

# First Congregational Church

2410 Creech Road - Raleigh, NC  
Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston  
November 9, 2025

## 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."*

Blessed  
and  
Highly  
Favored

Blessed, Beautiful and Happy

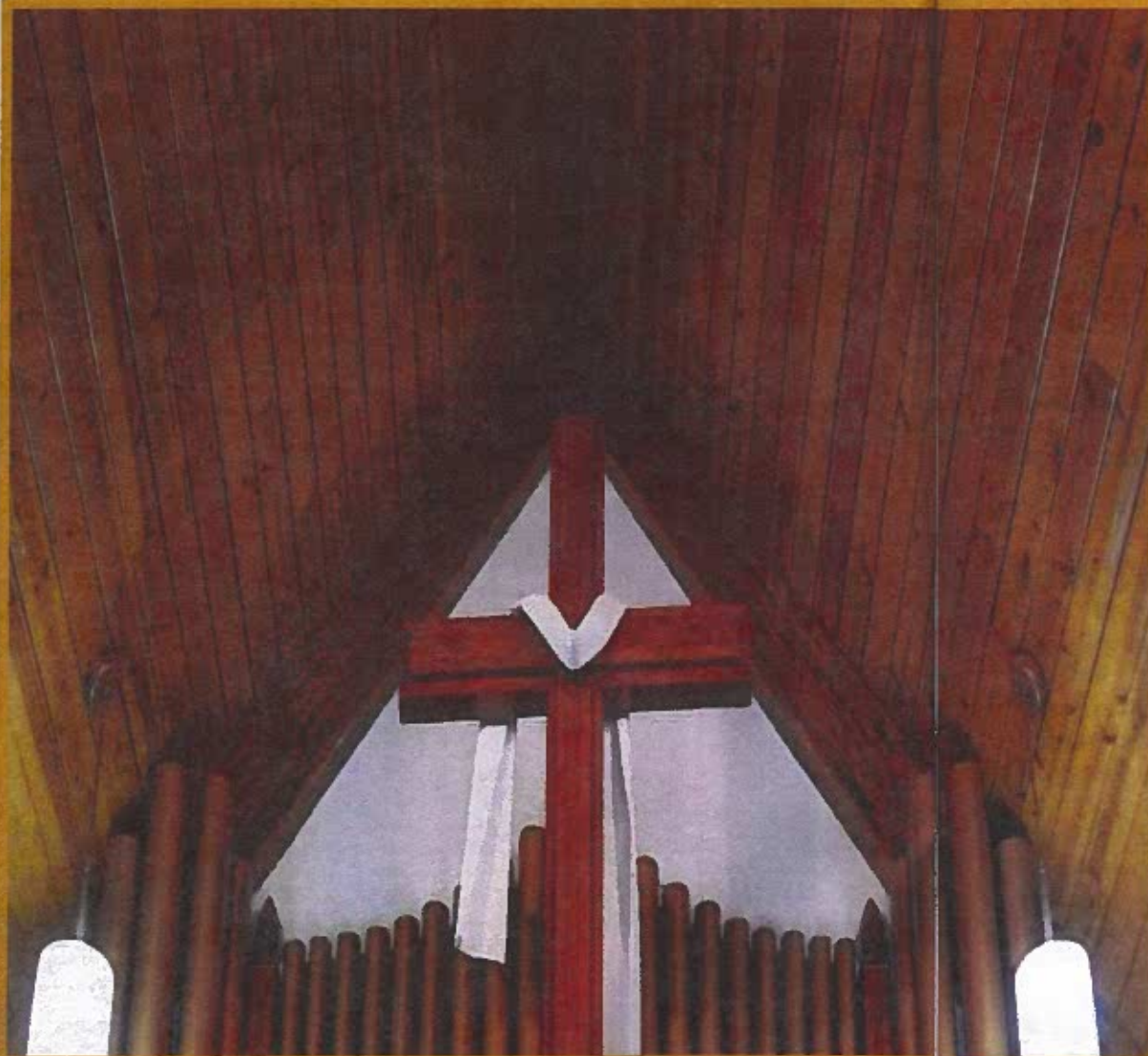


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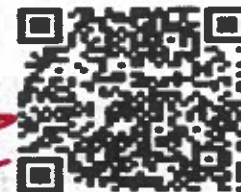
2410 Creech Road

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 9, 2025

11:00 am

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

- INTROIT ..... “Glad To Be In The Service”
- CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

*I will extol the Lord at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips.*

*I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

*Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.*

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from  
all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are  
Never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord  
heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the  
Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him*  
*Psalm 34:1-8*

- GLORIA PATRI ..... Congregation in Unison
- HYMN OF PRAISE ..... “Count Your Blessing” #38
- INVOCATION ..... Congregation in Unison

