

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Our maturity will be judged by how well we are able to agree to disagree and yet continue to love one another, to care for one another, and cherish one another and seek the greater good of the other."

—Desmond Tutu



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"

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"Lord of the Dance"

shaker melody, adapt. Sydney Carter, arr. Joel Raney
JuBellations

CONGREGATIONAL ADDRESS

Joe Conover

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

PEOPLE: **Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.**

LEADER: We come with hope to witness God's power!

PEOPLE: **Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.**

LEADER: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

PEOPLE: **We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. AMEN.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

#541

***INVOCATION:** We sing your praise this day and bless your name O God, for you have done marvelous things. You have made known your victory and revealed your saving love to us. We pray to you this day, that you would confirm in us once again the wonders of your love. Touch us with Spirit and lead us by the power of your Living Word that we might love who you love and do that which you do to your praise and glory. Amen

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC, TEACHER, VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Amy Simpson

*PASTORAL PRAYER

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

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

OFFERTORY

"Use Me, Lord"
music and words by Cindy Berry
Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

#563

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17 pg. 824

MEDITATION

"Connected Through Love" Pastor Shazzy Britz

COMMUNION SERVICE (see insert)

*CLOSING HYMN

"How Shall I Serve You, Lord?" #448

*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

"Jesus Shall Reign" by Anna Laura Page



Acolyte: Reese Munter

Communion: Kathy Anderson, Ada Conover,
Maisy Schmidt, Amy Simpson

Fellowship Hour: CME & CMF

Greeter: Wes, Amy, Evalyn & Grace Simpson

Nursery: Ada Conover

Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant,
Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Moser,
Max Munter

Ushers: Frank Edington, Bob Rose,
Joel Oldenkamp

Worship Assistant: Jay Oldenkamp



Messy Church Tonight



5:00-7:00 pm

Cross Generational,
Games, Activities, Meal,
All Are Invited



**Congo Night Out
Spencer Country Club
Tuesday, May 7
5:30-7:00**

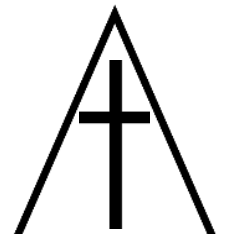
**May 12—Mother's Day & Graduation Sunday
with reception following.**



May 19—Confirmation Sunday with reception following.



**Grief Share
March 4—May 20
6:00-8:00**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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
Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
office@congospencer.org
Assistant Secretary—Amber Stoutenborough
amber@congospencer.org
Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
Choir Director—Elina Ozolins-Leander
Building Manager—Lori Haburn

MAY 5, 2024 COMMUNION SERVICE

COME FORWARD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving God, we come into Your presence knowing we have fallen short of Your desire for us. We have neglected the call and claim You have on our lives as individuals and as a community of faith. We ask for another chance to make all things new again, that we may better follow the way, the truth, and the life. In the name of Your Son. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We have this assurance that no matter how far we may wander from the way of life we are called to lead, we never move beyond the boundaries of God's love. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are blessed.

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Enough"

words and music by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio, arr. Jeff Bennett

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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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.

†We would like to thank Joseph, Sandy, Irie, and Ruby Leggett for being a part of our congregation these past years and wish them all the best in this next chapter of their lives.

†Messy Church Tonight 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.

†It's time for spring cleaning, Randy Van Dyke is organizing an inside and outside cleanup next Saturday, May 11 from 8:00 – 10:00 am. If there is morning rain, clean up will be from 1:00-3:00. A list of items that need done will be provided that day. Coffee, juice and doughnuts will be provided. Bring your work gloves, rakes, etc. and elbow grease for inside.

†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.

†Last day for the Nursery will be May 12, after that it will not be staffed until the fall.

†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:

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 CME 5:30
 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
 May 8 Choir 6:00
 May 8 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
 May 8 PF 6:00-8:00
 May 8 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 May 11 Church Clean Up Inside & Outside 8:00-10:00 or if rain in morning 1;00-3:00
 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, Missionaries from Kenya here
 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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