



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1212 First Avenue West, Spencer, Iowa 51301-3503

Church Office: (712) 262-4392

Church Email: office@congospencer.org

Church Website: www.congospencer.org

 [FirstCongregationalChurchofSpencerIA](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofSpencerIA)

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"The Lenten Season also becomes a time for observing spiritual disciplines. These disciplines aid in spiritual maturity, provided believers do them with a heart that is centered on Christ."

—Billy Graham Association

PRELUDE

"Arise, My Soul, Arise"

arr. Lani Smith

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Come, people of God, unite your voices and hearts in praise and worship.

PEOPLE: **We open our lives to the mystery of God's presence and grace.**

LEADER: Come, people of God, to the source of your salvation,

PEOPLE: **Ready and yielded and free we invite God's spirit to shape and renew us in this time of worship.**

***OPENING SONG** "Blessed By Your Name" Praise Team

***INVOCATION:** **Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You miraculously restore people to health and shine light into the lives of those who are discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. Amen.**

—Discipleship Ministries

***CHURCH'S COVENANT:** (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG DISCIPLES' MOMENT

Joseph Leggett

* 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 "If Thou Art Near"
 by Johann Sebastian Bach #563
***DOXOLOGY**
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**
MIDDLE HYMN "In My Heart There Rings A Melody" vs 1, 2 #400
SCRIPTURE READINGS 1 Samuel 16:1-13 pg. 211
 Ephesians 5:8-14 pg. 892
MEDITATION "Lord You Know My Heart"
 Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine
CLOSING HYMN "Near To the Heart of God" #387
***BENEDICTION** Search me, O God, and know my heart;
 Try me; and know my anxieties
 And see if there is any wicked way in me,
 And lead me in the way everlasting.
 —Psalm 139:33-34
***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 "Song of Life" arr. Lani Smith

* All who are able, please stand



Fellowship Hour: Bob Rose
Greeter: Shari Emmert & Barb Garnatz
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Irie Leggett, Max Munter
Ushers: Tom C. Howe
Worship Assistant: John Zinn

RC Car Day
 Southpark Mall
 TODAY
 4:30-6:30 pm



Holy Week Activities

April 2

Palm Sunday—Cantata during worship 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Meal 11:30 am—12:15 pm

April 6

Maundy Thursday service 6:00 pm

April 7

Good Friday service 6:00 pm

April 9

Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast 8:30—9:45 am

Easter Egg Hunt—9:45 am



UDMO Food Donations
March Donation Needs
Oatmeal, Cereal Etc.



150 Years of Faith, Family & Fellowship
 First Congregational Church of Spencer
 1872 - 2022

*Proud to be a member of the National Association of
 Congregational Christian Churches and the Iowa-Nebraska
 Association of Congregational Christian Churches.*



Ministers—All
 Today's Pastor—Pastor Shurmaine McAlpine
 Director of Youth & Family Ministry—Joseph Leggett
 familyministry@congospencer.org
 Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
 office@congospencer.org
 Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
 Choir Director—Elina Leander-Ozolins
 Building Manager—Lori Haburn

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.

Sunday Announcements March 19, 2023

†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.

†March 19 Lenten Potluck & Movie "Annihilation" Potluck 5:30 with movie at 6:15.

†150th Anniversary Cookbooks are almost ready to be printed. If you are interested in purchasing one they are \$7.00 each, please let Dawn Weuve or the office know.

†The Flower Committee welcomes you to purchase Easter lilies in memory, honor or in celebration of those you love. Cost is \$18 per plant (cost is slightly higher this year due to inflation). **Deadline to order is March 13.** Order form is attached.

†Lenten Devotional books are now available in the office.

†RC Car Day at Southpark Mall TODAY 4:30—6:30, bring your remote cars and prepare to dominate the track!

†Holy Week Schedule—

April 2 Palm Sunday Service & Cantata 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Meal 11:30—12:15.

April 6 Maundy Thursday service 6:00 pm

April 7 Good Friday service 6:00 pm

April 9 Easter Sunrise service 7:00 am

(possibly outside weather permitting)

Easter Breakfast 8:30 0 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 in church courtyard or basement

(weather dependent)

Easter service 10:30 am in sanctuary; Cantata finale

†May Breakfast and Bakesale May 3 7:00—10:00 am. Mark your calendars.

†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: Allison (Swenning) Mason, Frank Edington on the death of his sister-in-law Sandra (Zahrt) Dotson, Bernie Erickson (brother of Sheryl Patten), Bill Green, Angie (Van Dyke) Heikens, Jackie Ball, Karen Forbes, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Jack Schomaker, Mary Schomaker, Marcia Steffen, Lucy Steffen, Mark Wedel, Mary Kay Zinn...

