

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
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**“Meet the Tator Family”**

“Every member of the body matters ... and how we show up makes a difference”.

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

God of abundance, Bless these gifts,  
And bless us as we offer our lives in your service.  
May we not just give from our wallets,  
But from our hearts, our energy, our time, and our joy.  
**Amen.**

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Come one, come all—the shy and the bold, the quiet and the loud, the cheerful and the skeptical.

**People:** We come together, each with a place, each with a part.

**Leader:** In God’s family, every member matters.

**People:** And every kind of ‘Tator’ is welcome—well, maybe.

**Leader:** Let’s worship the One who calls us not just to believe, but to belong, to grow, and to serve.

**All:** We come ready to laugh, to learn, and to love in Christ’s name!

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**OPENING HYMN: #595 We Are Pilgrims**

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of great humor and even greater love, You made each of us different—shaped by your hand, Filled with your Spirit, And invited into one community. As we meet the “Tator Family” today, Help us reflect honestly on who we are, And who you call us to be. Grow us from “spectators” to “participants.” We want to be your people—inside and out. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### CHILDREN'S VIDEO

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION: "Tator Troubles"

Gracious God, We come before you as members of the great Tator Family, each with our own ways of showing up in the church and in the world.

Sometimes, we've been like the Spec-Tator, watching from the sidelines instead of jumping in to help. Forgive us when we stay distant instead of getting involved.

Other times, we've been the Agi-Tator, stirring up conflict instead of peace. Forgive us when our words or actions cause hurt or division.

Maybe we've acted like the Hesi-Tator, too uncertain to follow where you lead. Forgive our fear and lack of trust in your call.

Or like the Imi-Tator, trying to be someone we're not, forgetting that you made us unique and beloved.

And yes, sometimes we've even been the Tater-Tot, not quite grown in faith, still learning how to serve. Thank you for your patience and grace as we grow.

Loving God, Help us become the Facili-Tators of your love ... people who build up the church, encourage others, and live as joyful disciples of Christ.

In the name of the One who transforms us, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

#### \*CHORUS: #236 "MAKE ME A SERVANT"

Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,  
And may the pray'r of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.      X 2

## SCRIPTURE READING

### 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

#### MESSAGE: “Meet the Tator Family”

Friends, once again, let me introduce you to a peculiar family, “**The Tator Family.**”

Now, they may look a little starchy. They may not say much. But believe me, they’ve got a lot to teach us. Because the truth is, every church has a few members of the Tator clan. In fact, on any given Sunday, you might find a couple sitting right in your pew. You might even find one... looking back at you in the mirror. So, let’s meet them.

### The Couch Potato

Ah yes, the Couch Potato. Now this Tator believes in being part of the church—sort of. They love being in the building. They might even have *their own pew*—but they’re not likely to move much beyond it. They sit, they watch, and they wait for someone else to make things happen. They believe ministry is for pastors and committees and “those other people.” They are the *spectators* of church life. But let’s be honest—sometimes we all fall into couch potato mode. We get tired. Life gets busy. And suddenly, church becomes a show we watch instead of a family we serve. But Scripture tells us that faith is active: “Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:17) In the Body of Christ, we are not meant to sit still—we are meant to *move*. Worship is not a spectator sport. It’s a *participation event*.

### The Imitator

The Imitator is always looking around to see what everyone else is doing. They don’t feel good enough to serve as themselves, so they try to copy others, dress like them, pray like them, talk like them. They think: “If I could just be like Mary, or Joe, or Simon, then I’d have something to offer.” But God didn’t create us to be copies of each other. God gave each of us unique gifts for a reason. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” (Romans 12:6) If you try to serve like someone else, you might miss the gift God has placed *in you*. The Body of Christ needs YOU ... not a knockoff of someone else.

### The Dictator

The Dictator is a strong personality in the church. And by strong, I mean *very opinionated*. They always have a better way. They’re always right. And they like things done *their way or the highway*. Now, leadership is a good thing. But when leadership becomes control, it pushes people away. It becomes less about serving the Body—and more about managing it. But remember what Jesus said: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26) The church doesn’t need dictators, it needs *servants*. It doesn’t need rulers, it needs relational people who build up the Body in love.

### The Commentator

Now the Commentator is very involved, but only with their mouth. They’re the ones who always have something to say... usually after the fact. They’re full of commentary about the music, the sermon, the coffee, the bulletin typo, the color of the carpet. They can spot a problem from 100 feet away, but rarely do they offer a solution. You might say their spiritual gift is criticism. But the Apostle Paul doesn’t say the body needs more critics. He says the body needs more parts working together. “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26) God didn’t call us to be commentators. God called us to be contributors.

### The Sweet Potato

Now let’s not forget one of my favorites: the Sweet Potato. This is the person who warms every room. They might not be the loudest or the flashiest, but they are the ones who write the card, make the casserole, give the encouraging hug, or smile at the stranger. They love without needing the spotlight. They serve quietly, faithfully, sweetly. They embody the fruit of the Spirit: “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22–23) We need more sweet potatoes in our churches. Kindness and compassion go a long way, especially in a world that’s always in a rush.

