

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

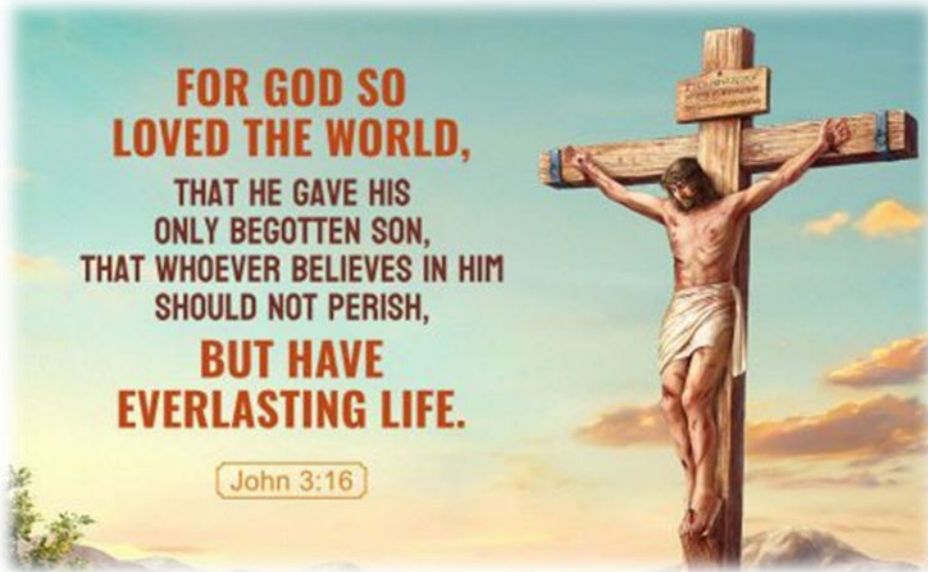
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."
— Pope Francis



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"

March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

by Faye Lopez

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: God calls us to set out in faith.

PEOPLE: **The love of God leads us home.**

LEADER: Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

PEOPLE: **The blessings of Christ heal our world.**

LEADER: The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

PEOPLE: **The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.**

LEADER: The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

ALL: **Praise be to God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Tree of Life" (see screen)

***INVOCATION:** Lord of light and love, your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as your kingdom draws us to you. May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to your realm and taste the joy of eternal life in your name. For you sent your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into His light we might have life, and have it abundantly. Call us this day as you called your followers of old, for we long experience your awesome power and respond with faithful hearts and willing spirits. Amen.

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Fundraiser & Mission Trip Katie Baltus
Pastor Shazzy

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

***PASS THE PEACE
YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT**

Katie Baltés

***PASTORAL PRAYER**

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

"Here at Your Table, Lord"
by Anna Laura Page
JuBellations

***DOXOLOGY**

#563

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

MIDDLE HYMN

"Because He Lives" #204

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17 pg. 811

SERMON

"No greater love than the love He Gave"
Pastor Shazzy Britz

COMMUNION SERVICE (see screen)

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" #71

***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

Postlude on "The Glory of These Forty Days"
by Matthew McConnell

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

Budget Recap

2026 Budget	\$275,000
YTD Blessings Received	\$ 16,938
YTD Budget Needs	\$258,850



Acolyte: Louie Schmidt

Communion: Thanks Communion Servers

Fellowship Hour: Baltés Family

Greeter: Diane Berg & Myra Coover

Nursery: Maisy Schmidt

Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie

Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter

Ushers: Diane Berg & Myra Coover

Worship Assistant: Katie Baltés

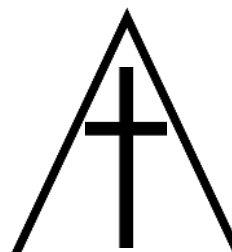
Young Disciples Moment: Katie Baltés

**ONLINE GIVING WITH
TITHE.LY**



**Do You Give With Cash or
Check?**

We strongly encourage you to
switch to digital giving! Scan this
QR code with your smart phone



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ministers—All
 Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
 pastor@congospencer.org
 Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Katie Baltés
 dcym@congospencer.org
 Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
 office@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.