†We pray for our military personnel: Taylor Allen, Evan Ball, Brandon Black, Mark Ivey, Nathan Jones, Jared Leonard, Adam Norgaard, Kathryn Polking, Patrick Sullivan, Nicholas Sundblad, Daniel Wilkerson, and Matt Wilkerson.

†We pray for our nursing home residents and homebound: Norma Drake, Bill Green, Barb Joenks, Lois Knight, Bonnie Crosser, Jean Heinrichs, Frank Nelson, Carol Kettelkamp, LaVonne Peterson, Vi Reason, Lucy Steffen, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, Ina Faye Underwood, Doris Van Buren, Mary Kay Zinn.

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Lenten Spirituality in Film

Come and view a mix of classic and contemporary films and probe questions of faith as they relate to the themes of each movie.

5:30 pm Potluck Supper

6:15 Film & Discussion
(childcare provided)

Sunday, February 26

The Straight Story

Rated G

Alvin Straight, an ailing, white-haired septuagenarian, is in bad shape; but, his estranged older brother, Lyle, is even worse. With bad hips, failing eyesight, and no means of transportation available, cigar-smoking Alvin sets out on an arduous, pride-swallowing, 320-mile journey from Laurens, Iowa to Mount Zion, Wisconsin, to make peace with Lyle who has suffered a stroke. Now, riding an entirely unfit and unsafe 1966 John Deere lawn tractor, the endless stretches of road become a living canvas, as Alvin encounters the quiet rosy sunrises and the tranquil orange sunsets of the vast Midwest, an unexpected assortment of people, and the kindness of strangers. But, above all, a brother is a brother, and Alvin knows that, in this snail-paced odyssey of reconciliation and love, he has to persevere. Oh, God, is there something good about getting old?

Sunday, March 5

Pinocchio

Rated PG

Determined to bring back his beloved son Carlo, Geppetto, a pained father and excellent carpenter, cuts down a tall, solitary pine tree to fashion it into a marionette: the spitting image of his lost boy. And as the compassionate Blue Fairy grants Geppetto his wish, christening the wooden creation Pinocchio, the freshly carved puppet comes to life to heal Geppetto's broken heart. However, with Benito Mussolini having Italy under his thumb, minuscule guardian Sebastian J. Cricket has his work cut out for him, keeping Pinocchio on the straight and narrow. Now, an exciting world of possibilities opens up. Will wide-eyed Pinocchio stay on the right path and become a real Italian boy?

Sunday, March 12

The Dark Knight

Rated PG

Set within a year after the events of *Batman Begins* (2005), Batman, Lieutenant James Gordon, and new District Attorney Harvey Dent successfully begin to round up the criminals that plague Gotham City, until a mysterious and sadistic criminal mastermind known only as "The Joker" appears in Gotham, creating a new wave of chaos. Batman's struggle against The Joker becomes deeply personal, forcing him to "confront everything he believes" and improve his technology to stop him. A love triangle develops between Bruce Wayne, Dent, and Rachel Dawes.

Sunday, March 19

Annihilation

Rated R

It's been already twelve months since his last covert operation, and the rugged military, Kane, is still missing in action, presumed dead. With his wife--the successful academic biology professor, Lena--still grieving him, an unprecedented phenomenon in the swamplands of Florida will soon have her following in Kane's footsteps, as a member of a strong all-women team. So many theories try to explain the mysterious ever-expanding iridescent membrane which swallows the area; however, none was able to yield facts. What kind of startling biological transmutations lurk behind this bright and colorful kaleidoscope of horrors? In the end, what did Kane see?

Sunday, March 26

Pursuit of Happiness

PG-13

Already struggling to eke out an existence, against the backdrop of early-1980's San Francisco, the earnest and hard-working bone-density-scanner salesman, Chris Gardner, finds himself with his back to the wall. Left with nothing when his wife abandons the family, the financially hard-pressed father will have to take care of his five-year-old son, Christopher, all by himself when, unexpectedly, the prestigious stock brokerage firm of Dean Witter offers Gardner an unpaid six-month internship. Now, bent on becoming a stockbroker, Chris is willing to go to great lengths to succeed; however, life can be challenging and cruel. Will Chris' efforts pay off? Can the determined parent make his dream come true?

Sunday, April 2

Groundhog Day

Rated PG

Misanthropic TV weatherman/broadcaster, Phil Connors, is annoyed and despondent when he's assigned the job of covering the annual Groundhog festivities in the small "Hick" town of Punxsutawney - making this his fourth in a row. The only noticeable upside is his attractive and good-natured producer. But the real nightmare begins when Phil ends up reliving the same day (Groundhog Day) over, and over again. Unable to leave the town due to a severe blizzard, and with no end in sight, Phil struggles to find a way to escape (and ultimately make the best of) his seemingly hopeless situation.