



AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"When you can see God in small things, you'll see God in all things."
— Donald L. Hicks

PRELUDE "Lift High the Cross" arr. by Cindy Berry
INTROIT "Jesus Loves Me"
Children's Church Bell Choir
Ari, Orson, Vivian Baltes, Willa, Etta Schmidt

GREETING
LEADER: The Lord be with you. (extending arms)
PEOPLE: And also with you.
(Congregation responds with extended arms)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
LEADER: Even if we feel abandoned and alone,
PEOPLE: Christ meets us here.
LEADER: Even when we become lost and disoriented,
PEOPLE: Christ rescues us in our need.
LEADER: Even when our hearts are touched by the frost,
PEOPLE: Christ warms our spirits.
LEADER: Even when all light has faded to black,
PEOPLE: Christ illumines our Way.
LEADER: Here in this house of worship enter, rejoice, and come home.

***OPENING SONG** "Goodness of God" Jared Gerlock

***INVOCATION: God of Easter hope, when our gaze is cast within, it is easy to miss your presence in our midst. When we fail to recognize you on the road, touch our minds with your wisdom and truth, and set our hearts on fire with your holy love. During times of confusion and doubt, open our eyes to your life-giving presence, and rekindle our Easter faith. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (see insert)

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Patten

MINUTE FOR MISSION Love Takes Root

***PASS THE PEACE**

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"

April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

***PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER** (see screen)

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

OFFERTORY "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" by Cindy Berry #563

***DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

MIDDLE HYMN "In the Garden" #205

GOSPEL READING Luke 24:13-35 pg. 808

SERMON "God shows up when we least expect." Pastor Shazzy Britz

***CLOSING HYMN** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" #354

***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 "Christ for the World We Sing" by Lani Smith

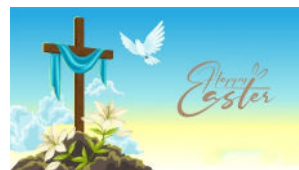
*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND



Memorial Flowers in loving memory of Frank & Gretchen Hart by their family.



**Easter Offering
 Love Takes Root 2026**



Budget Recap

2026 Budget	\$275,000
YTD Blessings Received	\$ 54,780
YTD Budget Needs	\$221,008



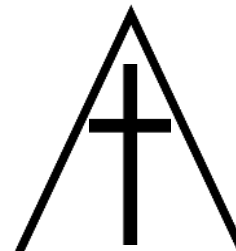
Acolyte: Kingston Baltes
Fellowship Hour: Lily Kime & Jay Oldenkamp
Greeter: Curtis Swanson
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Max Munter
Ushers: Curtis Swanson
Worship Assistant: Mike Patten

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 Baltes
 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.

APRIL 19, 2026 RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WELCOMING INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Nancy Brooks & Curtis Swanson

INTRODUCTION & CALLING FORTH OF NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Do you profess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord in union with the Church that Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you continue to strive to know and do God's will, as revealed to you in the scriptures, in prayer, in your life experience, and throughout the community of faith?

I will.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world, offering the support of your prayers, talents, resources, and the gift of presence?

I will.

Do you wish to take upon yourself full membership in our church, the First Congregational Church of Spencer?

I do.

TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of First congregational Church, willingly and joyfully receive these fellow pilgrims as you would receive Christ? Do you offer to share with them the joys and responsibilities of membership; to continue to pray for them; to nurture them in their spiritual growth, and together with them, to strive to follow God's call to faith and service?

We do.


PRAYER BY LAYING OF HANDS

WELCOME TO THE CONGREGATION


SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, APRIL 19, 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!
- † 2026 Easter Offering is going to Love Takes Root.
- † Spencer Congo Youth Envelope Challenge, take an envelope, donate the dollar amount stated, return to the office and help our youth on their Big Stuf trip.
- † Grief Share Classes each Monday from 6:00-8:00 thru May 4.
- † UDMO April donations: Pasta & Pasta Sauce.
- † 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: Duaine Holck hip replacement, Denny Price, Larry, brother of Diane Berg, Doug Hart, Angie Edington, Fran Grover, Sara Breyette (former foster daughter of Randy & Judy Van Dyke), Judy Hemphill, Allison (Swenning) Mason, David Ozolins (brother of Elina Ozolins-Leander), Kaye Price, 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, Duaine & Sally Holck, Larry Forbes, Marcie Muckey, Polly Nelson, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, and Joyce Wagner.

	Easter Offering Love Takes Root 2026	
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	Envelope Challenge Youth Fundraiser Pickup an envelope & donate that amount
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May 4 9:00-2:00 May 18 1:00-6:00	
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Church Clean Up Day April 25 8:30-11:30	
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	Grief Share Classes Each Monday thru May 4 6:00-8:00
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Upcoming Events:

April 19 Adult Education 9:00
April 19 Worship 10:30
April 19 Children's Church 10:45
April 19 Fellowship Hour 11:30
April 19 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
April 20 LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00
April 20 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
April 21 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
April 21 CMCC 4:00
April 21 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
April 22 Staff Meeting 1:30
April 22 Bell Choir 5:00
April 22 Choir 6:00
April 22 Spencer Congo Youth Group 6:00-8:00
April 22 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
April 24 Karen Forbes Visitation at Warner Funeral Home 5:00-7:00
April 25 Church Yard Clean-up 8:30-11:30
April 25 Karen Forbes Funeral at FCC 2:00
April 26 Adult Education 9:00
April 26 Worship 10:30
April 26 Children's Church 10:45
April 26 Fellowship Hour 11:45
April 26 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
April 27 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
April 28 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
April 28 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
April 29 Staff Meeting 1:30
April 29 Bell Choir 5:00
April 29 Choir 6:00
April 29 Spencer Congo Youth Group 6:00-8:00
April 29 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
May 3 Adult Education 9:00
May 3 Worship & Communion 10:30
May 3 Children's Church 10:45
May 3 Fellowship Hour 11:30
May 3 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
May 4 LifeServe Blood Center 9:00-2:00
May 4 CME 4:30
May 4 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
May 5 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
May 5 Congo Night Out Gonzalas Tortas 5:30-7:00
May 5 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
May 6 Bell Choir 5:00
May 6 Choir 6:00
May 6 Spencer Congo Youth Group 6:00-8:00
May 6 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
May 7 12 Hour Prayer Vigil 7:00 am—7:00 pm
May 10 Adult Education 9:00
May 10 Worship 10:30—Graduation Sunday & Mother's Day
May 10 Children's Church 10:45
May 10 Fellowship Hour 11:30
May 10 SPARCS Service 4:30/5:00
May 10 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00