. "One Nation Under God" is a prominent phrase in the American Pledge of Allegiance. Added by Congress in 1954 during the Cold War to distinguish the U.S. from the perceived atheism of the Soviet Union, it remains a focal point in discussions about patriotism, religion, and American history.



Book and a Bear Project"
Concludes today

Thank You!
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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.

***Thank you,
Mr. William Walker, Youth Director***

ACTIVITIES REVIEW

First Congregational Church

In accordance with the FCC's Bylaws and operating procedures, the Activities Form has been provided to all auxiliaries, boards, fellowship & ministries for completion for the Year 2027.

The form should be completed and returned to the Church secretary on/or before July 17, 2025, via email (fccral@bellsouth.net) or by submitting a hard copy to the Church office.

For questions and concerns please contact the Church secretary.

2027 Activities Form

Name of Auxiliary, Board, Fellowship, Ministry _____

Chairperson _____

Phone Number _____

Please use this form to list your 2027 Goals and Activities. Try to limit the number of goals to two or fewer; however, you can have more. The number of activities for each goal may vary.

GOALS	ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITIES
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1. _____

2. _____



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**

6:00 -7:00 pm

Wednesday Night

Prayer Meeting

JULY 1, 2026

Wednesday
Night

Bible Study

7:00 PM

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.

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

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.

