

First Congregational Church

2410 Creech Road - Raleigh, NC

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Pastor/Teacher

October 12, 2025



*Seek justice
Love mercy
Walk humbly
with your God*

MICAH 6:8



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

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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.*

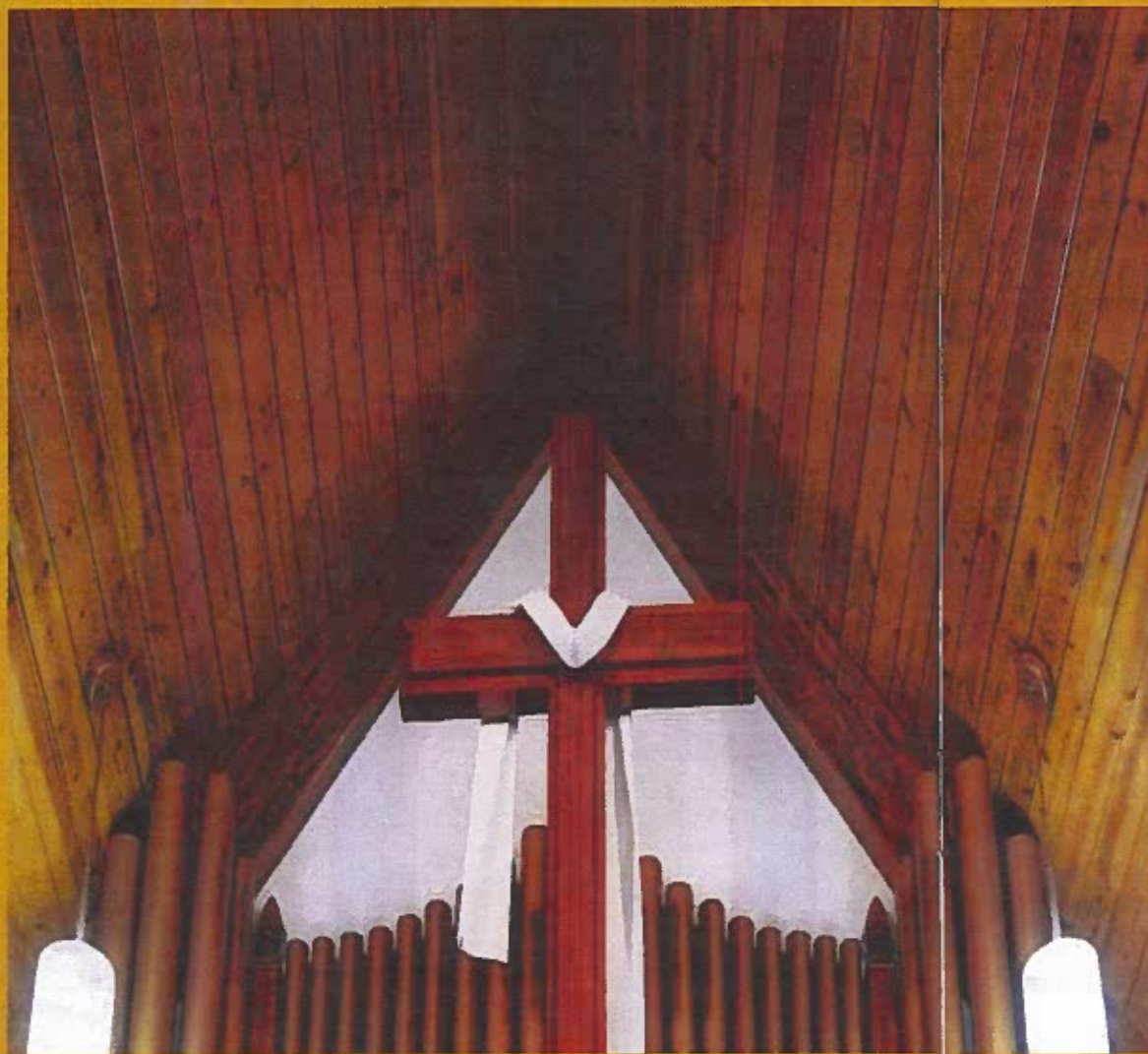
MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of First Congregational Church is to obey Christ's command to seek and save the lost; to preach and teach the Word of God; to make and empower disciples through increasing and promoting our love for God and His word; to help meet the needs of human kind by "loving God 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 Creech Road

Raleigh, NC

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston



We warmly encourage all
visitors to scan the
QR Code
and share their name and
contact information so
Rev. Leaston
can personally reach out
and connect with you.



