

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 26th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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“Spring Brings New Hope”

Spring reminds us that God is always at work, even when we cannot see it. Just as the earth comes alive again, God brings new life, new hope, and new beginnings into our lives.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, just as the earth brings forth new life,
we offer these gifts as signs of hope and renewal.
Use them to bring growth, healing, and new beginnings
in our community and beyond.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The earth awakens ...

People: And God’s creation sings with new life.

Leader: Seeds long buried begin to grow ...

People: And hope rises again within us.

Leader: God says, “See, I am doing a new thing!”

People: We open our hearts to God’s new life.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of renewal ...

All: The One who brings hope in every season.

OPENING HYMN: #307 Touch the Earth Lightly

1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

OPENING PRAYER

God of new beginnings,
we come to You as the earth awakens around us.
Where we have felt tired, renew us.
Where we have felt discouraged, lift us.
Where we have lost hope, plant new seeds of possibility.
Help us to trust that You are always at work,
bringing life out of what seemed lifeless,
and hope out of what felt uncertain.
Open our eyes to the beauty of this season,
and open our hearts to the new things You are doing in us.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN’S VIDEO

LITANY: Spring, Hope & Creation Care (Earth Sunday)

Leader: When winter feels like it lasts forever...

People: God is still planting seeds of hope in the earth.

Leader: When we're still wearing winter coats in April and we have been...

People: God reminds us that seasons turn, and life returns.

Leader: When the snow lingers and the wind still bites...

People: God is quietly renewing the face of the earth.

Leader: When the ground looks bare and lifeless...

People: Beneath the soil, creation is waking with new life.

Leader: When forests, fields, and waters seem fragile...

People: God calls us to care for all that has been entrusted to us.

Leader: When life feels stuck or slow...

People: God is already at work beneath the surface.

Leader: When our plans don't bloom the way we expected...

People: God is growing something even better for us and for the world.

Leader: When we see the beauty of blossoms, birds, and blue skies...

People: We give thanks for the wonder of God's creation.

Leader: When we notice the needs of the earth its pain and its promise...

People: God invites us to be faithful stewards of this good gift.

Leader: When we feel weary from waiting...

People: God renews our strength like the earth in springtime.

Leader: When we wonder if change will ever come...

People: God is the author of new beginnings—for all creation.

Leader: When we can't see what's ahead...

People: We trust the One who makes all things new.

Leader: When hope feels small, like a tiny seed...

People: God nurtures it into something beautiful.

Leader: When the first buds appear and the birds return...

People: We remember God's faithfulness in every living thing.

Leader: God says, "I am doing a new thing!"

People: Even now, it is springing up all around us!

Leader: Do you not perceive it?

People: Open our eyes, O God, to see your work in creation.

Leader: God breathes new life into the earth and into us...

People: And calls us to love and protect this world.

Leader: So come, let us step into this season of new life...

People: Caring, tending, and rejoicing together.

All: With open hearts and hopeful spirits, we are ready to grow in God's love and care for God's creation.

RESPONSIVE HYMN: God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall

1 God sees the little sparrow fall,
it meets his tender view;
if God so loves the little birds,
I know he loves me too.

Refrain:

*He loves me too, he loves me too,
I know he loves me too;
because he loves the little things,
I know he loves me too.*

2 He paints the lily of the field,
perfumes each lily bell;
if he so loves the little flow'rs,
I know he loves me well. [Refrain]

3 God made the little birds and flow'rs,
and all things large and small;
he'll not forget his little ones,
I know he loves them all. [Refrain]

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

Song of Songs 2:11-13

¹¹ See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

¹² Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

MESSAGE: “God’s New Thing Is Already Growing”

Let’s be honest... “Spring is that magical time of year, especially here in Canada. One day it’s sunshine and birds singing...

the next day we’re back in winter coats wondering what just happened. Spring doesn’t arrive all at once.

It comes in little glimpses... little hints... little surprises.

And maybe that’s exactly how God works too.

In our scripture, God says through the prophet **Isaiah 43:19**:

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

Notice that wording, *it springs up*. Not “it explodes overnight”... not “everything changes instantly”...

but slowly, quietly... it begins to grow.

That’s how spring works. You don’t wake up one morning and suddenly everything is green. It starts with one bud. One patch of grass.

One brave flower that somehow survives a surprise frost.

And if you’re not paying attention, you might miss it.

And the same is true in our lives. Sometimes we look at our lives and think:

“Nothing’s changing.”

“Nothing’s happening.”

“I’m still in the same place.”

But God says: simply, quietly, when we don’t expect it.... “Look again”.

Because just because you can’t see it yet...doesn’t mean something isn’t growing. Think about seeds for a moment. You plant them in the ground...and then what happens? Nothing. At least, nothing you can see. You water them. You wait. You check again... still nothing.

And you might be tempted to think, “Well, that didn’t work.”

But underneath the soil, something is happening. Roots are forming.

