

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

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2025

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone
but in every leaf of springtime."*
– Martin Luther

PRELUDE "Procession for a King" by Edward Broughton

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the
name of the Lord!

PEOPLE: **Hosanna! Rejoice, for the Lord is in our
midst.**

LEADER: He comes with joy and hope.

PEOPLE: **He comes to set us free from fear.**

LEADER: The journey has been long and sometimes
arduous.

PEOPLE: **During this Lenten journey, we have seen
miracles and mysteries.**

LEADER: Now, the Lord comes to us in victory.

PEOPLE: **Jesus rides into Jerusalem and our hearts.**

LEADER: Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's Name!

PEOPLE: **Hosanna in the highest! AMEN**

*PROCESSIONAL OPENING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honor" #178

***INVOCATION:** **God, we gather on this day to begin a week of
contrasts. From hope to despair to hope again. As we
begin the week, as we join with the crowd, help us cut
through the noise to see what is happening, to see what
is at stake. As the story unfolds, it opens us to both hope
and pain. In this time of worship, prepare us to
celebrate, weep, and wait. Amen.**

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASS THE PEACE**

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Brea Schmidt

***PASTORAL PRAYER**

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

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

OFFERTORY "God So Loved the World"
by Larry Shackley from the Crucifixion

***DOXOLOGY** #563

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

CANTATA

CLOSING HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" vs 1&3 #191

***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

"The Power of the Cross "
Music by Keith Getty & Stewart Townend, arr. by Jason D. Payne
with "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND.



Easter Offering
Upper Des Moines Opportunity
&
The Outreach
(Formerly Grand Avenue
Community Outreach)

Budget Recap

2025 Budget	\$250,000
YTD Blessings Received	\$ 54,817
YTD Budget Needs	\$191,917



Fellowship Hour: Palm Sunday Meal
Greeter: Schmidt Family
Nursery: Ada Conover
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter
Ushers: Frank Edington & Joel Oldenkamp
Young Disciple's Moment: Brea Schmidt
Worship Assistant: Amy Simpson



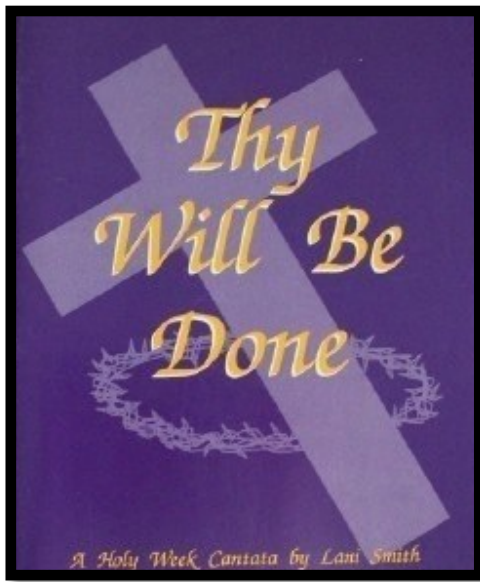
Ministers—All
 Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
 pastor@congospencer.org
 Education Coordinator—Katie Baltus
 congospencer.ed@gmail.com
 Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
 office@congospencer.org
 Assistant Secretary—Amber Stoutenborough
 amber@congospencer.org
 Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
 Choir Director—Elina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



"THY WILL BE DONE"
by Lani Smith

Directed by: Elina Ozolins-Leander

Narrators: Judy Hiemstra & Kirby Schmidt

Contents

The Prophet Must Die

Thirty Pieces of Silver

Not My Will, But Yours Be Done

What Was I to Say?

