

*First Congregational Church*  
*2410 Creech Road - Raleigh, NC*  
*Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

*Wherefore comfort  
yourselves together,  
and edify one another,  
even as also ye do.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV)*

*May God Bless Your Day!*

## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston, Pastor**

**Email: [pastoral@fccral.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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 26, 2025

11:00 am

**Glorious Worship Service**  
**Worship Leader—Deacon LaMonte Jones**

- INTROIT ..... "Lord, You Are Welcome"
- CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

**A psalm. A song. For the Sabbath day.**

<sup>1</sup> It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, <sup>2</sup> proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, <sup>3</sup> to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. <sup>4</sup> For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD; I sing for joy at what your hands have done. <sup>5</sup> How great are your works, LORD, how profound your thoughts! <sup>6</sup> Senseless people do not know, fools do not understand, <sup>7</sup> that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever.

<sup>8</sup> But you, LORD, are forever exalted. Psalm 91:1-8 (NIV)

- GLORIA PATRI ..... Congregation in Unison
- HYMN OF PRAISE ..... "O How I Love Jesus" #10
- INVOCATION ..... Congregation in Unison

Father God, we come before You with hearts full of joy and gratitude. We lift our voices in praise, celebrating Your goodness and grace. May our worship be a sweet aroma to You, reflecting our love and devotion. Help us to rejoice in Your presence and share the joy of Your salvation with others. With humble hearts, we ask Your forgiveness for missing the mark and transgressions. Cleanse us of our sins and renew our spirits, that we may walk in Your light and reflect Your love. Grant us the strength to forgive others as You have forgiven us, and guide us on the path of righteousness. May our hearts be open to Your guidance that will reflect You in all we do. In Jesus' name. Amen, Amen, Amen.

**\*Denotes to stand**

- HOLY SCRIPTURE ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones  
1 Kings 19:1-13
- MORNING PRAYER ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones
- CHORAL RESPONSE ..... "Give Me A Clean Heart"

SPECIAL SELECTION ..... "The lord Is My Shepherd"

OFFERTORY PRAYER ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

RECEIVING OF  
ITHES & OFFERINGS ..... Ushers

- DOXOLOGY ..... Congregation in Unison

**RECOGNITION & WELCOME OF VISITORS**  
**Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney**

- SONG OF  
PREPARATION ..... "The Solid Rock" #223

**Message Title:**  
**"Encouragement For The Discouraged"**  
**Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney**

SONG OF INVITATION ..... Sanctuary Choir

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

- CLOSING SONG ..... "God Be With You"

- THE BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

**"Sevenfold Amen**

**Mrs. Monica Keele-Jones— Organist & Sanctuary Choir**

**\*Denotes to stand**

## **Strength And Comfort For Parents Who Lost Children**

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be \_ with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NKJV)*

*Heavenly Father, we lift up this family with heavy hearts. We cannot understand the depth of their pain, but we trust in Your love and compassion. Lord, surround them with Your presence in this time of grief. Grant them comfort and peace as they navigate their sorrow and feel the warmth of Your embrace.*

*We lift up every mother and father whose hearts are broken by the loss of their precious child. Lord, in their weakness be their strength; in their darkness, be their light. Give them courage to face each day, help them to breathe again, and speak peace to their hearts. Renew their spirit, piece by piece, and restore the joy that feels so far away.*

*We lift up this family to you in their time of profound sorrow. Their hearts are broken, and the pain of losing a child is an unbearable weight to carry. We pray that you draw near to them and surround them with your loving presence. Be their refuge and strength, and provide comfort that only you can give. Sustain them in their grief and bring them a measure of peace. In Jesus' Name Amen.*

**FCC Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway**

*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. Amella 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 Crinle 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 & Jackle 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 today**  
**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 Keele-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**



*First Congregational Church started its Fall Food Drive on October 1, 2025, teaming up with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle for a Virtual Food Bank Drive. This effort invites church members and the community to help people facing food insecurity.*

### **How It Works**

*A dedicated team page lets donors contribute—either openly or anonymously—straight to the Food Bank. Every gift supports hunger relief, and donors receive a tax-deductible receipt.*

### **How to Donate**

*Anyone can donate by visiting <https://www.fccraleigh.org/food-shuttle-donations>, also available on the FCC website. Each donation helps provide meals locally.*

### **Thank You**

*Thank you for supporting the Fall Food Drive and helping feed our community.*

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



*Thank  
you*

***Attendees of the Pink Tea Luncheon***

***Pink Tea Luncheon Guests,***

*On behalf of the First Congregational Church Health Ministry, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each one of you for joining us at the Pink Tea Luncheon yesterday afternoon here at the church. .*

*Your presence truly made the event special, and it was a pleasure to share breast cancer awareness information on such a wonderful afternoon as we gathered together.*

*We are grateful for your support, enthusiasm, and the warmth you brought to the gathering. The luncheon would not have been the same without your participation and the lively conversations that filled the room.*

