

First Congregational Church

2410 Creech Road - Raleigh, NC

Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

Pastor/Teacher

December 30, 2025

May the **GOD** of HOPE
fill you with all JOY and
PEACE as you trust in **HIM**.
so that you may overflow
with HOPE by the POWER
of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.



ROMANS 15:13

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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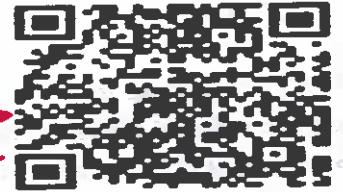
VISION STATEMENT: The disciples of First Congregational Church vision is to obediently follow the Lord Jesus becoming more Christ-like in character and effective in ministry to others. By the power of the Holy Spirit we pray to reach, reconcile and restore lives to Jesus Christ by proclaiming the glorious 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."

WELCOME



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 30, 2025

11:00 am

Glorious Worship Service
Worship Leader—Rev. Bessie Bukhay

- INTROIT “Come Let Us Worship”
- CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Bessie Bukhay

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

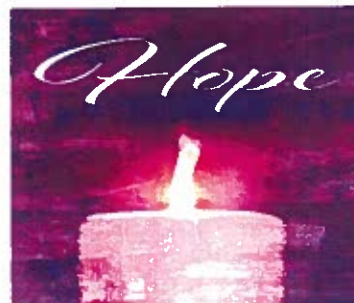
The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:1,2,9,10 (NIV)

- GLORIA PATRI Congregation in Unison
- OPENING SELECTION “Lead Me To Calvary”
- INVOCATION Congregation in Unison

Gracious and loving Father God, as we begin this Advent journey, we open our hearts to Your presence. Fill us with hope and longing as we wait for the coming of Christ. Grant us the faith and patience to prepare the way for Your Son, that we may greet Him with joy and walk in the light of His promise. We invite your Holy Spirit to dwell among us, to inspire our songs, our prayers, and our reflections. We come from busy weeks carrying joys, concerns, and hopes. In this sacred moment, help us set aside distractions so we may focus entirely on You and hear Your voice in our midst. Unite us as one body in Christ, reminding us of Your love that knows no bounds. May our worship be pleasing to You, O Lord, and may we leave this place refreshed, renewed, and empowered to share Your love with others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***Denotes to stand**



**THE LIGHTING OF
FIRST
ADVENT CANDLE**
Trustee Michael Saulter
&
Deaconess Hope Saulter

HOLY SCRIPTURE Rev. Bessie Bukhay

Isaiah 9:1-7 and Romans 15:13

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Bessie Bukhay

CHORAL RESPONSE “God Has Smiled On Me”

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Bessie Bukhay

RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS Ushers

- DOXOLOGY Congregation in Unison

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

SONG OF PREPARATION “The Holy Ghost”

SONG OF MEDITATION “The Battle Is Not Yours”

MESSAGE Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

“Deferred Hope And God’s Promises”

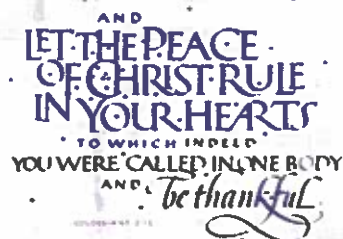
SONG OF INVITATION “I Surrender All”

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

- THE BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Paulette Kearney

Deacon Grady Walston
FCC Combined Choir

***Denotes to stand**



Gracious Father, we thank You for being faithful to the United States of America throughout our history. Thank You for blessing us to prosper and to grow from generation to generation.

Thank You for keeping our nation through our economic hardships and financial conflicts. You have been merciful, Lord. This whole earth, everything in it, and the people who inhabit it belong to You, O God. It is You who supplies us with abundance. It is You who sustains us in times of lack. Your instructions are perfect; they revive our souls. Your commandments are clear and right. They give us insight for living. We are grateful that You are willing to bear the heavy burdens of our nation so that we are free to worship You and receive rest.

Father, it is You who strengthens our nation and holds us up with Your victorious right hand! we command the economic infrastructure of the United States to submit to Your will. We confess that the hope of our nation's citizens will no longer be deferred. Lord, we expect that You will raise up people within our nation's financial leadership who, like Joseph, have a supernatural anointing to receive, interpret, and administrate visions that will save companies, restore jobs, and open new opportunities in stagnant sectors of our economic markets.

