



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1212 First Avenue West, Spencer, Iowa 51301-3503

Church Office: (712) 262-4392

Church Email: office@congospencer.org

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

November 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"When I look through God's eyes at my lost self and discover God's joy at my coming home, then my life may become less anguished and more trusting."
—Henri J.M. Nouwen

PRELUDE "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" by Dennis Eliot
YOUTH BELL CHOIR "Michael Row The Boat Ashore"
Reese Munter, Beatrix Gerlock, Abigail Weuve

GREETING

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

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 52)

Leader: Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?
The goodness of God *endures* continually.

People: **Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.**

Leader: You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. *Selah*

People: **You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue.**

ALL: **God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah***

OPENING SONG "You Are My King" Praise Team

***INVOCATION:** The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness." But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

Psalm 52:6-9

COVENANT: (see screen)

***GLORIA PATRI**

#558

***PASS THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MINUTE
YOUNG DISCIPLES' MOMENT

Vickie Montgomery
Joseph Leggett

PASTORAL PRAYER

& LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" see screen)

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

OFFERTORY "Count Your Blessings" by Faye Lopez

***DOXOLOGY** #563

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

MIDDLE HYMN "We Gather Together" #552

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 pg. 798-799

MEDITATION "The Lost Brothers" Dan Winkowitsch

CLOSING HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" #283

***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 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" by Douglas Wagner

*All who are able, please stand



Pursuant to the Church Constitution, a special meeting of the congregation will be held in the church sanctuary on Sunday December 4, 2022, immediately following the regular worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear, consider and vote upon the report and recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to confirm the call of a new Senior Pastor.



Fellowship Hour: Gerlock Family
Greeter: Fran Grover & Barb Garnatz
Nursery: Nora Conover, Jersey Norgaard
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Irie Leggett, Max Munter
Ushers: Frank Edington, Bob Rose, John Zinn
Worship Assistant: Tom C. Howe



**Thanksgiving Offering
Save Our Children
Backpack Program
Spencer, IA**



Adopt A Family/Senior

Select ornaments and return gifts by
December 4. Tree is located in the Narthex.



You are invited to adorn the

Mitten Tree

scarves, mittens, hats, socks, coats, etc.
Donations to Upper Des Moines Opportunity

UDMO Food Donations
non perishable food and hygiene
products needed. Barrels located in
the Narthex & Education Wing.



Ministers - All
Today's Pastor - Dan Winkowitsch
Director of Youth & Family Ministry- Joseph Leggett
familyministry@congospencer.org
Church Secretary - Michelle Tullberg
office@congospencer.org
Organist / Accompanist / Bell Choir &
Choir Director - Elina Ozolins-Leander
Building Managers - Jodie Marlow and Lori Haburn

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

Sunday Announcements November 20, 2022

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†Thanksgiving Offering to Feed Our Children has been chosen by the Core Ministry of Missions. Feed Our Children are in their 12th year of providing weekend bags of food to our local children in need. They are a local Spencer program. Over the years, they have provided so many kids with not only food but self-confidence and the ability to focus on other important needs such as learning. Stories of dumpster diving, and suffering through empty bellies are real and present, even here in Spencer, Iowa. Rising costs have made it even more difficult to provide the needed resources to roughly 170 children. Your generosity is much appreciated.

†Hanging of the Greens after worship today.

†CMM meeting 11:30 today.

†Happy Thanksgiving! The office will be closed Friday, November 25.

†Adopt A Family/Senior—The Adopt A Family/Senior Project is returning again this year. With your kind donations 5 families and 10 seniors will receive Christmas gifts to brighten their lives and truly bless them this Christmas season.

The tree is located in the Narthex. Ornaments will again be a two part system, the **larger one take with you** and the smaller ornament sign and leave in the basket next to the tree so we know who is shopping for that gift. On the larger ornament it will have the family number, person's age on one side with the gift desired on the reverse side. Senior ornaments will be a blue diamond. After you have wrapped the present, tape this ornament on the package with the family number up so it can be delivered to the appropriate person.

If you want to contribute to the project but do not want to shop this year, you may donate money to the Adopt A Family/Senior Project and volunteers will be happy to do the shopping for ornaments that are left on the tree. **Delivery date is December 4** for gifts to be wrapped and brought to the church, either to the back of the sanctuary or the church office.

Thank you for your generosity to those families that may be experiencing challenges in their lives. Please note that gifts do not need to be new but do need to be clean and in good condition.

†Mitten Tree—You are invited to adorn the Mitten Tree located in the Education wing of the church. Accepting donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, coats etc. All contributions will go to UDMO for distribution.

†As we have been doing all year, we are asking for food and personal hygiene donations for UDMO. During the holiday season it is more important than ever to donate so that all families may have a bountiful meal with their families during this most joyous season.

†Joys & Concerns: Matt Bryant, Bernie Erickson (brother of Sheryl Patten), Angie (Van Dyke) Heikens, Steve Sawyer (father of Alison Munter), Jackie Ball, Karen Forbes, Bill Green, Tom Hinrichsen, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Kathy 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: 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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