WELCOME
TO CHURCH
YOU BELONG HERE

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SERMON SERIES FOR OCTOBER **REKINDLE YOUR HEART**

**"I KNOW YOUR DEEDS, YOUR HARD WORK
AND YOUR PERSEVERANCE... YET I HOLD
THIS AGAINST YOU: YOU HAVE FORSAKEN
THE LOVE YOU HAD AT FIRST."**

REVELATION 2:2-4

Thank you
for attending our
SERVICE

October 19, 2025

11:00 am

Glorious Worship Service
Worship Leader—Rev. Carolyn Ingram

- INTROIT
- CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Carolyn Ingram

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philipians 4:4-8 King

- GLORIA PATRI Congregation in Unison
- HYMN OF PRAISE "How Great Thou Art" #25
- INVOCATION Congregation in Unison

*Father God, we come before You with open hearts, yearning to receive Your divine wisdom. Illuminate our minds with Your truth and guide us to fully embrace Your Word. May this worship service rekindle the flame of hope in our hearts and reinforce our faith in Your love and grace. In times of doubt and uncertainty, remind us of "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", all our sins and griefs to bear. Thank You for the privilege of carrying everything to You in prayer and for You making a way where there seems to be no way. Thank You for taking us in your arms and shielding us, where we can find solace there. We honor and worship You for parting our Red Seas and for granting us victory to overcome. **Hallelujah!** May Your name be glorified forever in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.***

***Denotes to stand**

- HOLY SCRIPTURE Rev. Carolyn Ingram
Micah 6:5-8
- MORNING PRAYER Rev. Carolyn Ingram
- CHORAL RESPONSE "I Sing Praises To Your Name"
- OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Carolyn Ingram
- RECEIVING OF
ITHES & OFFERINGS Ushers
- DOXOLOGY Congregation in Unison

RECOGNITION & WELCOME OF VISITORS
PASTORAL NOTES

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

SONG OF
PREPARATION "City Built Four Square"

SONG OF
MEDITATION "Jesus, How I Love Calling your Name"

Message Title:

"Requirements of the Heart: What the Lord requires"
Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

- SONG OF INVITATION FCC Combined Choir
- CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston
- CLOSING SONG FCC Combined Choir
- THE BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Dacon Grady Walston, Pianist

***Denotes to stand**

**Prayers of sympathy are extended
to the**

**Phifer and Ingram families
in the passing of,
The Honorable Donnie Hoover,
the cousin of Richard Phifer.**

**Celebration of Life Service
Was held at
Steele Creek A.M.E. Zion Church
Charlotte, NC
Saturday, October 18, 2025**

In Loving Memory

and with heavy hearts, we
announce the passing of

**The Honorable
Donnie Hoover**

(retired)

(November 23, 1949 ~ October 8, 2025)



*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans**. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. **Romans 8:26-27***

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LISTING

**Mrs. Patricia Avery, Mr. William (Butch) Edger,
Mr. Todd Freeman, Mrs. Jessie Freeman,
Deaconess Lossie Hackett, Mr. Edward Hinton,
Deacon Donzell Hunter, Mrs. Yvonne Johnson,
Mrs. Amelia Judd, Mrs. Cheryl Laws,
Mrs. Irene Marks, Deaconess Natalie Perkins,
Mr. Jesse Reynolds, Deaconess Beatrice Todd**

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**Ms. Mary Allen, (Sister of Brother Crinnie Allen)  
Mr. David Bradley, (Brother of Deaconess Victoria Walker)  
Mr. James Cox, (Father of Mr. Jesse Reynolds)  
Mr. Donald Freeman, Jr. (Son of Mr. Donald Freeman, Sr.)  
Ms. Barbara Gail Hall (Friend of Jarvis Richardson)  
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. Marvin King (Brother-in-law Mrs. Annie Holloway)  
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. Tanisha Snead (Cousin of Mr. Jarvis Richardson)  
Miss Peyton Todd  
(Granddaughter of Deaconess Beatrice Todd)**



2026 FCC BUDGET  
Place all completed forms in the  
Treasurer's mail folder by  
SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 26, 2024.



*It's great to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ all year long, but especially during that time of the year we set aside in December, which is approaching fast. Please mark your calendars to attend and support a drama presentation of "The Christmas Miracle": to be featured during the regular Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 14, 2025, @ 9:00 am. There will be reflections to remind us of the story behind the songs and a nativity scene to remind us of the humble beginnings of Jesus' life. Please be willing to participate when asked.*

*Sunday School Superintendent, Ms. Norma Hodge  
Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Linwood Dun  
Coordinators: Organist Monica Keels-Jones and Deaconess Linda Allen*

### MEANING OF CHRISTMAS SONG "NOEL"

*Noel is a linguistic puzzle. Originally in French, it meant "news." But it finds its origins in the Latin word for "birth." Centuries later, it would mean "shouts of joy" in English. Pulling the threads of this puzzle together, Noel is a joyous declaration to the world, saying,*

*"A Child is Born, and now all is well!"*

*As you sing The First Noel this Christmas season, let the familiar carol remind your heart that because of Jesus, Now, All is Well.*

## First Congregational Church Fall Food



### Announcing the Fall Food Drive

*First Congregational Church is excited to announce the beginning of its Fall Food Drive, starting on October 1, 2025. This year, the church is partnering with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle to host a Virtual Food Bank Drive, similar to what the church did during the pandemic. The drive provides an opportunity for both church members and the community to come together in support of those in need.*

