

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 18th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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“Board Games & Bible Truths”

Welcome to worship! Today we explore how everyday fun ... like board games ... can teach us deep truths of faith. From Monopoly to Uno to Jenga to Sorry, let's open our eyes and hearts to how God can speak through even the most unexpected things.

OFFERING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for every good gift that faith and life and experiences give us. May we take those gifts to show others our faith and may we use what we have to bless others, to build your church, and to share your love. Receive these our offerings this morning in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship the God who teaches us through the ordinary and the extraordinary—

People: Through Scriptures and stories, through people and play.

Leader: Today, we bring childlike hearts, open minds, and the joy of learning.

People: Let us press on toward the goal—of love, faith, and life in Christ!

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OPENING HYMN: #289 It Only, Takes a Spark

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.
- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.
- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found—
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

OPENING PRAYER

God, You meet us not only in silence and stillness, but also in laughter, learning, and everyday experiences. Today, through familiar games and playful metaphors, help us hear your voice, find your wisdom, and grow in your grace. Let this time of worship be both joyful and transforming. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG – This Little of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
 Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
 Oh, hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Don't let Satan blow it out (blow it out), I'm gonna let it shine
 Don't let Satan blow it out (blow it out), I'm gonna let it shine,
 Don't let Satan blow it out (blow it out), I'm gonna let it shine
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
 Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

LITANY: FAITH IN THE GAME OF LIFE

Leader: From *Monopoly* to *Uno*, *Sorry*, *Jenga* to *Life*, we learn more than just how to win—

People: We learn how to live with love, patience, and faith!

Leader: When the board feels stacked against us and we can't seem to pass "Go"—

People: God reminds us: keep pressing on toward the goal!

Leader: In *Monopoly*, it's not about having the most hotels—

People: It's about learning to be wise, fair, and generous!

Leader: In *Jenga*, one wrong move can shake everything—

People: But God is our firm foundation—we build on the Rock!

Leader: *Uno* teaches us that revenge is sweet... until someone plays another Draw 4—

People: So we learn to laugh, let go, and forgive—again and again!

Leader: Sometimes life feels like a game of *Trouble*—

People: But God gives us grace, even when we're stuck in the starting spot.

Leader: We may roll the dice, pick the wrong card, or land on "Go to Jail"—

People: But God is always ready with a second chance, a new turn, and unshakable love.

Leader: So whether we're winning, losing, or just trying to stay in the game—

People: We trust in the One who's with us every step of the way.

All: God, help us play with faith, live with joy, and love like Jesus—all the way to the finish line!

*CHORUS: #248 "What A Mighty God We Serve"

What a mighty God we serve! What a mighty God we serve!

Angels bow before Him, Heaven and earth adore Him;

What a mighty God we serve. X2

MESSAGE AND SCRIPTURE VERSES: "Board Games & Bible Truths"

Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Today we are diving into something a little different. We're looking for holy wisdom in an unexpected place: our favorite board games! Yes, believe it or not, games like Monopoly, Jenga, Uno, and Sorry! have something to teach us about life, faith, and following Jesus. Let's roll the dice, shuffle the cards, and see what lessons God might reveal today. Our first game, Monopoly, teaches us about Stewardship

Scripture: Luke 16:10 – "Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much."

Monopoly is all about properties, houses, hotels, and of course, money. Every decision in the game can either help you win or leave you bankrupt. But let's be honest: it also teaches us what not to do with our resources. It can become a lesson in greed, selfishness, and hoarding. But the Gospel calls us to something different. God has entrusted us with so much: our time, money, talents, and opportunities. And He calls us to use them wisely, generously, and joyfully. Stewardship isn't about how much you have; it's about how you use what you have.

In Monopoly, if you hoard everything, others suffer. In the Kingdom of God, generosity builds community. God calls us to be faithful in the little things, and He promises to do great things through them.

Our second game Jenga, teaches us about trust and a firm foundation.

Scripture: Matthew 7:24–27 – The wise build their house on the rock.

Jenga is a game of balance. Every piece matters. Take one wrong block, and the whole tower crashes. Life is a lot like that. If we build our lives on shaky foundations, our ego, ambition, or the opinions of others, everything can come crashing down.