What Have They Done? Oboe Soloist—Maggie Moser

Thy Will Be Done

The Cantata Choir

Sopranos:

*Kristen Bensen	**Shari Emert
**Susan Howe	**Jennifer Loudermilk
**Anita Miller	*Onalee Wright

Altos:

**Lori Black	*Deb Mechler
**Sheryl Patten	*Sandi Schmidt

Tenors:

**Jared Gerlock	**Duaine Holck
**Mike Patten	*Alberto Villarreal

Basses:

*Bill Bensen	**Tom C. Howe
**Stewart Lewis	

*Members of Bethany Lutheran Church
**Members of First Congregational Church

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

Welcome to First Congregational Church. We are glad that you have joined us for this morning's Cantata. For those who may have trouble hearing, sound enhancement devices are available, please speak with an usher. Also, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. We ask that you kindly refrain from applause during the Cantata. Thank you!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, APRIL 13, 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!
- † Midweek Lenten Lunch & Worship at Hope Church April 16; 11:30 lunch;12:15 service.
- † Palm Sunday Meal 11:30—12:15; serving ham, cheesy hash browns, vegetable, roll & dessert for a free will donation.
- † Maundy Thursday service April 17 5:30.
- † Good Friday Tenebrae service April 18 5:30.
- † April 20 Easter Sunrise & Communion service at Gary's on the River main floor 7:00 am.
- † April 20 Easter Breakfast 8:00—10:00 am (please note this is a corrected time)
- † April 20 Easter Egg Hunt 9:45
- † April 20 Easter & Communion service 10:30.
- † LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00 April 21.
- † UDMO April donations of pasta sauce and pasta.
- † 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: Beth Berends, Sarah Breyette (former foster daughter of Randy & Judy Van Dyke, Bill Green, Karen Forbes, Linda Edwardson, Judy Hemphill, Dave Jacobson, Allison (Swenning) Mason, Linda Maxson, Sandi Nielsen, David Ozolins (brother of Elina Ozolins-Leander), Pastor Shazzy, Cindy Peterson Journey (sister of Linda Norgaard), Jack & Mary Schomaker, Spencer Community.
- † 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: 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, Jack & Mary Schomaker, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, and Ina Faye Underwood.

NO MAY BREAKFAST 2025

Upcoming Events:

- April 13 Adult Education 9:00
- April 13 Sunday School 9:15
- April 13 Palm Sunday service & Cantata 10:30
- April 13 Palm Sunday meal 11:30-12:15
- April 15 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- April 15 MARS 7:00
- April 16 Staff Meeting 10:00
- April 16 Mid-Week Ecumenical Lenten Lunch & Worship; lunch 11:30, service 12:15 at Hope Church
- April 16 Bell Choir 5:00
- April 16 Choir 6:00
- April 16 PF 6:00-8:00
- April 16 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- April 17 Mayflower Circle meeting in Fireside Room 1:00
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30
- April 18 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 5:30
- April 20 Easter Sunrise Service & Communion at Gary's on the River 7:00 am
- April 20 Easter Breakfast 8:00-10:00 (note corrected time)
- April 20 Easter Egg Hunt 9:45
- April 20 Easter Main Service & Communion 10:30
- April 21 LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00
- April 22 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- April 23 Staff Meeting 10:00
- April 23 Bell Choir 5:00
- April 23 Choir 6:00
- April 23 PF 6:00-8:00
- April 23 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
- April 23 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- April 27 Adult Education 9:00
- April 27 CMM meeting 9:00
- April 27 Sunday School 9:15
- April 27 Worship 10:30
- April 27 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- April 27 CMW meeting 11:50
- April 30 Staff Meeting 10:00
- April 30 Bell Choir 5:00
- April 30 Choir 6:00
- April 30 PF 6:00-8:00
- April 30 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- May 1 12 Hour Prayer Vigil 7:00 am—7:00 pm
- May 1 Executive Council Meeting 6:30
- May 3 Stacie DeJager Piano Recital
- May 4 Adult Education 9:00
- May 4 Sunday School 9:15
- May 4 Worship 10:30
- May 4 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- May 4 Girl Scout Bridging in Chapel 4:00
- May 4 Westword Road performing 6:00
- May 5 LifeServe Blood Center 9:30-2:00
- May 5 CME 5:30
- May 5 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- May 6 Congo Night Out TBD



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**

Holy Week Activities

April 13

Palm Sunday & Cantata during worship 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Meal 11:30 am—12:15 pm

April 17

Maundy Thursday service 5:30 pm

April 18

Tenebrae service 5:30 pm

April 20

Easter Sunrise & Communion service 7:00 am at Gary's on the River

Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:45 am

Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 am

Easter & Communion Service 10:30 am

