

First Congregational Church

2410 Creech Road - Raleigh, NC

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Pastor/Teacher

November 16, 2025

ENTER
HIS GATES WITH
THANKSGIVING,
AND HIS
COURTYARDS
WITH PRAISE.
GIVE THANKS
TO HIM,
BLESS HIS NAME.

PSALM
100:4

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

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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

 FCC_Raleigh

Thank you
for attending our
SERVICE
God Bless you



November 16, 2025

11:00 am

Glorious Worship Service
Worship Leader—Deacon Grady Walston

- INTROIT "There Is Power In the Blood"
- CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Grady Walston

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. Psalm 103:1-11

- GLORIA PATRI Congregation in Unison
- HYMN OF PRAISE "Pass Me Not" #162
- INVOCATION Congregation in Unison

Gracious and loving Father, the source of all our blessings. Thank You for your love and your plan of salvation, rescuing us from eternal damnation. Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who guides us in our thoughts, words, and actions. Thank You for granting us strength in times of challenge, hope in moments of doubt, and joy in each step we take. Inspire us to share our blessings with others, to act with compassion, to lead with humility, and to walk in harmony. May your presence enrich our lives and all those we touch. May blessings abound in our homes, our workplaces, and our hearts, helping us to bless others. For these and all our unspoken prayers, Thank You for showering us with Your kindness and grace.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Denotes to stand**

HOLY SCRIPTURE Deacon Grady Walston
Psalm 100:1-5

MORNING PRAYER Deacon Grady Walston

CHORAL RESPONSE "I Love You, I Love You Lord"

OFFERTORY PRAYER Deacon Grady Walston

RECEIVING OF
TITHES & OFFERINGS Ushers

- DOXOLOGY Congregation in Unison

RECOGNITION & WELCOME OF VISITORS

Announcements

Rev. Carolyn Ingram

Presentation Of

BEUULAH MASON-WALKER SERVICE AWARDS

Mr. William Walker

SONG OF
PREPARATION "How Excellent Is Your Name"

SONG OF MEDITATION "I Trust In God"

Message: The Grateful One"

Rev. Carolyn Ingram

SONG OF INVITATION FCC Combined Choirs

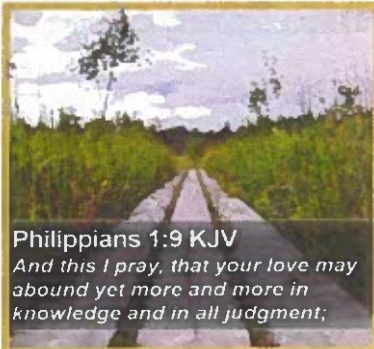
CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Carolyn Ingram

- CLOSING SONG FCC Combined Choirs

- THE BENEDICTION Rev. Carolyn Ingram

Sister Vickie Debnam, Pianist & Combined Choirs

***Denotes to stand**



Philippians 1:9 KJV
And this I pray, that your love may
abound yet more and more in
knowledge and in all judgment;

Prayer For Pastor Leaston's Installation Service

Being confident of this very thing,
that he which hath begun a good
work in you will perform it until
the day of
Jesus Christ: Phil 1:9

Gracious and Almighty God, We thank you for this joyous occasion to install our Pastor J Alexander Leaston and family.

We gather in joy and reverence, grateful for the gift of leadership You have provided through Your servant. We affirm and celebrate the calling You have placed upon Pastor Leaston.

Lord, grant him wisdom that is rooted in Your Word, courage to speak truth in love, and compassion that reflects the heart of Christ. May his ministry be marked by humility, faithfulness, and a deep reliance on Your Spirit.

Bless this congregation to be a source of encouragement, prayer, and partnership in the work of the Gospel. Knit our hearts together in unity, so that together we may shine Your light in our community and beyond.

We pray for each day of celebration November 21-23, that it will honor you and will come to completion without incident. Shine the light on anything that would attempt to hinder this service in any way. We thank you for those who have labored diligently to make this a joyous occasion for Pastor Leaston and First Congregational Church.

We thank you and come in agreement together that all things work together for the good for those who love the Lord and who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28.

We entrust this new chapter to Your care, confident that You who began a good work will bring it to its full completion.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

FCC Prayer Ministry. Sister Annie Holloway

Intercessory prayer Listing

Mrs. Patricia Avery,

**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**

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)**



First Congregational Church Missions

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**



FCC Missions will distribute at least 8 meal boxes to families in need during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Thanksgiving boxes. So all rooms can be clear of thanksgiving items 5 days before the Pastor Installation Service, if you are providing nonperishable items, such as the macaroni and cheese, canned goods and stuffing, please bring your items to the church during office hours on or before November 16th. We will store the items in a secure out of sight area identified by Trustee Banks. If you signed up to provide perishable items, please bring turkeys, cakes, pies and rolls to the church between 11am and 12 pm on Monday November 24th.

