

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"

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 2, 2025

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

PRELUDE

"O Perfect Love" arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Beloved, let us love one another unconditionally as we are called to do.

PEOPLE: **We love because God first loved us.**

LEADER: There is no greater love than the love He has shown us.

PEOPLE: **By laying down His life as a sacrifice for all.**

Leader: This sacrifice is the new commandment in Christ.

PEOPLE: **We are called to love one another as Jesus loves us.**

LEADER: A love that is unconditional, limitless, and without boundaries.

ALL: **We come now with hearts filled with love to worship and praise the almighty. Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Change My Heart, O God" #420

***INVOCATION:** "Let us rise and meet our Creator. Let us raise our hands and voices in acknowledgment that God's Holy Spirit moves among us, calling us to new life in Christ. Let us raise our eyes, knowing that this new life of stewardship for all God's creation is seen in the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASS THE PEACE**

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Kayann Rose

***PASTORAL PRAYER**

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

THE OFFERING Ponder the gifts you will offer to God:
your tithes, your time, your resources.

OFFERTORY "Love Lifted Me" by Ruth Elaine Schram

***DOXOLOGY** #563

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

MIDDLE HYMN "The Gift of Love" #292

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 pg. 876

SERMON "All About Love " Pastor Shazzy Britz

COMMUNION SERVICE (see insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
vs. 1 & 4 #48

***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 "Laudation" by Gilbert M. Martin

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.



Acolyte: Louie Schmidt
Fellowship Hour: Gayle Conover
Greeter: Adrian Fick
Nursery: Cate Munter
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter, Max Moser
Ushers: Kella Klinker-Simonin
Young Disciple's Moment: Kayann Rose
Worship Assistant: Jared Gerlock

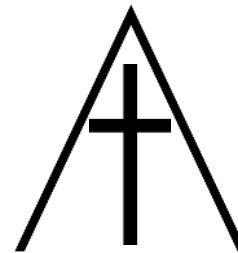


**Congo Night Out
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Piza Ranch
Dutch Treat
Order by 5:30 and save**



**Orientation of Officers
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
7:00**

All members of each core ministry team must attend.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ministers—All
Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
pastor@congospencer.org
Education Coordinator—Katie Baltes
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

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



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, FEBRUARY 2, 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!
- † LifeServe Blood Bank February 3 9:30-2:00
- † Congo Night Out at Pizza Ranch, Tuesday, February 4, 5:30, Dutch treat. If you order by 5:30 you will save money.
- † Orientation of Officers, Wednesday February 5th at 7:00 pm. All Core Ministry Team Members must attend.
- † Peterson Congregational Church Valentine Tea, Saturday, February 8 2:00 pm.
- † Parents Night Out February 8, PF will babysit kids 6 weeks –4th grade from 5:00-7:30, cost \$10 per child. Meal provided.
- † Middle School Dance Party, February 8 8:00-10:00
- † UDMO February donations of canned tuna and chicken.
- † 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: Sarah Breyette (former foster daughter of Randy & Judy Van Dyke, 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, Kathryn Polking, Patrick Sullivan, and Daniel 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

As the California wildfires continue to cause devastation across the Los Angeles area, the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) is closely monitoring the needs of those impacted.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) is gratefully receiving One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) donations, to be distributed to vetted individuals, organizations, and NACCC mission partners providing aid as well as NACCC churches that are either directly impacted by the fires or actively involved in providing relief to those in need.

To make a donation online, visit www.naccc.org/donate

Donations via check can be mailed to:

NACCC

PO Box 288

Oak Creek, WI 53154

To ensure your donation is directed toward this cause, please be sure to include a note designating the funds to 2025 California Wildfire Relief. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Or you can give your check to FCC-Spencer and will forward on to the NACCC.

The NACCC makes every effort to honor donor wishes in regard to their gifts. Occasionally, a situation will arise where a project is no longer viable. The NACCC will direct those donated funds to one of our other funds that is most similar to the donor's original wishes.

Please be in contact with us if you or your church are directly affected.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 2 Adult Education 9:00
- February 2 Sunday School 9:15
- February 2 Worship & Communion 10:30
- February 2 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- February 3 LifeServe Blood Bank 9:30-2:00
- February 4 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- February 4 Congo Night Out Pizza Ranch, 5:30-7:00 Dutch Treat; if you order by 5:30 you save money
- February 5 Staff Meeting 10:00
- February 5 Bell Choir 5:00
- February 5 Choir 6:00
- February 5 PF 6:00-8:00
- February 5 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- February 5 Orientation of Officers 7:00
- February 8 Peterson Congregational Church Valentine Tea 2:00
- February 8 Parents Night Out– PF will babysit kids 6 weeks –4th grade from 5:00-7:30, cost \$10 per child. Meal provided.
- February 8 Middle School Dance Party 8:00-10:00
- February 9 Adult Education 9:00
- February 9 Sunday School 9:15
- February 9 Worship 10:30
- February 9 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- February 11 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- February 12 Staff Meeting 10:00
- February 12 Bell Choir 5:00
- February 12 Choir 6:00
- February 12 PF 6:00-8:00
- February 12 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- February 16 Adult Education 9:00
- February 16 Sunday School 9:15
- February 16 Worship 10:30
- February 16 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- February 17 LifeServe Blood Bank 1:00-6:00
- February 17 Church office closed for President's Day
- February 18 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- February 19 Staff Meeting 10:00
- February 19 Bell Choir 5:00
- February 19 Choir 6:00
- February 19 PF 6:00-8:00
- February 19 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- February 20 Mayflower Circle luncheon at Family Table 11:30
- February 23 Adult Education 9:00
- February 23 Sunday School 9:15
- February 23 Worship 10:30
- February 23 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- February 25 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- February 26 Staff Meeting 10:00
- February 26 Bell Choir 5:00
- February 26 Choir 6:00
- February 26 PF 6:00-8:00
- February 26 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025
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

