

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 15th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Father's Day "Rooted in Love, Growing in Grace"

Today we celebrate Father's Day ... a time to give thanks for fathers, father-in-law, grandfathers, uncles, stepdads, spiritual fathers, and all the men who have nurtured and guided us. We also remember that God, our Heavenly Father, loves us unconditionally and is always with us.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, we bring these gifts with thankful hearts. May they be used to nurture your love in the world, to lift up those in need, and to grow strong roots of faith and hope in every heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God, who is like a loving Father to us.

People: God gives us strength, guidance, and unending love.

Leader: We give thanks for earthly fathers and all who reflect God's care.

People: Let us worship with joy, with gratitude, and with open hearts.

All: We are rooted in love and growing in grace!

OPENING HYMN: #296 This is God's Wondrous World

1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

2

This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, We come before you today with hearts full of thanks. Thank you for the men in our lives who have shown us love, taught us wisdom, and helped us grow. Bless all fathers and father figures with courage, kindness, and strength. And for those who grieve or carry pain today, surround them with your comfort and peace. May this time of worship deepen our faith and draw us closer to your fathering heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

A FATHER’S DAY LITANY: “For All the Dads We Know and Love”

Leader: Today, we give thanks for dads of all kinds

People: The handy dads, the huggy dads, the silent nod-and-grunt dads.

Leader: For dads who taught us how to ride a bike, drive a car, or change a tire

People: Even if they yelled, “You’re fine!” when we clearly weren’t.

Leader: For dads who cheered from the sidelines, even when they didn’t fully understand the sport

People: “That’s my kid! ... Wait, which team are we again?”

Leader: For dads who love a good BBQ and believe seasoning is a spiritual gift

People: And who think grill marks are an art form.

Leader: For dads who tell the same three jokes every year

People: And somehow, we still laugh. Mostly.

Leader: For new dads who are learning on the fly,

People: And veteran dads who still can’t figure out how to silence the group chat.

Leader: For grandpas, uncles, stepdads, and mentors who’ve stepped in to love, guide, and show up

People: You are the bonus blessings in our lives.

Leader: For dads who are far away or held in memory

People: We give thanks for all they taught us, all they gave us, and all they meant to us.

Leader: And for our Heavenly Father—who is always present, always patient, and never runs out of love

People: We give you glory, O God, our true and perfect parent.

All: For the dads we know, the dads we miss, the dads we are, and the dads we aspire to be. We give you thanks, O God, with a grateful heart and a joyful spirit. Amen.

CHORUS: #102 He Is Our Peace

He is our peace Who has broken down every wall,

He is our peace, He is our peace. He is our peace

Who has broken down every wall, He is our peace, He is our peace.

Cast all your cares on Him, For He cares for you,

He is our peace, He is our peace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Proverbs 3:1-12

Wisdom Bestows Well-Being

3 My son, do not forget my teaching,

but keep my commands in your heart,

2 for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight. ^[a]

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your crops;

10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline,
and do not resent his rebuke,

12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in. ^[b]

Luke 15:11-24

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed

pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’ ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

MESSAGE: “The Father’s Heart”

Father’s Day, a day when we take the time to honour the men in our lives that have helped us become the person we are today..... it is also for some dad’s the day when breakfast might be burnt toast and a cold coffee brought in bed by a six-year-old who says, “You’re the best dad ever... can I have a cookie?”

Dads are known for many things—like their ability to fix anything with duct tape, their mastery of groan-worthy jokes (a.k.a. dad jokes), and their deep love that’s often expressed more in action than in words. You know, something like:

And yet—behind all the quirky habits and the famous grilling skills, there’s something deeply spiritual about the role of a father.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a story about a father and two sons. The story of the Prodigal Son. One of them, the younger, demands his inheritance early—basically saying, “I wish you were dead, give me my money.” He runs off, wastes it all, and ends up feeding pigs. (Which, for a nice Jewish boy, is as bad as it gets.)

But when he finally comes to his senses and decides to return home, he’s rehearsing his apology speech the whole way ... like many kids do after they’ve been caught:

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I’m not worthy. Just make me a servant.”

But the father sees him from far off, meaning, he’s been watching and waiting. And instead of scolding or scowling, he runs to him. He wraps him in a robe, puts a ring on his finger, and throws a party!

This, Jesus says, is the heart of God.

In this scripture lesson/ story, Jesus gives us a picture of a father who is:

- Patient – He waits. No yelling, no guilt-tripping.
- Compassionate – He sees not a failure, but his son.
- Forgiving – No lectures, no “I told you so.”
- Joyful – He doesn’t punish. He celebrates.

Isn’t that the kind of father we all long for? One who sees our mistakes, but embraces us anyway? One who lets us go, but never gives up on us? That’s the love of God. It’s the blueprint for fatherhood, not perfection, but presence.

Now let’s be honest. Is that real life in today society. No earthly father is perfect. Not even close.

