

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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“Hot Lazy Days of Summer ... Don’t Forget Jesus”

Summer is here in full swing, the sun is hot, the days are long, and we’re slowing down. Whether you're off at the cottage, camping with family, or simply enjoying a porch swing, God is with us in every moment. Today’s worship reminds us that even in the restful, lazy days of summer, we don't take a vacation from faith, and Jesus reminds of that in so many ways...

OFFERING PRAYER

God of generosity, Bless what we bring today, our gifts, our time, our energy. Let our offering be like a summer breeze.
Refreshing, joyful, and life-giving to others. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come in from the sunshine and sit in this cool, sacred space.
People: We bring our flip-flop feet and sunburnt noses ready to worship.
Leader: Even on the laziest days, God is still moving.
People: Even when we travel far, God goes with us.
All: Let us worship the One who never sleeps, never takes a break, and always welcomes us with open arms.

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OPENING HYMN: #409 Morning has Broken

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

OPENING PRAYER

God of sunshine and swimming holes, Of long walks and longer naps,
We thank you for summer. Thank you for time to breathe, laugh, and explore. But remind us, too, that wherever we go, You go with us. Wherever we rest, you are there. And even when life slows down, Your Spirit is still gently nudging us toward love, worship, and service. Amen.

ANTHEM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, We confess that in summer’s easy pace, we sometimes forget you. We sleep in. We skip prayer. We drift away from the rhythm of worship. Forgive us. Call us gently back to center—Back to gratitude, back to grace, back to you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even when we wander, God never lets go. In every season and every pace, God's love is constant. You are forgiven. You are held. You are home.

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN VIDEO

LITANY: “Don’t Forget Jesus This Summer”

Leader: As we slip into sandals and stretch out in hammocks...

People: Lord, help us not to forget you!

Leader: When we trade Sunday shoes for flip-flops, and pews for patios...

People: May we still make time to worship.

Leader: When the cottage calls, the beach beckons, and the ice cream truck rolls by...

People: Remind us that your voice is sweeter than sprinkles.

Leader: In the lazy hum of fans and the chirping of crickets...

People: Let us hear your Spirit whispering peace.

Leader: When we feel like skipping prayer for just “one more nap”...

People: Wake us gently to your grace.

Leader: As we travel far or stay close to home...

People: Let us pack love, kindness, and a little room for Jesus.

Leader: Because no matter how hot the day or how long the night...

People: You, O God, are with us, shining brighter than the summer sun.

All Together: So bring on the lemonade and lawn chairs and family picnics, And bring on the blessings! We will rest, we will laugh, we will play... But we will not forget you, Jesus. Amen!

CHORUS: Jesus Wants Me For a Sunbeam

1 Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for him each day;
In every way try to please him,
At home, at school, at play.

**R: A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for him.**

2 I will ask Jesus to help me,
To keep my heart from sin;
Ever reflecting his goodness,
And always shine for him. **R**

3 I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus,
I can if I but try;
Serving him moment by moment,
Then live with him on high. **R**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Colossians 3:17

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

1 Peter 5:8

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

MESSAGE: “The Summertime Shift”

It’s summertime, the days are long, the air is warm, well lately Hot! and the pace of life slows down. We trade heavy coats for sandals, planners for beach towels, and Sunday routines for vacations, camping trips, and family barbecues.

But in all the sunshine and slow afternoons, there’s a subtle danger: leaving Jesus behind in the church when we walk out the door on Sunday morning.

Jesus never intended our faith to be something we pick up only once a week. In Matthew 28:19-20, He sends us *out* into the world, promising to go with us everywhere. Colossians 3:17 tells us that *whatever* we do—whether grilling on the deck, visiting with neighbours, or reading a book—it can all be done in His name. And 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us to stay spiritually awake, because even in the easy days of summer, our faith can drift if we’re not paying attention.

So, this morning, I want to talk about three truths for the “hot lazy days of summer” that will help us keep Jesus with us, on the beach, in the backyard, and everywhere in between.

The Great Commission is not a call to stay put, it's a call to go. Jesus didn't say, "Stay in Jerusalem and keep the doors locked." He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations... I am with you always."

