

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 3rd, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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*Our courage doesn't come from ourselves... it comes from staying
connected to Christ.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, All that we have comes from You—the true Vine.
As we offer these gifts, may they be used to nurture life,
grow faith, and share Your love in the world. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we feel weak or unsure...

People: We draw strength from the Vine.

Leader: When life pulls us in many directions...

People: We remain rooted in Christ.

Leader: When fear begins to take hold...

People: God's love gives us courage.

Leader: Come, let us abide in the One who gives life.

All: We come to be strengthened, renewed, and connected.

OPENING 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, You are the Vine, and we are the branches.
You give us life, strength, and courage when we feel weak.
Help us to remain connected to You—not just in this hour of worship,
but in every moment of our lives. When we feel afraid, remind us where
our strength comes from. When we feel uncertain, draw us closer to
You. Fill us with Your love today, so that we may live with courage and
faith. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY

Leader: When our phone battery drops to 2%...

People: We panic and look for a charger!

Leader: When our Wi-Fi cuts out mid-show...

People: We suddenly feel very disconnected!

Leader: When our GPS says "recalculating"...

People: We realize we may have taken a wrong turn!

Leader: When our to-do list keeps growing...

People: And our energy keeps shrinking...

Leader: When life feels draining and overwhelming...

People: We remember to plug into God!

Leader: When we try to do everything on our own...

People: Gently remind us to stay connected to the Vine.

Leader: When we forget to pause, rest, and breathe...

People: Draw us back into your life-giving presence.

Leader: When we feel dry, tired, or worn out...

People: Fill us again with your strength and peace.

Leader: When we feel strong and full of life...

People: We give thanks for the One who sustains us!

Leader: When we are growing, stretching, and changing...

People: Help us trust the Gardener at work within us.

Leader: When we wonder if we are enough...

People: Remind us we are branches of your love.

All: Root us, grow us, and keep us connected, O 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

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

John 15:1-14

The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

REFLECTION: “Courage That Grows from Connection”

Let’s be honest for a moment...we often think courage means pushing harder, trying more, figuring everything out on our own. That’s usually how we define strength, isn’t it? But Jesus gives us a very different picture. Not a soldier. Not a hero charging ahead. But a branch. Now let’s be honest again... a lot of us rely on coffee to get going in the morning. You can have everything ready, the water is in, the coffee grounds are in, the machine is sitting right where it should be...but if you don’t turn it on...nothing happens. No coffee. No energy boost. No comforting first sip. It’s not broken. It just isn’t connected to power. And maybe... we’re not so different. We can be doing all the right

things... showing up, staying busy, trying our best...
 But if we're not connected to God, the source of life, we start to run on empty. And Jesus says, "I am the vine... you are the branches."
 Which means...we are not the source. We are not meant to do life alone. Our strength comes from staying connected. And then Jesus says something that stops us in our tracks. "Apart from me... you can do nothing." Not *some* things. Not *a little less*. Nothing.
 Now that might sound a bit harsh at first... but it's actually freeing. Because it means we don't have to carry everything on our own. And this is where it connects so beautifully to the words, "Be strong and courageous." From Joshua.
 Because courage is not about pretending we're not afraid. And it's not about forcing our way forward. Courage is staying connected to the One who gives us strength.
 Because when we are connected... love flows. Patience grows. Strength rises. And courage... becomes possible.
 Now think about our lives, and even our life together as a church. There are times when change feels uncomfortable. When new ideas stretch us. When the future feels uncertain. And what do we do?
 We hold tighter. We resist. We pull back. But Jesus gently says, "Abide in me." Stay connected. Stay rooted. Stay open. Because growth only happens when branches remain connected to the vine. And here's the simple truth... A branch doesn't worry about producing fruit. It doesn't strain or stress or try harder. It just stays connected. And the fruit comes. So maybe courage this week doesn't look big or dramatic. Maybe it looks like trusting God in one small step. Letting go of a little control. Being open to something new. Choosing love instead of fear.
 Because when we stay connected... courage doesn't have to be forced. It simply grows. Amen.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of life and growth, You are the Vine that sustains us.
 When we feel disconnected, draw us close. When we feel weak,
 strengthen us. When we feel afraid, give us courage. We pray for those
 who feel cut off, from hope, from community, from joy. Reconnect
 them with Your love. Help us as a church to remain rooted in You,
 growing together, supporting one another, and trusting Your leading.
 May our lives bear the fruit of love,
 for the sake of the world. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #579 The Church is Wherever God's People

- 1 The church is wherever God's people are praising,
 singing God's goodness for joy on this day.
 The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
 remember his story and walk in his way.
- 2 The church is wherever God's people are helping,
 caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
 The church is wherever God's people are sharing
 the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

SENDING FORTH

Go now, connected to Christ, rooted in His love, strengthened by His
 presence. Be strong and courageous, not because you stand alone,
 but because you are held by the Vine. Go in peace, and bear good fruit.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Thursday, May 7th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville at 4:00pm.

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***

