

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Blessed are the ears that hear God's whisper and listen not to the murmurs of the world."
—Gerard Thomas Straub



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1212 First Avenue West
Spencer, Iowa 51301-3503

Church Office: 712 262-4392

Pastor's Cell: 864-407-9022

Website: www.congospencer.org

Facebook: FirstCongregationalChurchofSpencerIA

YouTube: search for "CongoSpencerIA"

PRELUDE

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

by William Bradbury, arr. Lloyd Larson

GREETING

LEADER: The Lord be with you. (extending arms)

PEOPLE: And also with you.
(Congregation responds with extended arms)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

PEOPLE: **His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.**

LEADER: We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

PEOPLE: **Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.**

LEADER: Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

PEOPLE: **Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! AMEN.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #431

***INVOCATION:** **We are standing at the gate, O' loving Shepherd, not sure about the journey ahead of us. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to your voice. When you call our names, in your voice, we hear love and surety. Lead us safely on the journey and strengthen us so that we may serve you in all that we do. Forgive us for our stubbornness and ignorance, and let us place our trust in you, our Shepherd who has never failed us, but who loves and guides our lives. AMEN.**

***CHURCH'S COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.

MINUTE FOR MISSION "Operation Christmas Child"
Pastor Shazzy Britz

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT
Joseph Leggett

***PASTORAL PRAYER**
& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

THE OFFERING Ponder what God wants you to offer up to him.

OFFERTORY "You Show Us the Path of Life"
by Ray Makeever #563

***DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen
Evalyn Simpson

GOSPEL READING John 10:1-18 pg. 819

MEDITATION "Are you Listening to the Voice of the Shepherd?"
Pastor Shazzy Britz

***CLOSING HYMN** "Sing a Song of Celebration" #202

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BLESSING** "God Be With You" #580
God be with you till we meet again
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Good Christians, All, Rejoice and Sing"
by David Paxton

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.



Acolyte: Reese Munter
Fellowship Hour: Steve & Beth Berends
Greeter: Linda Edwardson & Phyllis Slawson
Nursery: Cate Munter & Grace Simpson
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Irie Leggett, Max Moser, Max Munter
Ushers: Kella Klinker Simonin, Bob Rose, Joel Oldenkamp
Worship Assistant: Josh Munter



Annual May Breakfast & Bake Sale

Wednesday, May 1st

7:00 - 10:00 am

This is a great fundraiser for the Mayflower Circle.

Come and enjoy egg bake, sweet rolls, fruit cup.

Messy Church
May 5
5:00-7:00 pm
Cross Generational, Games, Activities, Meal, All Are Invited



Grief Share
March 4—May 20
6:00-8:00



Proud to be a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and the Iowa-Nebraska



MISSION STATEMENT ~ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ SPENCER, IOWA
The First Congregational Church of Spencer joyfully worships and praises God. Bound by our covenant, we strive to be the Body of Christ throughout the world by loving, helping and supporting our church family and others through fellowship, missions, and outreach. Our philosophy encourages all people to experience God's grace by freely thinking and building personal relationships with Christ to the glory of God.

Ministers—All
Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
pastor@congospencer.org
Director of Youth & Family Ministry—Joseph Leggett
familyministry@congospencer.org
Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
office@congospencer.org
Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
Choir Director—Elina Ozolins-Leander
Building Manager—Lori Haburn

Sunday Announcements, April 21, 2024

†Please let us know your joys and concerns, if you would like something announced during worship please advise an usher when you come into the sanctuary or if you are live streaming go to the YouTube chat box and type in your prayer request and they will be announced in worship.

†May Breakfast & Bake Sale, May 1 7:00-10:00 am.

†12 Hour Prayer Vigil, May 2 7:00 am—7:00 pm, pray from the Chapel or home. Contact the office to sign up for your half hour time slot. Prayer information will be provided.

†May 5 Music, Teacher, and Volunteer Appreciation—recognizing all during worship. Fellowship Hour will honor these folks as well. Please note that Sunday School continues through May 19, then will be off for the summer.