Some fathers are like Swiss Army knives—always ready with advice, tools, and a strange story from their youth. Others are quiet, steady, and sometimes hard to read—but their love runs deep.

And some of us carry wounds from fathers who couldn’t or wouldn’t be what we needed. That pain is real. And on this day, we hold space for that too.

But here’s the hope: No matter what kind of earthly father we had, we all have a Heavenly Father who:

- Delights in us
- Welcomes us home
- And calls us beloved

To the dads here today, and men who left a lasting impression on your lives, thank you. For our dads in heaven, who were such a prevalent part of our lives we say thank you with love in our hearts.

For changing diapers, driving carpools, fixing leaky faucets, helping with homework, and showing up again and again.

For trying your best, even when you didn’t have a manual, because let’s

face it, there's no instruction book for fatherhood. (And if there was, most dads would only skim it anyway.)
 To all the men out there, keep showing love. Keep growing in grace. Keep leading with humility and heart. The seeds you planted ... of faith, patience, laughter, and love we pray will grow for generations. To end this message, whether you're a father, had a father, or are remembering someone you loved as a father, this day is for all of us. Because we are all invited into the embrace of the God our father, who listens to us, celebrates us, and never stops loving us. Let us be rooted in that love... and keep growing in that grace. Amen.

I would like to end this message with a poem ...

A Father's Heart

A father's heart is steady ground,
 A quiet strength that's always found.
 Not loud or showy, but firm and true—
 A shelter in the storms we knew.
 He speaks in actions more than words,
 In daily tasks and love inferred.
 A guiding hand, a watchful eye,
 A prayer he whispers on the sly.
 He laughs with us, and wipes our tears,
 Stands tall through trials, calms our fears.
 Though time may silver hair and brow,
 His love is present, here and now.
 And just like God, our Father above,
 He teaches grace, and hope, and love.
 With faith that roots us deep and wide,
 And walks with us, right by our side.
 So here's to fathers—strong and kind,
 Whose quiet courage shapes our minds.
 May God bless every dad today,
 And keep their hearts along the way.

HYMN: #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
 as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

[Refrain:] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
 great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
 wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **[Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us come before God in prayer...

Gracious and loving God,

Today we give thanks for fathers near and far, for all those who have shaped our lives with strength, wisdom, tenderness, and love.

We thank you for...

- Dads who are present and devoted,
- Grandfathers who share their wisdom,
- Uncles, stepfathers, foster dads, and spiritual mentors who've stepped in to guide and support.

We thank you for their daily acts of care, their corny jokes, their tireless efforts, and their deep desire to provide and protect.

Lord, bless them.

We pray for...

- Fathers who are struggling—with work, with relationships, with health, with burdens too heavy to name.
- Fathers who are separated from their children, by distance, divorce, or conflict.
- Men who longed to be fathers but never had the chance.

- Fathers who are grieving the loss of a child, and children who grieve the loss of a father.

We lift up those for whom this day is difficult—those who never knew their father, those whose memories are painful, and those who are still healing.

God, in your great compassion, bring comfort, courage, and peace.

Remind us that your love fills every gap, heals every hurt, and makes us whole.

Help us, Lord, to support the father figures in our lives—not just today, but always.

Help us to raise up boys and young men with kindness, respect, and faith.

Help us to grow families that reflect your generosity and grace.

And above all, help us look to you, our heavenly Father,

The One who never leaves us, never gives up on us, and always welcomes us home.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, your Son and our brother, And we join our voices together in the words he taught us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #638 God, Take My Hand

1. God, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.

2. God, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

3. God, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
and nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

SENDING FORTH

Go now, blessed by the Father who made you,
Loved by the Son who walks with you,
And guided by the Spirit who strengthens you.
Go and reflect God’s love wherever you are.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, June 18th: Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Friday, June 20th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the afternoon.

Tuesday, June 24th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Tuesday, June 24th: Annual Strawberry Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are limited and this is a takeout only event. To reserve your ticket please call 905-768-3910 or 905-537-4188.

July 28th-August 1st: VBS at Springvale from 9am-12pm. Theme this year is “Blast Off With Jesus”. Lots of fun to be had with games, crafts, songs & snacks. To register please email info@hsupc.ca with your child’s information.

Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! ☺

Father's Day Jokes

1. **Why did the dad bring a ladder to church?**
Because he heard the sermon was going to be on a higher level!
2. **Dads are like duct tape**— they may not be perfect, but they sure can fix just about anything.
3. **I asked my dad what he wanted for Father's Day.**
He said, "Peace and quiet"
4. **You know you're a dad when...**
You've told your kids, "I'm not sleeping—I'm just resting my eyes."
5. **I told my dad I loved him and he said,**
"I love you too... now what do you want?"
6. **Why did the dad sit on the remote?**
Because he wanted to *control* the situation.
7. **Dad joke of the day:**
"Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers? They say he made a mint."
8. **Fatherhood: where your wallet is empty, your heart is full, and your coffee is cold.**