

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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God Isn't Finished With You Yet!

Still Growing, Still Learning, Still Loved, Still Needed

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we bring these gifts before you with thanksgiving. Bless what we offer today, whether it is our financial support, our time, our talents, or our willingness to care for one another. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is discouragement, friendship where there is loneliness, and love where it is needed most. Continue your good work through us, that our lives may reflect your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come before God this morning, just as we are.

People: Still growing, still learning, still becoming.

Leader: Some of us come with youthful energy and excitement.

People: Some of us come with years of wisdom and experience.

Leader: Some of us are moving a little more slowly these days.

People: But God's love never slows down!

Leader: Some of us have made mistakes along the way.

People: But God continues to shape us with grace.

Leader: We may not know what tomorrow will bring.

People: But we know God will walk beside us.

Leader: So let us celebrate the wonderful truth

All: God isn't finished with us yet! Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

OPENING HYMN: #371 Open My I that I May See

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses o truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPENING PRAYER

Loving and gracious God, We come before you this morning with grateful hearts. Some of us are feeling energetic and ready for whatever the day may bring. Others of us are feeling a little tired, perhaps carrying aches and pains, worries or burdens that no one else can see. But wherever we are on life's journey, you welcome us. You know our strengths and our weaknesses. You know our hopes and our disappointments. You know the things we have accomplished and the things we still dream of doing. And through it all, you continue to love us. Remind us today that our lives are not measured by how much we accomplish, how quickly we move, or how many years we have lived. Our lives are precious because we belong to you. Open our hearts to your word. Help us discover the possibilities that still lie ahead.

Give us the courage to keep growing, the patience to keep learning, and the faith to trust that you are still working in our lives. For we are your children, still being shaped by your loving hands.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "We're Not Finished Yet!"

God Has a Purpose for Every Age

Leader: Lord, some of us wake up with aches and pains, some wake up to alarm clocks, and some wake up to children shouting, "I'm hungry!"

People: But God isn't finished with us yet!

Leader: Some of us forget why we walked into the kitchen, while others can't remember where they put their phone...even when they're holding it!

People: But God isn't finished with us yet!

Leader: Some of us are learning to walk, some are running after children, and some are just thankful our knees still get us to church!

People: But God isn't finished with us yet!

Leader: Some of us are juggling school, jobs, families, appointments, and responsibilities. And some of us wonder how we ever found time to work before we retired!

People: But God isn't finished with us yet!

Leader: Sometimes the young think they're too inexperienced, the middle-aged think they're too busy, and the older folks think they've already done their share.

People: But God reminds us that everyone has something to offer!

Leader: Whether we're young and full of energy, somewhere in the middle trying to keep up, or older and full of wisdom and wonderful stories...

People: God has a purpose for every one of us!

Leader: We may not always understand each other's music, technology, or fashion choices...

People: But we can still share the same faith and God's love!

Leader: We may have made mistakes, taken wrong turns, or wondered what God could possibly have planned for us next.

People: But God's grace gives us new beginnings!

Leader: And whether we're just beginning life's journey, somewhere in the middle, or enjoying the wisdom of many years...

People: God reminds us that our story is still being written!

Leader: Because in God's family, nobody is too young to make a difference, nobody is too busy to share kindness, and nobody is too old to be a blessing!

People: And God isn't finished with any of us yet!

All: Young or old, busy or retired, learning or teaching, we are all still growing, still laughing, still loving, and still serving. God has a purpose for each of us, and the best part is—God isn't finished with us yet! Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHORUS: #41 In His Time

In His time, in His time,

He makes all things beautiful in His time.

Lord, please show me ev'ry day,

As You're teaching me Your way,

That You do just what You say, in Your time.

In Your time, in Your time,

You make all things beautiful in Your time.

Lord, my life to You I bring,

May each song I have to sing

Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-8

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." ⁶ "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." ⁷ But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

Luke 10:38-42

At the Home of Martha and Mary

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Joshua 14:10-12

¹⁰ "Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

REFLECTION: "God Isn't Finished With Me Yet!"