†Messy Church May 5 5:00-7:00, CMM is hosting. This is intergenerational and open to all ages, food, games, activities, and gospel lesson.

†Congo Night Out Tuesday, May 7 at Spencer Country Club from 5:30-7:00. We will need a firm count, please RSVP the office by May 3. Dutch Treat.

†Graduation Sunday, May 12, we will recognize our graduates during worship. Join us for Fellowship Hour after worship.

†Mother's Day is May 12, Mother's will be recognized.

†Cherish House Baby Bottle Campaign runs Mother's Day—Father's Day. Donations of change, cash, or checks appreciated.

†Confirmation Sunday, May 19 during worship. Desserts will be provided during Fellowship Hour for all.

†Last Day of Sunday School is May 19 at 9:30.

†UDMO April Donations—pasta sauce and pasta.

†If you are visiting the church, we have welcome sacks in the back of the sanctuary for you. Please leave your name and contact information on the table. We are so very happy you are here, welcome!

†Please help ensure all doors to the church are locked, check the door behind you when exiting the church if it is not during office hours.

†Joys & Concerns: Norma Drake, Ken Emmert, Bill Green, Karen Forbes, Mary Lou Hoffman, Bonnie Hoover, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Cindy Peterson Journey (daughter of LaVonne Peterson), LaVonne Peterson, Allison (Swenning) Mason, Marcie Muckey, Darlene Prather, Mark Wedel, Mary Kay Zinn...

†We pray for our military personnel: Evan Ball, Brandon Black, Mark Ivey, Nathan Jones, Adam Norgaard, Kathryn Polking, Patrick Sullivan, Daniel Wilkerson, and Matt Wilkerson.

†We pray for our nursing home residents and those at home: Dixie Barber, Jennie Byrn, Bonnie Crosser, Norma Drake, Ken Emmert, Bill Green, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Carol Kettelkamp, Marcie Muckey, Frank Nelson, Polly Nelson, LaVonne Peterson, Darlene Prather, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, Ina Faye Underwood, Doris Van Buren, Mary Kay Zinn.

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Upcoming Events:

April 21 Adult Education 9:00
 April 21 Sunday School 9:30
 April 21 Worship 10:30
 April 21 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 April 21 Youth Choral practice 11:45
 April 21 CMM 11:50
 April 22 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 23 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 April 24 Staff Meeting 10:00
 April 24 Bell Choir 5:00
 April 24 Choir 6:00
 April 24 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
 April 24 PF 6:00-8:00
 April 24 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 April 25 CMCC 4:00
 April 27 Stacy De Jager Piano Recital for her students
 April 28 Adult Education 9:00
 April 28 Sunday School 9:30
 April 28 Worship 10:30
 April 28 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 April 28 Youth Choral practice 11:45
 April 28 CMW 11:50
 April 29 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 30 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 May 1 May Breakfast & Bake Sale 7:00—10:00 am
 May 1 Staff Meeting 10:00
 May 1 Bell Choir 5:00
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 May 1 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 1 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 May 2 12 Hour Prayer Vigil from Home or Chapel 7:00 am—7:00 pm
 May 5 Adult Sunday School 9:00
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 May 5 Worship & Communion—Music, Teachers & Volunteers recognized 10:30
 May 5 Messy Church, intergenerational 5:00-7:00
 May 6 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 May 7 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 May 7 Congo Night Out at Spencer Country Club 5:30-7:00
 May 8 Staff Meeting 10:00
 May 8 Bell Choir 5:00
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 May 8 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 8 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 May 12 Adult Education 9:00
 May 12 Sunday School 9:30
 May 12 Worship & Graduation Sunday 10:39
 May 12—June 16 Baby Bottle Campaign
 May 13 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 May 14 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 May 14 CMF 5:30
 May 15 Staff Meeting 10:00
 May 15 Bell Choir 5:00
 May 15 Choir 6:00
 May 15 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 15 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 May 16 MARS 6:30

Monday—Friday Pray As You Go 9:30

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