Life is beginning. Growth is quietly unfolding. And maybe that’s where some of us are right now. Not in full bloom... not even seeing much change...

but something is happening beneath the surface. God is working in ways we can’t yet see. And sometimes we think hope has to look big and obvious.

But spring reminds us, hope often starts small.

It looks like:

- getting through one more day
- finding a small moment of joy
- taking one step forward
- choosing to believe things can get better

That’s hope. That’s new life. And here’s the beautiful part:

God doesn’t wait until everything is perfect to begin something new.

God starts right in the middle of:

- our doubts
- our worries
- our tiredness
- our “I’m not sure I’ve got this” moments

That’s where the seeds go in. And if we connect this to all we’ve been carrying ...God doesn’t just take away what weighs us down, God replaces it. Where there was fear... God plants peace. Where there was shame... God plants grace. Where there was grief... God plants comfort. And slowly... gently... something new begins to grow.

So maybe the question this morning isn’t, “Is God doing something new?” Because the answer is already yes. Maybe the real question is this, **Can we see it?** Can we notice the small signs? Can we trust the slow growth? Can we believe that even now... something good is taking root? Because spring reminds us of this simple truth: God is always at work. Life is always finding a way. And hope... is never as far away as it feels. So, if your life still feels a little like winter ... cold, miserable, uncertain and unpredictable...just hang on. Because somewhere, just beneath the surface... God has planted Something new and... it is already growing.

HYMN: #291 All Things Bright and Beautiful
R: All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
 each little bird that sings,
 God made their glowing colors,
 God made their tiny wings. **R**

- 2 The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; **R**
- 3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. **R**
- 4 The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf’s haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; **R**
- 5 God gave us the eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of springtime and renewal, we thank You for the signs of life around us, for budding trees, blooming flowers, and longer days. We pray for those still in winter seasons of life, those who are grieving, struggling, or feeling stuck. Plant seeds of hope within them. We pray for our community, that we may be people who bring encouragement, kindness, and signs of new life wherever we go. Help us to trust that You are always working, even when we cannot see it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #226 For The Beauty of the Earth

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
**God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, **R**
- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, **R**
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **R**

SENDING FORTH

Go now into this season of new life,
trusting that God is already at work within you.
May you see signs of hope where you least expect them,
and may you grow in faith, love, and joy.
And may the God who makes all things new
renew your spirit—today and always.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Sunday, April 26th: The Lynn Valley Voices present The Musical Eras Tour: From Chapel to Concert Hall. Beginning at 3pm at First Baptist Church, Simcoe. Admission by donation. For more information please call 416-505-1658.

Sunday, April 26th: Jarvis Community Church presents Elvis in Concert! Beginning at 2pm. Garry Wesley as Elvis tribute & Donna Brooks performing the hits of Tammy Wynette & Patsy Cline in this gospel extravaganza. Tickets are \$25 or \$30 at the door. For tickets please call 519-420-0392. All proceeds will go to the Jarvis Caring Cupboard.

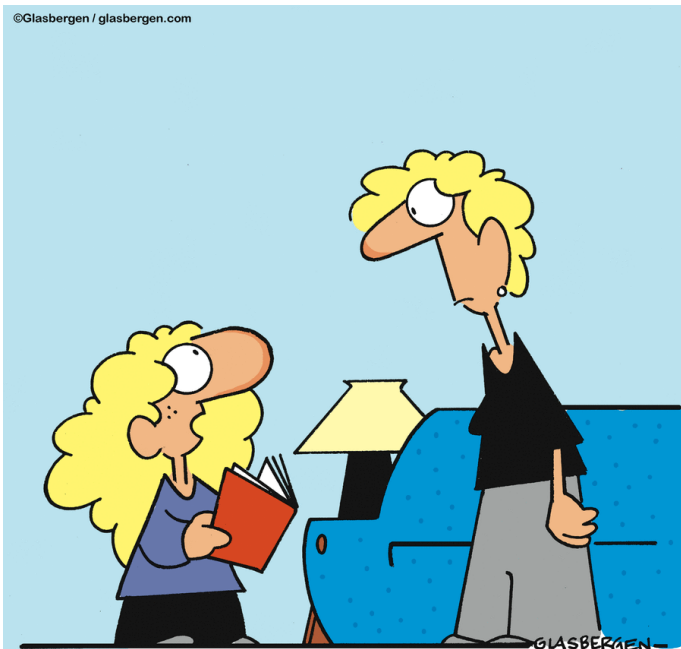
Tuesday, April 28th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Friday, May 8th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville at 4:30pm.

Saturday, May 16th: Plant Sale at Grace United Church from 10am-2pm in the church parking lot. 174 Caithness St. E., Caledonia.

Friday, May 29th: Movie Night at Hagersville United. Arrive at 6pm, with movie beginning at 6:30pm. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your pillows & blankets to cozy in for a fun evening. Movie title to be determined.

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



**“This book is defective. I tap the
page and nothing happens!”**