Too Young? Too Busy? Too Old? Not in God's Eyes!

Have you ever noticed that we human beings are very good at coming up with reasons why we can't do something?

When we're young, we say, "I'm not old enough."

When we're in the middle years of life, we say, "I'm too busy!"

And when we get a little older, we say, "I think I've done my share. It's somebody else's turn!"

And I have a feeling that God hears all three excuses and simply smiles. Because if there's one thing the Bible teaches us, it's that God doesn't look at our age. God looks at our hearts. And God has a wonderful habit of calling people who don't think they're ready. Just look at Moses.

When God spoke to Moses through the burning bush and told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses didn't exactly jump up and say, "Wonderful, Lord! When do we leave?"

NO... Moses had questions. He had doubts. He had excuses. "Who am I to do this?"

"What if they don't believe me?" "I'm not a very good speaker!"

And finally, in so many words, "Lord, couldn't you find somebody else?"

Does that sound familiar? Sometimes when we're asked to help with something at church, our first response might be, "Well, I'm not sure I'm the right person."

Or perhaps, "I'll pray about it."

Which sometimes means, "I'm hoping God will find somebody else!"

But God didn't give up on Moses. God promised to be with him.

And that's something worth remembering. God doesn't always call people who feel qualified. Sometimes God calls people and helps them grow into the task. And Moses certainly wasn't a young man when God called him. He was 80 years old when he stood before Pharaoh!

Imagine that! At an age when many people might be enjoying retirement, Moses was beginning one of the greatest adventures of his life. And he didn't even get a retirement package! But Moses isn't the only one who questioned God's calling. Let's look at someone much younger. Jeremiah In Jeremiah 1, God calls a young man named Jeremiah to become a prophet. And Jeremiah's response?

"Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

In other words, "Lord, I'm too young! I don't have enough experience.

Nobody is going to listen to me!"

But God tells Jeremiah not to say he's too young, because God will be with him. Isn't that a wonderful message for the younger people in our churches today? Sometimes we think young people are the future of the church. And they certainly are. But they're also the church of today.

They have ideas. They have energy. They have questions.

They see the world differently. And sometimes, if we're willing to listen, they can teach us something about faith that we may have forgotten.

A young person might not know every hymn in Voices United.

But they have something valuable to offer. And God can work through them just as surely as God worked through Jeremiah. You are never too young to make a difference in God's world. Now, let's move into those middle years of life. The years when we're working, raising children, helping aging parents, paying bills, managing households, and trying to remember what day of the week it is! Does that sound familiar?

In Luke 10, we meet Martha. Jesus has come to visit her home.

And Martha is doing what many of us would do. She's preparing food,

making sure everything is ready, and trying to be a good host. Meanwhile, her sister Mary is sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him. And Martha is not impressed!

In fact, she asks Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help her. I can almost hear Martha saying, "Lord, somebody has to make the sandwiches!"

And really, who among us hasn't felt like Martha? There are meals to prepare. Children to get to activities. Work deadlines. Appointments. Church responsibilities. And somewhere in the middle of it all, we're supposed to find time to rest! But Jesus gently reminds Martha that while many things demand our attention, we must not lose sight of what matters most. And I think the message here is, God isn't asking us to do everything. God is asking us to make room for what matters.

Because even in the busiest seasons of life, God is still working in us. Still teaching us. Still shaping us. And God isn't finished with us yet. And now we come to those of us who have a few more birthdays behind us. Maybe the knees aren't quite what they used to be. Maybe we need our glasses to see. But here's the wonderful thing. God doesn't put an expiry date on our usefulness. As we read in Joshua 14, we meet Caleb. Caleb was 85 years old. He had spent years following God, facing challenges, and trusting God's promises. And at 85, Caleb wasn't ready to sit back and say, "Well, I've done enough."