### The Participator

And finally, there’s the Participator. This is the Tator who shows up, gets involved, and asks, “Where can I help?” They might not be the most talented or experienced. They might not have fancy titles. But they offer their hands, their hearts, and their presence. They say, “Here I am, Lord. Send me.” This is the Tator that builds up the church. This is the one Paul was talking about in 1 Corinthians: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (v. 27) They understand that being part of a church means being part of something greater than ourselves, and being willing to *give* ourselves to it. So now that you’ve met the Tator family... Let me ask, What kind of Tator are you? And even more importantly, what kind of Tator is God calling you to be? Are you stuck in spectator mode? Are you imitating someone else’s gifts instead of discovering your own? Have you slipped into criticism instead of compassion? Are you trying to control, or are you ready to serve?

Here's the good news: no matter what kind of Tator you've been ... There's always room in God's kitchen for transformation. Because in God's eyes, you're more than just a potato, you're a beloved part of the body. You are needed. You are called. And you are invited to grow into the person God made you to be. So, pull up a chair, grab an apron, and bring your whole self to the table. Let's stop being spectators... and become joyful, faithful *participators* in God's amazing work.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN: #509 Here I Am Lord**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.  
I who made the stars and night, I will make the darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them, Whom shall I send?

**Refrain: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night, I will go Lord  
If you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.**

I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Fill their hearts with love alone  
I will speak my word to them, Whom shall I send? **R**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide, 'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them, Whom shall I send? **R**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - A Litany: "The Tator Family in Worship"**

*One: Leader / Many: Congregation*

**One:** Today, we gather as the Body of Christ—different shapes, sizes, and styles...Some of us smooth and shiny, others a little lumpy and sprouting—but all of us loved!

**Many:** We give thanks for the family of faith—even the Tator Family.

**One:** We've seen the *Couch Potato*—quiet, still, and firmly planted in the same pew since 1989.

**Many:** God, move us from cushions to commitment.

**One:** We know the *Imitator*—always trying to be someone they're not.

**Many:** God, help us value our unique gifts, not copy someone else's calling.

**One:** There's the *Dictator*—who wants control of everything but the kitchen sink... and sometimes that too.

**Many:** God, teach us to lead with humility, not with a heavy hand.

**One:** Then there's the *Commentator*—always offering feedback, even when we didn't ask.

**Many:** God, transform our complaints into compassion and our grumbling into gratitude.

**One:** We celebrate the *Sweet Potato*—who lifts us up, listens deeply, and spreads kindness like butter.

**Many:** God, grow in us the fruit of the Spirit—sweetness, patience, and grace.

**One:** And we cheer for the *Participator*—the one who rolls up their sleeves and says, "How can I help?"

**Many:** God, make us doers of your Word—not just hearers.

**One:** Whether we've been peeled, mashed, fried, or roasted this week—

**Many:** We come together, seasoned by your Spirit, ready to be your church.

**One:** Let us laugh together, serve together, and grow together as one body.

**Many:** For we are many 'Tators'... but one in Christ!

**One: Let us Pray ...**

For those unsure of their place in the church. For people who feel burned out. For new members discovering gifts. For hope and healing for the sick.... God, make us participators in your kingdom—willing to laugh, to try, to serve, to grow.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN: #402 We are One**

1 We are one as we come,  
as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips  
there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing,  
     as we seek, we are found;  
 and we come needful of God's grace  
     as we meet, together in this place.

- 2 We are one as we share,  
     as we share brokenness and fear,  
 in the touch of a hand  
     there's a sense that God is here.  
 We are one as we care,  
     as we heal, we are healed;  
 and we share warmth in God's embrace  
     as we pray together in this place.
- 3 We are one as we feast,  
     as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
 in the bread and the wine  
     there's a sense of love divine.  
 We are one as we come,  
     as we feed, we are fed;  
 and we feel God's refreshing grace  
     as we meet at table in this place.

- 4 We are one as we hear,  
     as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
 in the word we receive  
     there's a sense that God is light.  
 We are one as we leave,  
     as we love, we are loved;  
 and we seek justice in God's ways  
     as we move together from this place.

### SENDING FORTH

**Leader:** Whether you came today feeling like a couch potato, a dictator,  
 or a sweet potato—

**People:** We leave as God's beloved people!

**Leader:** Go now—not just to sit or watch, but to serve, love, and shine.

**All:** We go as participators in God's great work!

### CHORAL AMEN

### POSTLUDE

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### Announcements

**Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>:** Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

**Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the afternoon.

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>:** 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 28<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>:** 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](mailto:info@hsupc.ca) with your child's information.

**Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville  
 Food Bank! 😊**

## **SOME TATOR JOKES TO MAKE YOU SMILE**

**1. Why didn't the Tator family join the choir?**

Because they didn't want to be *common-tators*!

**2. Why was the Ro-Tator always late for church?**

Because he was always spinning in the wrong direction!

**3. Why did the Spec-Tator sit at the back of the sanctuary?**

She liked to watch everyone else do the work.

**4. How did the Sweet Tator serve in the church?**

With kindness, a smile, and always a casserole.

**5. Why didn't the Imi-Tator get voted onto the Church Board?**

People said he was too flaky and trying to be someone he wasn't!

**6. Who's the most opinionated member of the Tator family?**

The Dic-Tator—always telling everyone what to do!

**7. What's the Agi-Tator's favorite church committee?**

Whichever one stirs the pot the most!

**8. Why was the Hesi-Tator slow to join the Bible study?**

She kept saying, "I'm not sure...I'll think about it."