But Jesus tells us to build our lives on Him. He is our rock, our firm foundation. When we live with faith and trust in God, our spiritual structure holds strong, even when life gets wobbly. Like a good Jenga player, we must be thoughtful, intentional, and trust in the support underneath us.

Our Third game is Uno. It teaches us about forgiveness and fresh starts.

Scripture: Colossians 3:13 – "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

If you've ever played Uno, you know the chaos of a Draw 4 card. You think you're about to win, and someone zaps you. Maybe you've been the one to drop that card with a little too much joy. But eventually, everyone moves on and laughs about it.

Forgiveness is like that. We hurt each other. We get hurt. But holding onto it only slows down the game. Jesus doesn't hold grudges, and we shouldn't either. Forgiveness gives us a fresh start, a new card, and a better way to move forward.

Our last game is Sorry! It teaches us about repentance and grace

Scripture: 1 John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us..."

Sorry! is a game of bold moves and apologetic smiles. You knock someone off the board and say, "Sorry!" But it's often not sincere. In life, though, real "sorry" matters.

True repentance means recognizing our mistakes and turning around. It means asking for forgiveness with humility and receiving grace with gratitude. The good news is that God always lets us back in the game. He doesn't keep score the way we do. When we confess, He forgives.

Grace is more than a do-over; it's an invitation to keep growing.

And so, we come to the scripture from Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

All games have a goal: reach the finish line, stack the tower, collect the most. But in faith, our goal is not to win over others, it's to become

more like Christ. Life is full of ups and downs, skipped turns, and restarts. But we press on.

When you fall behind, when you mess up, when someone else seems to be winning ... God is still with you. And He reminds you: the journey is just as important as the destination. So, we keep going, with hope, joy, and grace.

Remember ... Faith isn't about playing perfectly; it's about playing with purpose. Steward what you have. Build on the Rock. Forgive and be forgiven. Say you're sorry and mean it. And always keep your eyes on the goal.

Let God teach you, even through games. And may you live your faith like it matter, because it does.

Amen.

HYMN: 'Trust and Obey'

1 When we walk with the Lord, in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will,
he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

2 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 But we never can prove, the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

4 Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of games and grace, we bring our lives before you: the wins and losses, the laughter and the struggles. Thank you for being with us in

every round of life—whether we're drawing good cards or landing on tough spaces.

When we feel like we're winning, help us to celebrate without arrogance and to give you thanks. When we feel like we're losing, remind us that in your love, there's always another turn and always another chance. Teach us to play fairly in life, with integrity, patience, and care. Help us to be wise stewards of all you've given us, to build on the foundation of your Word, to forgive as freely as you forgive us, and to speak sincere apologies when we've hurt others.

We lift before you all who feel knocked out of the game, those who are struggling with illness, grief, mental health, addiction, poverty, or broken relationships. Be their shelter, their coach, their guide.

We pray for the lonely, that they may find connection. We pray for the weary, that they may find rest. We pray for leaders in our communities, churches, and world, that they may seek wisdom and justice.

And now we bring forward those we have named and those we name silently in our hearts (name those that have been named and pause). May your healing hand, your peace and your surround love surround all who call upon you gracious God.

Lord, keep us moving forward, not for trophies or scoreboards, but for love's sake. Help us to press on together with courage and joy, knowing that your Spirit cheers us on every step of the way.

As we pray the prayer Jesus taught us ...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #635 All the Way My Saviour leads Me

- 1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

- 2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

- 3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

SENDING FORTH

Go now, ready to play your part in God's big story.

Be generous like in Monopoly, grounded like in Jenga, and forgiving like in Uno.

Keep pressing on toward the goal, because with Christ, every move is part of something beautiful.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Wednesday, May 21st: Official Board meeting at 1:30pm at Springvale.

Saturday, May 24th: High Tea celebrating Hagersville's 150th.

Tuesday, May 27th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am.
All are welcome!

Sunday, June 1st: Celebrating 100 years of the United Church of Canada. More details to come.

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

Tuesday, June 24th: Save the Date for Springvale's Annual Strawberry Supper from 4pm-6pm, takeout only.

