



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"

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"The vineyard is a place of constant growth and transformation. Our fruitfulness is not based on our abilities but on our connection to the source."

—Dr. Bruce Wilkerson

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"
music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, and Lois Giglio,
arr. Mary Mc Donald

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.

PEOPLE: **It rises without visible connection; roots hidden, promise unknown.**

LEADER: Strong to withstand storms, fragile when plucked too soon.

PEOPLE: **So it is that we grow...nourished by invisible connections to the living God.**

LEADER: Called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.

ALL: **Let's stay connected to God. Or we wither away. Come, let's worship God, who is the True Vine.**

***OPENING HYMN** "I Saw the Light" #320

***INVOCATION:** **God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 "World Peace Prayer"

by Marty Haugen

#563

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

MIDDLE HYMN

"Because He Lives"

#204

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

pg. 824

MEDITATION

"Stay Connected to the Vine"

Pastor Shazzy Britz

*CLOSING HYMN

"We Are Called"

#307

*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

"Revive Us Again"

by Mary Mc Donald, tune: "Revive Us Again" by John T. Husband

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.



**Memorial Flowers in loving memory of
Frank & Gretchen Hart
by their family.**



Acolyte: Grace Simpson
Fellowship Hour: Katie Howe
Greeter: Wes, Amy, Evalyn & Grace Simpson
Nursery: Nora Conover & Ruby Leggett
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant,
Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Irie
Leggett, Max Moser, Max Munter
Ushers: Frank Edington, Bob Rose,
Joel Oldenkamp
Worship Assistant: Everly Slawson



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 28, 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.

†Worship & 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.

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

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

†Collecting school supplies and shoes boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Totes are in the back of the sanctuary to deposit items.

†UDMO May Donations—Hamburger Helper & Tuna Helper.

†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 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
 May 1 Choir 6:00
 May 1 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
 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 Education 9:00
 May 5 Sunday School 9:30
 May 5 Worship & Communion—Music, Teachers & Volunteers recognized 10:30
 May 5 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 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 10:30
 May 12 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 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 Mayflower Circle Luncheon Pub 19, meet at church 11:00
 May 16 MARS 6:30
 May 19 Adult Education 9:00, last day for summer
 May 19 Sunday School 9:30, last day for summer
 May 19 Worship & Confirmation Sunday 10:30
 May 19 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 May 20 Grief Share 6:00-8:00 last day
 May 21 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 May 22 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 22 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 May 26 Worship 10:30
 May 26 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 May 26 CMW 11:45
 May 27 Memorial Day Office Closed
 May 28 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 May 29 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 29 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

Monday—Friday Pray As You Go 9:30

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