

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m



FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"When you understand what Jesus Christ has done for you, what he offers you, the riches available to you, and the plans and expectations He has for you, you've found the greatest single motivation for diligent living the world will ever know."
Dr. David Jeremiah

PRELUDE

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

arr. by Lloyd Larson

GREETING

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

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

(Congregation responds with extended arms)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Come walk in the light.

PEOPLE: **God will show us the way.**

LEADER: Come, worship our God.

PEOPLE: **The Spirit has called us here.**

LEADER: Come; listen and learn of God's love.

PEOPLE: **The love of Christ Jesus is ours.**

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

***INVOCATION: God of amazing grace, touch us with your healing hands of love. Help us sing of your amazing grace, knowing that we who once were blind can now truly see. Help us know your amazing grace, trusting that we who once were lost are now forever found by your love. In the name of your gracious love, we pray. Amen.**

***CHURCH COVENANT** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lori Black

***PASS THE PEACE**

***PASTORAL PRAYER**

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace"

JuBellations

***DOXOLOGY**

#563

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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"

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m.

MIDDLE HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians" #495
GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41 pg. 818-819
EPISTLE READING Ephesians 5:8
 "For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."
SERMON "How Diligent Are We?" Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine
COMMUNION SERVICE (see screen)
***CLOSING HYMN** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" #323
***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 "Christians, We Have Met to Worship"
 by Mark Hayes, arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND



**In memory of
 Linda Taylor
 from her loving husband Dennis,
 son Aaron and family.**

Budget Recap

2026 Budget	\$275,000
YTD Blessings Received	\$ 60,893
YTD Budget Needs	\$214,895



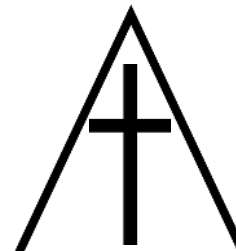
Acolyte: Vivian Whittenburg
Communion: Lori Black, Jennifer Loudermilk,
 Mike & Sheryl Patten
Fellowship Hour: Linda Edwardson, Gloria Tingle,
 Becky Woolery
Greeter: Curtis Swanson
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock,
 Tommy Gerlock
Ushers: Mike & Sheryl Patten
Worship Assistant: Lori Black

**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 Shurmaine McAlpine
 pastor@congospencer.org
 Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Katie Balthes
 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.

**MAY 3, 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

"O Come to the Altar"


arr. by Larry Shackley


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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAY 3, 2026

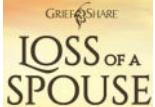
- † Please let us know your joys and concerns, if you are live streaming go to the YouTube chat box and type in your prayer request and they will be announced in worship.
- † If you are visiting the church, we have welcome sacks in the back of the sanctuary for you. Please leave your name and contact 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 the office and help our youth on their Big Stuf trip.
- † Grief Share Classes each Monday from 6:00-8:00 thru May 4.
- † Grief Share Loss of Spouse Class Monday, May 11 6:00-8:00
- † Congo Night Out at Gonzales Tortas on Grand, May 5 from 5:30—7:00. Please RSVP to the office by April 4 at noon.
- † 12 Hour Prayer Vigil—May 7 from 7:00 am—7:00 pm. Sign up with the office for your half hour time slot.
- † UDMO May donations: Hamburger Helper and Tuna Helper.
- † 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: 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), Denny Price, 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.

	12 Hour Prayer Vigil May 7 7:00 am—7:00 pm
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	Congo Night Out Gonzales Tortas May 5 5:30-7:00 Call office to sign up
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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	

	Grief Share Loss Of Spouse Class May 11 6:00-8:00
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	Grief Share Classes Each Monday thru May 4 6:00-8:00
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Upcoming Events:

- 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
- May 11 Jonquil Short Visitation & Funeral
- May 11 Grief Share Loss of Spouse 6:00-8:00
- May 12 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- May 12 CMM 5:00
- May 12 CMF 7:00
- May 12 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- May 13 Bell Choir 5:00
- May 13 Choir 6:00
- May 13 Spencer Congo Youth 6:00-8:00
- May 13 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
- May 14 MARS 5:00
- May 14 CMW 6:00
- May 15 Stacey De Jager Piano Recital Set Up
- May 16 Stacey De Jager Piano Recital & Reception
- May 17 Adult Sunday School 9:00—Last Day
- May 17 Worship & Appreciation Sunday 10:30
- May 17 Children's Church 10:45—Last Day
- May 17 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- May 17 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- May 18 LifeServe Blood Center 1:00-6:00
- May 19 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- May 19 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- May 20 Staff Meeting 1:30
- May 20 Spencer Congo Youth Group 6:00-8:00 Last Day
- May 21 Mayflower Circle 1:00
- May 21 Executive Council Meeting 7:00
- May 24 Worship 10:30
- May 24 Fellowship Hour 11:30
- May 24 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- May 25 Office Closed Memorial Day
- May 26 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
- May 26 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00
- May 27 Staff Meeting 1:30