"Purify My Heart "

by Jeff Nelson

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.



UPCOMING MISSION TRIP WITH NEXT STEPS- MILWAUKEE WI – JULY 27- AUGUST 1

What is This Mission Experience About?

During your time in Milwaukee, you may have the opportunity to work on block beautification and home repair projects, or serve at local gardens and food pantries. But at the end of the week, you can know that your understanding of the city, as well as growth in and understanding of prayer will have taken place. Relationships will have formed. Projects will have been completed. And the love of Christ will be made known.

What to Bring

Bedding & Pillow, Water Bottle
Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Insect Repellent
Towel, Toiletries
Swim Suit
Work Shoes & Work Clothes & Work Gloves, Safety Glasses
Casual Clothes
Hammer

DAILY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY (ARRIVAL DAY)

3:00-5:00 pm – Arrive to Mission Location
6:00 pm – Dinner
7:00 pm – Worship & Weekly Orientation
9:00 pm – Church Time, Small groups, Free Time
10:30 pm – Lights Out

MONDAY – THURSDAY (WORK DAYS)

7:00 am – Wake Up
7:15 am – Eat Breakfast & Lunch Preparation
8:00 am – Morning Devotional
8:15 am – Depart for Worksite & Begin Working
Noon – Lunch & Devotion
1:00 pm – Resume Working
3:30 pm – Depart Worksites
4:00 pm – Showers and Free time
5:30pm – Dinner
6:45 pm – Worship
7:45 – Church Time
9:00 pm – Church Time, Small groups, Free Time
10:30 pm – Lights Out

FRIDAY (OPTIONAL FREE DAY)

8:00 am – Wake Up
8:15 am – Eat Breakfast & Lunch Preparation
9:00 am – Morning Devotion
9:15 am – Leave for Free Day Activity
4:00 pm – Return and Shower
5:30 pm – Dinner
6:45 pm – Worship
7:45 – Church Time
9:00 pm – Church Time, Small groups, Free Time
10:30 pm – Lights Out

COST PER PERSON: \$449

Includes meals and accommodation.

First, Congo has secured funding and credited it towards a mission trip, and depending on the number of participants, we will have a fundraiser to raise the additional funds needed. Sign up asap! A deposit of \$50 will be required to secure your spot.

**SAVE THE DATES FOR 2025 EVENTS
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI- JUNE 22-27 (EXACT DATE TBD)!**

THE NACCC YOUTH CONFERENCES AT A GLANCE

NAPF (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP)

NAPF is for youth who are entering 9th through 12th grade. NAPF allows teens to meet and bond with other Christians from throughout the country and to share their faith in a fun-filled atmosphere. Small groups are led by dedicated adult counselors, many of whom volunteer and use vacation time to attend. In conjunction with tremendous worship music, worship times may be led by members of the Commission on Youth Ministries or other adult leaders. Local church youth groups are also asked to prepare and lead morning and evening devotionals. Opportunities to express faith through acts of service are always a highlight of the conference. Any time a group of young people is gathered, there is always plenty of fun!

HOPE (HERITAGE OF PILGRIM ENDEAVOR)

HOPE offers young adults post high school through age 26 a great opportunity to further grow in faith with peers in an environment similar to NAPF. While still including worship, speakers, small group time, and mission work, HOPE promotes closer connection with peers and deeper discussion about faith through peer-led small groups. The experiences and perspectives that each person brings to their small group are valued and can enrich discussions about faith in remarkable ways. In addition, HOPE provides more opportunities for leadership involvement through prayer team, small group leader, or CYM (Commission on Youth Ministries) representative positions. HOPE

creates a genuine, meaningful, and fun atmosphere to grow in faith while creating new friendships!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NAPF and HOPE Scholarships

Scholarships have been made available through various funds to assist in reducing the cost of registration to the annual youth conference. Scholarships will be awarded according to available funds and can be used to cover part or all of the registration fee to attend the meeting. Various scholarships include the Lynn Merkel & Joanne Simpson NAPF/HOPE Scholarship. This scholarship was created in 2018 and named to honor the tireless work and the many years of leadership these two individuals gave to the youth ministry of the NACCC.

Scholarships

Applications

Scholarships assist anyone wishing to attend a NAPF/HOPE conference and event, who has financial need and has shown outstanding development in any or all of the following areas:

- Christian character
- Participation in local church youth programs
- Community service

Scholarship applications are available to all who are affiliated with a church that maintains membership in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.