Jesus travels well. He is just as present on a camping trip or watch a beautiful sunset... God is in every moment. Just as near in the grocery store aisle when you meet someone as listen to their story of joy or woe. Think about it this way....sunscreen. If you're going to the beach, you don't leave it sitting on the bathroom counter. You know you'll need it. In the same way, we can't leave Jesus behind when we head into the week. We need His presence and guidance wherever we go.

This means faith isn't just a "Sunday best" thing, it's a "Monday through Saturday" thing. The question is: Do we take Him with us?

Now let us think of our second verse.... Colossians 3:17 says,

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." That means that mowing the lawn, paddling a canoe, having coffee with a friend, or sharing a bonfire with family and friends, these can all be acts of worship when done with a heart for God.

Summer offers unique opportunities for everyday witness. We meet people at farmers markets, campgrounds, parks, and family reunions. We can carry the presence of Christ into these places simply by showing kindness, listening well, and speaking words of hope.

This made me think about my portable speaker. Wherever I take it, the music goes with me, whether it is a celebration of life, a wedding, VBS, in worship or just having quiet time in the office. In the same way, when we carry Christ in our hearts, His "music", His love, His peace, His joy goes with us and can be heard by others.

Faith doesn't need to be loud to be real. Sometimes it's in a gentle word, a helping hand, or simply making time for someone who needs to be seen.

And our last bible verse reminds us to stay spiritually wake in the lazy days.... Summer's relaxed pace is good for our bodies, but it can lull our spirits if we're not careful. 1 Peter 5:8 happens overnight. It's subtle.

We miss a couple of Sundays. We set aside our prayer time. Our Bible sits unopened. Before we know it, we've lost our rhythm with God.

So here are some practical steps for summer faithfulness:

Keep a short daily devotion habit, just a few minutes with Scripture and prayer can anchor your day.

Invite faith conversations, around the campfire, at the picnic table, in the car. Look for God's beauty in creation, and offer thanks for it. Summer is God's art gallery. Remember, we don't pack away our faith like we do winter coats. Whether under stained glass or summer skies, Jesus calls us to walk with Him, witness for Him, and watch for His work in the world. So, as you enjoy the hot, lazy days of summer, don't forget to take Jesus with you. Take Him to the beach. Take Him to the grocery store. Take Him to the family barbecue. Because Jesus doesn't want to be left in the church until next Sunday, Jesus wants to walk with you into every moment of your life. Remember that even in the hot, lazy days of summer, Faith can flourish. Love can grow. And God is as near as the next warm breeze. Amen.

HYMN: #672 Take Time to Be Holy

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak of with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of lemonade and quiet breezes, We thank you for this season of rest. Be with those traveling—keep them safe and watchful. Be with those who stay home—let their days be filled with wonder and peace. We pray for all who feel forgotten in these long months—For the lonely, the sick, and the grieving. We remember the Earth—dry from heat, longing for care. And we pray for our church, that even in summer, we may continue to be a place of hope, welcome, and joy. *Time of silent or spoken prayer* God of all seasons—hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #621 Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (From Hymns of the Family of God)

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Thro' death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion--
For more than conqu'rors we are! **R**

3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell! **R**

SENDING FORTH

As continue into these summer days, To cottages and campfires,
beaches and BBQs, Take Jesus with you.
Pause for prayer on a paddleboard. Give thanks at a picnic table.
Notice God in all of creation, And may God go before you like the
morning sun, Christ walk beside you like a gentle friend,
And the Spirit dance around you like a cool breeze.
Go in peace ... and don't forget your sunhat *or* your soul!

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Saturday, September 6th: Hagersville's 150th Anniversary Railway Show from 10am-3pm at Hagersville United Church. Featuring a layout of Hagersville in 1845+, memorabilia, Lionel Railroad Cars from the era, continuous video & story panel displays. Admission is free. Lunch can be purchased from the Hagersville Catering Committee.

Wednesday, September 10th: Church Council meeting at Hagersville at 6:30pm.

Thursday, September 25th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the evening. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, September 28th: Springvale Anniversary. Joint service. More details to come.

Tuesday, September 30th: Turkey Supper at Springvale. More details to come.

Sunday, October 19th: Hagersville United 156th Anniversary service & the town of Hagersville 150th special service at 2pm with guest speaker Rev. Douglas Mitchell. More details to come.

**Please bring your paper products for the
Hagersville Food Bank!**

