

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 2024

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for." — Martin Luther



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

"Think on These Things"

by Alexander Kruchkov, arr. Karen Kuehmannarr

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.

PEOPLE: **Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.**

LEADER: We have felt the refreshment of time-away.

People: **Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.**

LEADER: Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence and love.

ALL: **Let us open our spirits to receive God's direction for our lives. AMEN.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" #323

***INVOCATION:** **Father in heaven, open our hearts to see what is good in our lives. May the light in our hearts shine clearly so that we see, recognize, and live in accordance with what comes from eternity and belongs to our true nature, brought to us through Christ. Keep us from being blinded and deafened by experiences that will pass by so that we can rise above them even in suffering. We will praise your name both now and forever. Amen.**

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Kathy Anderson

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.

***PASTORAL PRAYER**

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

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

OFFERTORY "Here At They Table, Lord"
by Stan Pethel #563

***DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

MIDDLE HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be" #349

EPISTLE READING James 1:19-27 pg. 919

MEDITATION "Reflecting on the Mirror of Life"
Pastor Shazzy Britz

COMMUNION SERVICE (see insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" #366

***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 "All Creatures of our God and King "
by Gregg Sewell

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.



Acolyte: Pearl Whittenburg
Communion: Robbie & Tommy Gerlock, Kay Rose, Kella Klinker-Simonin
Fellowship Hour: Bob Rose
Greeter: Jennifer Loudermilk
Nursery: Not staffed for summer
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Moser, Max Munter
Ushers: Bob, Heather, Vivian & Pearl Whittenburg
Worship Assistant: Barb Jacobsen

**UDMO Food Donations
September
Boxed Potatoes**

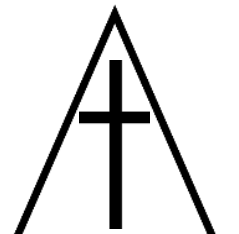


September 9 9:00-2:00

Fellowship Hall



**Grief Share
September 16-December 9
6:00—8:00**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



Ministers—All
Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
pastor@congospencer.org
Education Coordinator—Katie Baltus
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Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
office@congospencer.org
Assistant Secretary—Amber Stoutenborough
amber@congospencer.org
Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
Choir Director—Elina Ozolins-Leander

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.

SEPTEMBER 1, 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

"Mercy, Wide and Deep"
by Ruth Elaine Schram

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

† Happy Labor Day weekend!

† The office will be closed Monday, September 2.

† Bell Choir & Choir will resume rehearsals September 4, taking the 11th off due to the fair. Bell Choir 5:00, Choir 6:00.

† LifeServe Blood Center September 9 from 9:00 - 2:00 in Fellowship Hall.

† Adult Education will start up next week September 8 9:00.

† Sunday School begins September 8 at 9:15.

† Grief Share will begin September 16 thru December 9 from 6:00-8:00.

† Bible Study opportunities: Tuesday morning at 10:00 and Wednesday evenings 7:00 pm. Beginning September 17 Tuesday and September 18 Wednesday.

† Mayflower Circle luncheon September 19 at Chen's Garden 11:30.

† Samaritan Purse Community Leadership Workshop Saturday, September 21 10:00.

† Collecting personal hygiene products and clothing for Operation Christmas Child. Totes are in the back of the sanctuary to deposit items. We do **NOT** need any more boxes. Thanks!

† UDMO September Donations—Boxed Potatoes.

† 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: the family of LaVonne Peterson after her passing, Spencer Community, Norma Drake, Bill Green, Karen Forbes, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Allison (Swenning) Mason, David Ozolins (brother of Elina Ozolins-Leander), Cindy Peterson Journey (sister of Linda Norgaard), Marcie Muckey, Denny Phillips, 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, Bill Green, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Carol Kettelkamp, Marcie Muckey, Frank Nelson, Polly Nelson, Darlene Prather, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, Ina Faye Underwood, Doris Van Buren, Mary Kay Zinn.

Upcoming Events:

- September 1 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- September 2 Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 4 Staff Meeting 10:00
- September 4 Bell Choir 5:00
- September 4 Choir 6:00
- September 4 PF 6:00-8:00
- September 5 Ministerial Meeting at FCC 9:30
- September 5 Executive Council meeting 6:30
- September 7-15 Clay County Fair
- September 8 Adult Education 9:00
- September 8 Sunday School 9:15
- September 8 Worship 10:30
- September 8 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- September 9 LifeServe Blood Center 9:00-2:00
- September 10 CMF 5:30
- September 11 Staff Meeting 10:00
- September 11 PF 6:00-8:00
- September 15 Adult Education 9:00
- September 15 Sunday School 9:15
- September 15 Worship 10:30
- September 15 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- September 15 CMM 11:50
- September 16 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
- September 17 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- September 18 Staff Meeting 10:00
- September 18 Bell Choir 5:00
- September 18 Choir 6:00
- September 18 PF 6:00-8:00
- September 18 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- September 19 Mayflower Circle Luncheon at Chen's Garden
- September 19 MARS 5:30
- September 21 Samaritans Purse Community Leader Workshop 10:00
- September 22 Adult Education 9:00
- September 22 Sunday School 9:15
- September 22 Worship 10:30
- September 22 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- September 23 LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00
- September 23 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
- September 24 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- September 25 Staff Meeting 10:00
- September 25 Bell Choir 5:00
- September 25 Choir 6:00
- September 25 PF 6:00-8:00
- September 25 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- September 26 CMCC 4:00
- September 29 Adult Education 9:00
- September 29 Sunday School 9:15
- September 29 Worship 10:30
- September 29 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- September 29 CMW 11:50
- September 29 Worship at SPAR 4:30/5:00