### How the Virtual Food Bank Drive Works

*The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle has created a dedicated First Congregational Church Team Page for this initiative. Contributions can be made openly or anonymously through the provided link. All donations made through this platform will go directly to the Food Bank, ensuring immediate support for hunger relief efforts. Additionally, the Food Shuttle will provide tax deductible contribution statements for every donation.*

### How to Donate

*Contributions can be made by members, friends, family, etc. . To make a donation under the team of First Congregational Church, simply use the following URL link:*

<https://www.fccraleigh.org/food-shuttle-donations>

*The link will also be on the FCC web site.  
You may choose the amount you wish to give,  
and every contribution will help feed the  
hungry in our community.*

### Thank You for Your Support

*Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to feeding those in need through your participation in the Fall Food Drive.*



**FCC HEALTH MINISTRY—DEACONESS GERALDINE LEE**

### **October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month & Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**Cancer and domestic violence are exacerbated by similar and complex social issues such as financial insecurity, institutional racism, discrimination, and isolation from supportive networks.**

**A history of intimate partner violence (IPV) also impacts optimal cancer care receipt, such as surgery and hormone therapy. . Women in abusive relationships have very limited access to healthy interventions further complicating early detection and treatments that could be lifesaving.**

**Domestic violence knows no boundaries—it affects people regardless of gender, race, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. It often occurs in private, leaving victims feeling isolated and trapped. The effects can be devastating, not just physically but also mentally, emotionally, and financially. The impacts ripple out, affecting families, workplaces, and communities.**

**Despite the prevalence of domestic violence, many cases go unreported. This makes raising awareness crucial in helping those who are suffering in silence to find the courage to seek help. Statistics reveal that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence in their lifetimes. These numbers underscore the importance of creating a culture that encourages open dialogue and provides access to resources for anyone affected.**

**FCC Health Ministry, Deaconess Geraldine Lee, Chair**

### **Prayer For Peace**



**YOU WILL  
KEEP HIM IN  
perfect  
peace  
WHOSE MIND  
IS STAYED  
ON YOU.  
ISAIAH 26:3**

**"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3**

**Father God, You desire peace and unity and encouragement for our body of believers. Help us, Lord, to pursue what makes for peace and for building one another up. Help us to pursue the things that will lead to peace and unity. Give us discerning hearts to know Your will and give us the courage to be obedient. Lord, we know that without You and Your Holy Spirit indwelling each of us, we cannot do any of these things. But, with You and for Your glory, grant our body peace and unity.**

**Lord, You have told us in Your Word that You hear our prayers. We are crying out to You, we are humbling ourselves before You and seeking Your face. We come together as a church body to seek You. We repent and turn from our wicked ways, thank You for hearing us. Thank you for Your forgiveness and healing.**

**Help our church body to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Help us in all our interactions with one another to have humble and gentle hearts. Grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love. Grant the Body of Christ unity. May we walk humbly with You, God, allowing You to show us our wrongs.**

**Lord, what the enemy means for evil against our church body, we believe You can use for good. Remind our hearts of this. When we are being attacked and crushed from all sides, remind us of Your faithfulness to use everything for Your good and Your glory. May we not fear but trust in Your provision for our church family. May we not only be readers of Your Word but believers and doers. Increase our faith, Lord. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen**

**FCC Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway**



*faith  
hope  
cure*



***The First Congregational Church  
Health Ministry will sponsor  
The 13th Annual Pink Tea  
October 25, 2025, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.***

**RIMA**  
Raleigh Interdenominational  
Ministerial Alliance  
**TUE, OCT. 21ST AT 11AM**  
MACEDONIA NEW LIFE CHURCH  
2004 ROCK QUARRY RD. RALEIGH, NC 27610

Guest Preacher  
**Dr. Al Leaston**  
First Congregational Church

RIMA President  
**Bishop Joe L. Stevenson**

*<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope  
when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God  
and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.  
Ephesians 4:4-6*



**Habitat For  
Humanity: Af-  
fordable  
Homes in  
Southeast  
Raleigh**

## **Project Overview**

*Habitat for Humanity is building 105 affordable homes—45 townhomes and 60 single-family houses—off Old Poole Road in southeast Raleigh.*

## **Volunteering**

*Habitat needs volunteers to help build homes. FCC is recruiting at least 15 volunteers; no experience is needed. Volunteers can register through the link on the FCC website (find the 6th rotating page after the Pink Tea) or sign-up/register at: [Habitat For Humanity](https://www.habitatwake.org). Please sign up before October 18, 2025, for the November 1, 2025 Old Poole Place build date.*

## **Who Can Volunteer?**

*Anyone age 16 or older can volunteer and bring friends or family who meet the age requirement. After registering, add your name and others joining you to the bulletin board signup sheet. For help, contact Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney.*

## **Apply for a Habitat Home**

*Encourage families or friends to apply for a Habitat home at <https://www.habitatwake.org/apply>.*

## **Prayers Requested**

*Please pray for the project's success, needed funding, volunteer safety, and greater access to affordable housing.*

***Mission Ministry—Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney***



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. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.