*Gracious and loving Father, we “Thank You” for all the blessings  
You have poured into our lives. Thank You for the gift of this day,  
for the fellowship we share, and for the opportunity to come before  
You in praise and thanksgiving. We are mindful of Your goodness  
and the countless ways You provide for us, both seen and unseen.  
Thank You for the breath in our lungs, for the beauty of creation,  
and for the love of family and friends. Thank You for guiding us  
through challenges and for celebrating with us in times of joy. As  
we lift our voices and open our hearts, may Your Spirit fill this  
place. Help us to remember Your faithfulness and to respond with  
lives of gratitude. May our worship today be pleasing to You, and  
may we leave this place renewed and inspired to share Your love  
and kindness with others. In Jesus’ Name Amen.*

**\*Denotes to stand**

HOLY SCRIPTURE ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones  
1 Thessalonians 5:12–18 (NIV)

MORNING PRAYER ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

CHORAL RESPONSE ..... “Because He Lives”

OFFERTORY PRAYER ..... Deacon LaMonte Jones

RECEIVING OF  
TITHES & OFFERINGS ..... Ushers

- DOXOLOGY ..... Congregation in Unison

**RECOGNITION & WELCOME OF VISITORS**  
**PASTORAL NOTES**

*Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

SONG OF  
PREPARATION ..... “Keep Your Eyes On The Cross”

SONG OF MEDITATION ..... “Cooling Water”  
**Blessed & Highly Favored**

**Title:**  
**“Being Thankful When Life Is Hard”**  
*Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

SONG OF INVITATION ..... “Come To Jesus”

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

- CLOSING SONG ..... “Let the Church say Amen”

- THE BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston

*Sister Vickie Debnam, Pianist & Male Chorus*  
*Brother Todd Freeman, Drummer*

**\*Denotes to stand**

## **Prayer For Families and Individuals In Need**

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. Prov. 21:1 NKJV*

*Father we thank you and we praise you for you are an all knowing and wise God. We are asking you to save the children, save the families who are in desperate need right now of assistance.*

*We pray for man but we don't look to them as our source. For you are the true and living God and you hold this nation in the palm of your hand.*

*We pray for our leaders, those who are in high positions of authority, we ask for your wisdom for each one. Give them an upright heart for all decisions they need to make. (For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding, You lay up sound wisdom for the upright, You are a buckler to those who walk uprightly before you. (Prov. 2:6-7).*

*We ask you to surround those who are in need of assistance, some not because of their own doing. Help them to focus and trust in You. For you are their present help in the time of trouble. Help them to Trust in Lord with all their heart and lean not to their own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5). We ask you to turn the hearts of those who are in decision making positions to You Lord. We ask for wisdom for our nation and our Leaders. We thank you that there is nothing too hard for you. In Jesus' Name. 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 Crinnle 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. In addition to providing these meal boxes, the First Congregational Church is committed to supporting families by ensuring they have the resources needed for a meaningful holiday celebration.*

*Donors will work together to gather ingredients and pack boxes allowing recipients to enjoy a warm, comforting meal with their loved ones. Through initiatives like this, the First Congregational Church aims to make a positive impact and foster a spirit of generosity and compassion.*

*If you know of a family in need of a box, please provide the name to  
Pastor Leaston, your Deacon, or Rev. Kearney on or before November 14, 2025.*

## *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)*

*If you desire to create and donate an entire box with the above items including the turkey,  
please provide your name and the number of turkey boxes you are donating.*

***Sign Up Now***



Friday  
**NOV-21**

Sunday  
**NOV-23**

*You're Invited!*

**FCC**

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

Friday  
**NOV-21**



Installation  
Service  
1 PM

Saturday  
**NOV-22**



Installation  
Sunday  
Service  
11 AM

Sunday  
**NOV-23**

Olive Branch Church Nashville/  
Murfreesboro TN

Watts Chapel Missionary  
Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

First Baptist Church of  
Vaughall, Vaughall, NJ

FCC - 2410 CREECH RD | RALEIGH, NC 27610



Happy  
**55<sup>th</sup>**  
Wedding  
Anniversary



### *Fifty-Five Years of Love: A Lasting Journey Together*

*In a world that is constantly changing, love is the anchor that holds us steady through the storm. On Friday, October 31, 2025, Alfredo and Paulette Hicks, celebrated their extraordinary journey of their love story that began in the bustling halls of their high school and has bloomed ever since. Fifty-five years of marriage is a remarkable milestone,*



*Their Hicks' story is not just about longevity, but about a love that has grown deeper and more resilient with every year, every challenge, and every joy. Their journey is an inspiration—a testament to what is possible when two people choose to walk through life together, hearts full of affection and respect. Here's to fifty-five years of love, and many more chapters yet to be written in their remarkable story.*



## *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 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 for supporting the Fall Food Drive.*

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

*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](mailto: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*

*Notes from today's sermon*  
*November 9, 2025*  
*Rev. Dr. J. Alexander Leaston*

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