**MARCH 1, 2026
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 "I Must Tell Jesus (with Blessed Assurance)"
by Mary McDonald

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 Midweek Lenten
Services & Light Lunch
2026**

February 25

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

March 4

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

March 11

**Grace United Methodist Church
311 Second Avenue West, Spencer**

March 18

**Foundation Church
1410 West 18th Street, Spencer**

March 25

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

April 1


**Trinity Lutheran Church
900 Eleventh Avenue West, Spencer**

**Meal begins at 11:30
(Free will donation)
Service to follow**



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, MARCH 1, 2026


- † Please let us know your joys and concerns, 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!
- † Spencer Congo Youth Envelope Challenge, take an envelope, donate the dollar amount stated, return to office and help our youth on their Big Stuf trip.
- † Grief Share Classes each Monday from 6:00-8:00 thru May 4.
- † LifeServe Blood Center Monday, March 2, 9:00-2:00.
- † Congo Night Out at Family Table, Tuesday, March 2 from 5:30-7:00.
- † Mid-Week Lenten Worship & Lunch Wednesday, March 4 at First Congregational Church. Lunch 11:30, worship at 12:15.
- † Daylight Savings Time begins March 8, spring forward one hour.
- † UDMO March donations: cereal, oatmeal, etc. .
- † 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: Doug Hart, Angie Edington, Fran Grover, Sara Breyette (former foster daughter of Randy & Judy Van Dyke, Karen Forbes, Judy Hemphill, Allison (Swenning) Mason, David Ozolins (brother of Elina Ozolins-Leander), Kaye Price, Gloria Tingle, Joyce Wagner, Sherry Weikum, 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: John Abele, Jennie Byrn, Bonnie Crosser, Fran Grover, Mary Lou Hoffman, Marcie Muckey, Polly Nelson, Dean Sauders, Mary Schomaker, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, and Joyce Wagner.



**Envelope Challenge
Youth Fundraiser
Pickup an envelope &
donate that amount**


**March 2
9:00-2:00
March 16
1:00—6:00**





**Congo Night Out
Family Table
March 3 5:30-7:00
Call office to sign up**

**Mid-Week Lenten
Worship & Lunch
March 4
11:30/12:15**



**Spring Forward
1 Hour
March 8**



**UDMO Food
Donations
March
Cereal, Oatmeal, Etc.**





**Grief Share Classes
Each Monday thru
May 4
6:00-8:00**

Upcoming Events:

- March 1 Adult Education 9:00
- March 1 Sunday School 9:30
- March 1 Worship & Communion 10:30
- March 1 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 1 SPARCS Worship 4:30/5:00
- March 1 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- March 2 LifeServe Blood Center 9:00-2:00
- March 2 CME 5:00
- March 2 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
- March 3 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 3 CMM 5:00
- March 3 Congo Night Out at Family Table 5:30-7:00, RSVP by March 2
- March 3 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- March 4 Mid-Week Lenten Lunch & Worship at First Congo Church
11:30/12:15
- March 4 Staff Meeting 1:30
- March 4 Bell Choir 5:00-5:30
- March 4 Choir 5:45-6:30
- March 4 Spencer Congo Youth 6:00-8:00
- March 4 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Forward 1 hour
- March 8 Adult Education 9:00
- March 8 Sunday School 9:30
- March 8 Worship 10:30
- March 8 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 8 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- March 9 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
- March 10 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 10 CMF 7:00
- March 10 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- March 11 Mid-Week Lenten Lunch & Worship at Grace United Methodist
11:30/12:15
- March 11 Staff Meeting 1:30
- March 11 Bell Choir 5:00-5:30
- March 11 Choir 5:45-6:30
- March 11 Spencer Congo Youth 6:00-8:00
- March 11 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- March 11 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- March 12 MARS 5:00
- March 12 CMW 6:00
- March 15 Adult Education 9:00
- March 15 Sunday School 9:30
- March 15 Worship 10:30
- March 15 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- March 15 Narcotic s Anonymous
- March 16 LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00
- March 16 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
- March 17 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- March 17 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00