Omnipotent God, how great are Your riches and wisdom and knowledge! You are the God who does great things too marvelous to understand. It is You who performs countless miracles. We praise You, Lord! Let everyone on earth bless Your holy Name forever and ever! All glory and honor belong to You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer Ministry—Sister Annie Holloway

Intercessory prayer Listing

Mrs. Patricia Avery,

**Mr. Todd Freeman, Mrs. Jessle 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 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 & 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)**



# ANNA INTERCESSORY PRAYER CALENDAR DECEMBER 2025

| Sunday                                                                                         | Monday                                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                         | Wednesday                                                                                | Thursday                                                                                                        | Friday                                                                               | Saturday                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | <b>1</b><br><br>Wisdom “<br>For FCC Church<br>Leaders During<br>2026<br><br><b>B C Cooper</b>                   | <b>2</b><br><br>Protection Of The<br>Elderly During This<br>Season<br><br><b>Carolyn Ingram</b> | <b>3</b><br><br>Intercessory<br>Prayer List<br><br><b>Norma Hodge</b>                    | <b>4</b><br><br>God’s Wisdom<br>For all Leaders<br>State, National<br>and Worldwide<br><br><b>Bessie Bukhay</b> | <b>5</b><br><br>God’s Justice In<br>Our Nation<br><br><b>Linda Wilson</b>            | <b>6</b><br><br>Glorious Com-<br>munion<br>Service<br><br><b>Linda Bowden</b> |
| <b>7</b><br>Prayer For Our Na-<br>tion<br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>                            | <b>8</b><br>Christians to Stand<br>for the Truth of<br>God’s Word<br><br><b>Grady Walston</b>                   | <b>9</b><br>Families dealing<br>with Loss of Job<br><br><b>Katherine<br/>Whitaker</b>           | <b>10</b><br>Intercessory<br>Prayer List<br><br><b>Paulet Kearney</b>                    | <b>11</b><br>Spiritual Discern-<br>ment in 2026 for<br>FCC<br><br><b>Amelia Judd</b>                            | <b>12</b><br>Prayer For The<br>Backslider<br><br><b>Gloria Wilder</b>                | <b>13</b><br>Glorious Worship<br>Service<br><br><b>Carolyn Banks</b>          |
| <b>14</b><br>Hope For Those<br>Going Through of<br>Trials<br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>         | <b>15</b><br>Those Who Are<br>Needing Employ-<br>ment<br><br><b>Arnold Bell</b>                                 | <b>16</b><br>Christians Being<br>Persecuted World-<br>wide<br><br><b>Mardecia Bell</b>          | <b>17</b><br>Intercessory<br>Prayer List<br><br><b>Hew Dorssett</b>                      | <b>18</b><br>Stand on God’s<br>Word in times of<br>Need<br><br><b>Patrice Hinton</b>                            | <b>19</b><br>All School<br>Teacher and Ad-<br>ministrators<br><br><b>Sandra Dunn</b> | <b>20</b><br>Glorious Worship<br>Service<br><br><b>Mavis Weldon</b>           |
| <b>21</b><br>Children of Incar-<br>cerated Families<br><br><b>Worship Leader</b>               | <b>22</b><br>Those dealing with<br>Loneliness and<br>Isolation During<br>Holiday Season<br><b>Grady Perkins</b> | <b>23</b><br>Homeless Being<br>Displaced<br><br><b>Linwood Dunn</b>                             | <b>24</b><br>Intercessory<br>Prayer List<br><br><b>Emma Dorssett</b>                     | <b>25 Christmas Day</b><br><br>Godly Wisdom<br>For Parents<br><br><b>Linda Allen</b>                            | <b>26</b><br>All Senior Disci-<br>ples of FCC<br><br><b>Monica Jones</b>             | <b>27</b><br>Glorious Worship<br>Service<br><br><b>Wades Judd</b>             |
| <b>28</b><br>Believers to Exem-<br>plify Christ Like<br>Character<br><br><b>Worship Leader</b> | <b>29</b><br>Provision for<br>Homeless and<br>Jobless<br><br><b>Alice Johnson</b>                               | <b>30</b><br>Praying for Unrest<br>In Nations<br><br><b>Victoria Walker</b>                     | <b>31 New Year’s<br/>Eve</b><br>Intercessory<br>Prayer List<br><br><b>Annie Holloway</b> |                            |                                                                                      |                                                                               |



# FCC call for nominations!

## *The Nominating Committee*

*Nominees are being accepted for the following 2026 positions listed below. However, before submitting a name for a position, please get the approval from the individual to nominate them.*

*Sunday School Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent  
Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer  
Church Clerk & Assistant Clerk  
Deacons, Trustees, Two (2) Members -At-Large*

*All names of nominees are to be submitted on or before  
Sunday, December 7, 2025,  
Mrs. Carolyn Johnson or Deaconess Victoria Walker.*



# Thank you

*First Congregational Church, thank you for your generous contributions to the Thanksgiving Food Boxes.*

*The boxes were distributed on November 24. In addition to the boxes, each recipient was offered prayer and received a praying for you card.*

*The boxes were received with gratitude and praise. FCC, thank you again for blessing others.*

*Pastor J. A. Leaston and Mission Ministries*



## Quarterly Congregational MEETING

*The FCC Quarterly Church Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **December 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM.** You can join us in person or online if you are unable to attend onsite. Breakfast will be available from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. If you are bringing breakfast items, please arrive by 9:15 AM to allow time for setup. Deacon LaMonte Jones*



## 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*

# CHURCH

C A L E N D A R

### TO: All Ministry Leaders

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

*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.*

## 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@bellaouth.net](mailto:wwalk@bellaouth.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*



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly aged or off-white appearance. The edges of the paper are visible against a dark background.