Instead, he was still ready for the next challenge. He asked Joshua for the hill country that God had promised him. Imagine that! Eighty-five years old, and he's asking for a mountain! But Caleb reminds us that faith doesn't retire. Our abilities may change. The way we serve may change. But our purpose doesn't disappear. God isn't asking you to keep doing everything you've always done. But God may still have something new for you. A new friendship. A new opportunity. A new way to encourage someone. Or perhaps the wonderful privilege of passing along your wisdom and faith to the next generation. Because just like Caleb, you're not finished yet! And perhaps that's the real beauty of the church. We are not all the same age. We don't all have the same energy. We don't all have the same gifts. But every generation has something to offer. The younger generation brings fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and possibilities. The middle generation brings experience, dedication, and the ability to juggle more things than seems humanly possible. And the older generation brings wisdom, faithfulness, and stories of

how God has carried them through the years. And when we bring all those gifts together, something beautiful happens. We become the church God is still building. Not a church that belongs to one generation. But a church where everyone belongs. Where young people are encouraged. Where busy families are supported. Where older members are treasured. And where every person knows they still have a place and a purpose. Whether you're 15 or 50 or 95. Whether you're beginning your journey, somewhere in the middle, or looking back on many wonderful years. Your story isn't over.

So, the next time you think, "I'm too young," or "I'm too busy," or "I'm too old," remember these people from Scripture. And remember that God has never been limited by our age, our circumstances, or our excuses. Because the wonderful truth is this: God wasn't finished with Jeremiah or Martha or Moses or Caleb. And friends, I believe with all my heart... God isn't finished with any of us yet! Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN: #509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

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 of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

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, give them hearts for 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, till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and faithful God, This morning we thank you for the wonderful gift of life. For every year we have lived. For every lesson we have learned. For every person who has helped shape us into who we are

today. We thank you for the laughter that has brightened our days, the friendships that have strengthened us, and the faith that has carried us through difficult times. Lord, sometimes we struggle with change. We remember the things we once could do so easily. We remember the days when our energy seemed endless and our responsibilities were many. And sometimes we wonder whether we still have something meaningful to offer. Remind us, loving God, that we are never too old to share kindness, never too young to show compassion, and never beyond the reach of your grace. We pray today for those who are finding life difficult. For those whose health has changed. For those living with pain or uncertainty. For those who feel lonely or forgotten. For those grieving the loss of someone they love. Surround them with your comfort and peace. Help them know that they are precious, that they are loved, and that they are never alone. We pray for the children and young people in our communities. May they grow in wisdom, kindness, and faith. Help us to encourage them, listen to them, and remind them that they have gifts worth sharing. We pray for our churches, Hagersville and Springvale. Thank you for the generations of faithful people who have worshipped, served, and cared for one another within these congregations. Help us continue to be communities of welcome, compassion, and hope. Teach us to appreciate the gifts of every generation. May those who have walked the road of faith for many years share their wisdom generously. May those who are just beginning their journey find encouragement and belonging. And may we all remember that your work among us is not finished. Gracious God, we also lift before you the prayers we carry quietly in our hearts. Pause for silent prayer. Thank you for hearing us. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for continuing to shape our lives through your grace. And now, as one family of faith, we join together in the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven... Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Turn your Eyes upon Jesus

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 you leave this place today, remember that your story is still being written. There are still people to love. There are still blessings to discover. There are still opportunities to make a difference. And there is still a God who walks beside you. So go into this new week with hope in your heart, laughter in your spirit, and kindness in your hands. And if someone asks you whether you're getting too old for something, just smile and tell them: "God isn't finished with me yet!" May the love of God surround you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the Holy Spirit continue to inspire you, today, tomorrow, and in all the days ahead.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Hagersville Announcements

Sunday, October 25th: Hagersville Anniversary Service. Join us at 11am for a joint service in celebration of Hagersville's 157th Anniversary. Potluck lunch—Please bring a main course or dessert if you are able! There will be no service at Springvale.

Sunday, November 8th: Remembrance Service. Lunch to follow.

Tuesday, November 17th: Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Wednesday, November 18th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at 1:30pm.

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