*Thank you for helping us create lasting memories and for being an integral part of this celebration. We look forward to seeing you again soon at future Pink Tea events!*

*With appreciation, FCC Health Ministry  
Deaconess Geraldine C. Lee, Chairperson*



***First  
Congregational Church  
Health Ministry***

***Deaconess  
Geraldine C. Lee  
Chairperson***

***FCC Health Ministry Committee***

*Deaconess Linda Allen,  
Trustee Chairperson Martin Banks  
Senior Day Out Coordinator Lilla Barnes  
Rev. Minister Bukhay  
Sisters: Carolyn Johnson  
Deacon Chairperson LaMonte Jones  
Sister Amelia Judd  
Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney  
Deaconess Dr. Hope Saulter  
Deaconess Chairperson Victoria Walker  
Youth Director, William Walker  
Deaconess Gloria Wilder*

***PLANNING AND GIFTS***

*Sister Lillian McNeill and Deaconess Linda Wilson*

***REFRESHMENTS AND DECORATIONS:***

*Deaconess Victoria Walker & Linda Wilson,  
Sisters Linda Hinnant, & Shirley Hunter*

***PHOTOGRAPHY***

*Deaconess Linda Wilson*

***GREETERS***

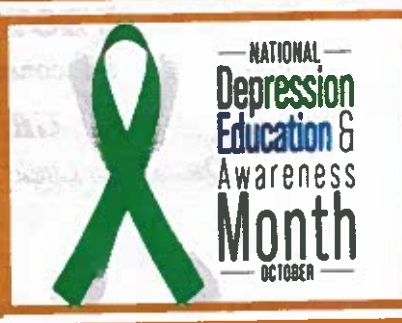
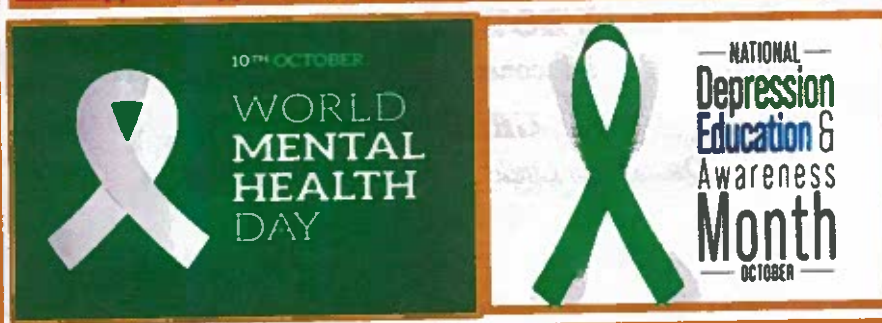
*Deaconess Linda Allen & Linda Wilson*



## OCTOBER HEALTH AWARENESS

*In addition to breast cancer, **October** brings awareness to other critical health issues such as mental health and domestic violence. These topics are widespread in our society and often go unspoken, yet they demand our full attention to educate ourselves and help address many of the challenges people face every day.*

*Deaconess Geraldine C. Lee, FCC Health Ministry, Chairperson*



### **Habitat For Humanity: Affordable Homes In Southeast Raleigh**

*First Congregational Church is joining forces with Habitat For Humanity to support the construction of affordable housing at Old Poole Place on November 1, 2025. The volunteer project aims to make a meaningful difference for families in Southeast Raleigh.*

#### **Volunteer Opportunity**

*The opportunity to volunteer has been extended to additional individuals who wish to participate in this important effort. If you are interested in helping with the November 1, 2025 build date at Old Poole Place, you can register in one of two ways: visit the link on the FCC website (navigate to the 6th rotating page after the Pink Tea), or sign-up/register at: Habitat For Humanity .*

#### **Apply for a Habitat Home**

*If you know families or friends who could benefit from affordable housing, please encourage them to apply for a Habitat home by visiting <https://www.habitatwake.org/apply>.*

#### **Prayers Requested**

*The success of this project relies on the support of the community. Please remember to pray for the project's success, for the necessary funding, the safety of all volunteers, and for greater access to affordable housing in our area.*

*Mission Ministry—Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney*

# FCC Church Calendar

**October 27-November 2, 2025**



|           |    |                             |                                                                                                     |
|-----------|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 27 | 5:30 pm<br>6:00 pm          | Male Chorus Rehearsal<br>Church Council Meeting                                                     |
| Tuesday   | 28 | 6:45 pm                     | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal                                                                           |
| Wednesday | 29 | 6:30 pm<br>7:00 pm          | Prayer Meeting<br>Deeper Life Bible Study                                                           |
| Thursday  | 30 | 4:15 pm                     | CIGC Rehearsal                                                                                      |
| Friday    | 31 | OPEN                        |                                                                                                     |
| Saturday  | 01 | <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> |                                                                                                     |
| Sunday    | 02 | 9:30 am<br>11:00 am         | Sunday School<br>Holy Communion<br>Glorious Worship Service<br><i>Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston</i> |

***Notes from today's sermon***  
***October 26, 2025***  
***Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney***

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