

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."

—E.E. Cummings

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings"

music by John H. Hopkins, Jr., arr. by Ed Hogan

GREETING

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

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

LEADER: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

PEOPLE: **You are the one true God who reigns forever.**

***CALL To Worship**

Leader: Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to You, and from you no secrets are hidden.

People: **By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify Your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN** "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place" #556

***INVOCATION:** **Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.**

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASS THE PEACE**

PASTORAL PRAYER

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

HYMN "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #430

COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE (see screen)



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"

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.

* All who are able, please stand

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2 Kings 23:1-3 pg. 292
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 pg. 508-509
 Matthew 25:31-46 pg. 759-760
 John 15:1-8 pg. 824
 Revelations 21:1-6 pg. 944-945

THE CONFESSION (see screen)
WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON (see screen)
THE INVITATION (see screen)
THE COVENANT PRAYER (see screen)
HYMN "In the Garden" #205
DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING (see screen)
THE OFFERING Ponder the gifts you will offer to God
 your tithes, your time, your resources.
OFFERTORY "Silent Night"
 music by Franz Gruber, arr. by Ed Hogan
 ***DOXOLOGY** #563
 ***OFFERTORY PRAYER**
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 "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow " by Mark Hayes

Congo Night Out
January 7
5:30-7:00
Sammy's
Dutch Treat



Annual Soup Cook-Off
Sunday, January 26

After Annual Meeting/Installation of Officers
 Call the office to enter your soup in the contest.
 All proceeds will go to PF Kitchen

UDMO Food Donations
 January donations
 Soup & Crackers
 Barrel located in the Education Wing.



Annual Reports are due
January 3, 2025

Annual Meeting
& Installation of Officers
January 26, 2025



a great big
THANK YOU!
Acolyte: Reese Munter
Fellowship Hour: Kayann Rose
Greeter: Diane Berg & Myra Coover
Nursery: Cate Munter
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter, Max Moser
Ushers: Frank Edington, Bob Rose, John Zinn



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*Proud to be a member of the National Association of
 Congregational Christian Churches.*



Ministers—All
 Lay Leader—Kella Klinker-Simonin
 Education Coordinator—Katie Baltés
 congospencer.ed@gmail.com
 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

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, JANUARY 5, 2025

- † 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.
- † 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!
- † CPR & AED Class Saturday, January 11 from 10:00-2:00, cost \$15.00.
- † **Congo Night Out Tuesday, January 7 5:30-7:00 at Sammy's Italian Restaurant. Dutch treat.**
- † **All Annual Reports were due January 3, if you have not emailed them in to the office yet, please do so ASAP.**
- † Communion will be on January 12, 2025.
- † LifeServe Blood Bank tomorrow, January 6 9:30-2:00.
- † Mayflower Circle Luncheon at Family Table January 16 at 11:30. All women of the church are invited.
- † Church Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers January 26 after worship.
- † PF Soup Supper January 26 after the Annual Meeting.
- † UDMO January Donations—soup and crackers.
- † 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: 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, Jack Schomaker, 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, Marlyn Barglof, 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, Mary Kay Zinn.



Upcoming Events:

- January 5 Worship 10:30
- January 5 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- January 6 LifeServe Blood Bank 9:30-2:00
- January 7 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- January 7 Congo Night Out Sammy's Italian Restaurant 5:30-7:00; Dutch Treat
- January 8 Staff Meeting 10:00
- January 8 Bell Choir 5:00
- January 8 Choir 6:00
- January 8 PF 6:00-8:00
- January 8 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
- January 8 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- January 11 CPR & AED Training 10:00-2:00, cost \$15, lunch provided
- January 12 Adult Education 9:00
- January 12 Sunday School 9:15
- January 12 Worship & Communion 10:30
- January 12 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- January 14 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- January 15 Staff Meeting 10:00
- January 15 Bell Choir 5:00
- January 15 Choir 6:00
- January 15 PF 6:00-8:00
- January 15 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- January 16 Mayflower Circle at Family Table 11:30, all women of the church invited
- January 19 Adult Education 9:00
- January 19 Sunday School 9:15
- January 19 Worship 10:30
- January 19 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- January 20 LifeServe Blood Bank 1:00-6:00
- January 20 Office Closed Martin Luther King Day
- January 21 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- January 22 Staff Meeting 10:00
- January 22 Bell Choir 5:00
- January 22 Choir 6:00
- January 22 PF 6:00-8:00
- January 22 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
- January 22 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- January 26 Adult Education 9:00
- January 26 Sunday School 9:15
- January 26 Worship 10:30
- January 26 Church Annual Meeting after worship
- January 26 PF Soup Supper after Annual Meeting
- January 29 Staff Meeting 10:00
- January 29 Bell Choir 5:00
- January 29 Choir 6:00
- January 29 PF 6:00-8:00
- January 29 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00