

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Above all, we must be especially alert against the beginnings of temptation, for the enemy is more easily conquered if he is refused admittance to the mind and is met beyond the threshold when he knocks."
—Thomas A. Kempis



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 "Forty Days and Forty Nights" by Lyndell Leatherman
GREETING

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

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 103)

LEADER: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

PEOPLE: **As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

LEADER: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

PEOPLE: **As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

LEADER: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

PEOPLE: **As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "On Eagle's Wings" #385

***INVOCATION:** **Hope is the inheritance you gift to us, God our trust, so we might discover that when we are tempted we may call out to you for help; that even when we stumble during our journey, we are carried in your hands. All that we have is an inheritance from you, God, our maker and Redeemer. Amen**

*Texts written by Thom Shuman at www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASS THE PEACE**

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Jared Gerlock

*PASTORAL PRAYER

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

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

OFFERTORY "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

by C.E. Walz

#563

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

MIDDLE HYMN "Trust and Obey" #368

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 pg. 452-453

Romans 10:8b-13 pg. 864

Luke 4:1-13 pg. 785

SERMON "The Three Other Temptations" Pastor Deb Mechler

***CLOSING HYMN** "I Love to Tell the Story" #463

*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 "Deo Gracias" by Edward Broughton

Budget Recap

2025 Budget	\$250,000
Weekly needs	\$ 4,808
YTD blessing received	\$ 36,255
YTD needs	\$213,745

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.

a great big
**THANK
YOU!**

Acolyte: Pearl Whittenburg
Fellowship Hour: Lily Kime & Jay Oldenkamp
Greeter: Duaine Holck
Nursery: Grace Simpson
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter, Max Moser
Ushers: Myra Coover
Young Disciple's Moment: Jared Gerlock
Worship Assistant: Alison Munter

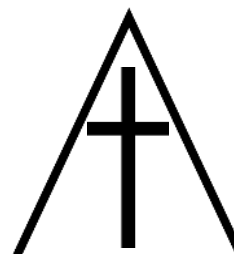
**Mission Trip
Milwaukee, WI
July 27—August 1
Deadline to sign up
March 10**

**We can add after that but
can't drop numbers
\$50 Deposit**

MILWAUKEE
mission trip



**NACCC Youth Conference
NAPF/HOPE
St. Louis MO
End of June
Open to 9-12 grade students**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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.

Ministers—All
Pastor—Pastor Deb Mechler
pastor@congospenencer.org
Education Coordinator—Katie Baltus
congospenencer.ed@gmail.com
Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
office@congospenencer.org
Assistant Secretary—Amber Stoutenborough
amber@congospenencer.org
Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
Choir Director—Elina Ozolins-Leander
Building Manager—Lori Haburn

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, MARCH 9, 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!
- † Northshire/Longhouse (SPARCS) worship service 4:30/5:00.
- † CMF meeting March 10 6:00.
- † Mission Trip to Milwaukee, WI July 27—August 1; deadline to sign up March 10; \$50 deposit. We can add after that but can't drop numbers after this date.
- † March 11 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00.
- † Midweek Lenten Lunch & Worship at Faith Lutheran Church 11:30 lunch; 12:15 service.
- † CMM meeting March 16 11:50.
- † LifeServe Blood Center March 17 1:00-6:00.
- † MARS meeting March 18 7:00 pm.
- † Midweek Lenten Lunch & Worship at First Congregational Church 11:30 lunch; 12:15 service.
- † NACCC Youth Conference NAPF/Hope in St. Louis, MO end of June; open to grades 9—12.
- † UDMO March donations of cereal and oatmeal.
- † 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: Zinn Family on the death of Mary Kary Zinn, Pastor Shazzy, Spencer Community, Sarah Breyette (former foster daughter of Randy & Judy Van Dyke, Bill Green, Karen Forbes, Allison (Swenning) Mason, Sandi Nielsen, David Ozolins (brother of Elina Ozolins-Leander), Cindy Peterson Journey (sister of Linda Norgaard), Denny Phillips.
- † 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, and Ina Faye Underwood.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 9 Worship 10:30
- March 9 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 9 SPARC (Northshire/Longhouse) Worship Service 4:30/5:00
- March 10 Mission Trip deadline to sign up
- March 10 CMF meeting 6:00
- March 11 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 12 Staff Meeting 10:00
- March 12 Mid-Week Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Worship; lunch 11:30, service 12:15 at Faith Lutheran Church
- March 12 Bell Choir 5:00
- March 12 Choir 6:00
- March 12 PF 6:00-8:00
- March 12 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- March 16 Adult Education 9:00
- March 16 Sunday School 9:15
- March 16 Worship 10:30
- March 16 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 16 CMM meeting 11:50
- March 17 Life Serve Blood Center 1:00-6:00
- March 18 Girl Scouts 9:00-12:00
- March 18 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 18 MARS 7:00
- March 19 Staff Meeting 10:00
- March 19 Mid-Week Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Worship; lunch 11:30, Service 12:15 at First Congregational Church
- March 19 Bell Choir 5:00
- March 19 Choir 6:00
- March 19 NO PF
- March 19 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- March 23 Adult Education 9:00
- March 23 Sunday School 9:15
- March 23 Worship 10:30
- March 23 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 23 CMW meeting 11:50
- March 25 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 26 Staff Meeting 10:00
- March 26 Mid-Week Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Worship; lunch 11:30, service 12:15 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- March 26 Bell Choir 5:00
- March 26 Choir 6:00
- March 26 PF 6:00-8:00
- March 26 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- March 30 Adult Education 9:00
- March 30 Sunday School 9:15
- March 30 Worship 10:30
- March 30 Fellowship Hour 11:30



Let's unite as a community
this Lenten Season as we
journey together and embark
on a weekly Lenten service
with a light lunch.

March 12

**Faith Lutheran Church
2912 Hwy. Blvd., Spencer**

March 19

**First Congregational Church
1212 First Avenue West, Spencer**

March 26

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1111 Fourth Avenue, Spencer**

April 2

**First Baptist Church
1200 Grand Avenue, Spencer**

April 9

**Faith Pentecostal Church
1700 11th Avenue SW, Spencer**

April 16

**Hope Church
919 Grand Avenue, Spencer**

**Mealtime begins at 11:30 am
(free will donation)
service to follow 12:15 pm**