If you are a church member or you know a family in need of a Thanksgiving box, please provide the name and contact information to Pastor Dr. Leaston or your Deacon on or before November 15th. We will serve as many families as supplies allow. We need to act quickly. So, thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this announcement.

Grateful and thankful to God, The First Congregational Church Missions Ministry

How You Can Help

[8 turkeys have already been contributed by members]

[8 boxes of Kraft Deluxe four cheese Mac N Cheese Dinner have already been contributed by members]

- ♦ ***Two individuals to each provide 4 cans of cranberry sauce (1 can (14oz) for each box)***
- ♦ ***Two individuals to each provide 4 boxes of stuffing (1 box (12oz) for each box)***
- ♦ ***Two individuals to each provide 4 bags of dinner rolls (1 bag for each box)***
- ♦ ***Two individuals to each provide 4 cans of corn (1 can (29oz) or two 15oz) for each box)***
- ♦ ***Four individuals to each provide 4 cans of green beans (2 cans 14oz or one 28 oz can for each box)***
- ♦ ***Four individuals to each provide 2 sweet potato pies (1 pie for each box)***
- ♦ ***Four individuals to each provide 2 lemon pound cakes (1 cake for each box)***

***If you decide to give other items please give it in increments of eight so each box can have a similar number of items.
For example, 8 boxes of cream potatoes, 8 cans of green peas, 8 cartons of eggs, etc.***

Contribute Your Own Box(s)

Friday NOV- 21 Sunday NOV 23

You're Invited!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RALEIGH ANNOUNCES

PASTORAL INSTALLATION

for Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Rev. Dr. Vincent L. Windrow Rev. Dr. Harry L. White Rev. Dr. Nichole R. Drakeford

Pre-Installation Revival 6 PM Installation Service 1 PM Installation Sunday Service 11 AM

Friday NOV 21 Saturday NOV 22 Sunday NOV 23

Olive Branch Church Nashville/Murfreesboro TN Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC First Baptist Church of Vauxhall, Vauxhall, NJ

FCC • 2410 CREECH RD | RALEIGH, NC 27610

Our Christmas Miracle
A True Story

That special time of the year in December when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ 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 a.m. 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 plan to attend.

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

2026

TO: All Ministry Leaders

In preparation for 2026, you are urgently requested to submit information regarding your ministry's planned activities for the 2026 church calendar.

*Please check your email inbox for the necessary forms and ensure they are completed and returned to the Church Clerk by **December 15, 2025**.*

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Linda Allen, Church Clerk



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.

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 for supporting the Fall Food Drive.

Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney, FCC Mission Ministry

JANITORIAL BIDS ACCEPTED

The Trustee Ministry is accepting request for quotes for the church cleaning service. All interested parties church members or outside individuals can pick up RFQ forms in the church office.



*All quotes must be submitted before
November 23, 2025.*

Please follow Point of contact and Bidder instructions when submitting RFQ forms.

Love Christmas Tree Project (Angel Tree)



The Youth Ministry is sponsoring the Love Christmas Tree Project (Angel Tree). This project is designed to give children of an incarcerated parent(s) a little something extra during the holiday season.

We are only sponsoring youths whose parent(s) are incarcerated. A total of seventeen families (39 youths are listed) for the project.

If you or your organization wish to participate (sponsor a youth(s)) please contact William Walker, Youth Director: 919-270-1595, wwalk@bellsouth.net.

If you would like to make a monetary donation: Place check or monies in a tithing envelope and denote "Angel Tree" in the memo, write "Angel Tree" on your tithing envelope. Please make monetary donations no later than December 14, 2025.

*More information will be forthcoming.
Thanking you in advance!*

Youth Ministry Director, William Walker



November 17-23, 2025

Monday	17	5:30 pm	Male Chorus Rehearsal
Tuesday	18	6:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	19	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting Deeper Life Bible Study
Thursday	20	4:15 pm	CIGS Rehearsal
Friday	21	6:00 pm	Pre-Installation Praise Service Rev Dr. Vincent L. Windrow <i>Olive Branch Church</i> <i>Nashville, TN</i>
Saturday	22	1:00 PM	Installation Service Rev. Dr. Harry L. White, Jr. <i>Watts Chapel Baptist Church</i> <i>Raleigh, NC</i>
Sunday	23	9:30 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Installation Glorious Worship Service Rev. Dr. Nicole Drakeford. <i>First Baptist Church of Vauxhall</i> <i>Vauxhall, NJ 07088</i>

Notes from today's sermon
November 16, 2025
Rev. Carolyn Ingram

This image shows a single page 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.