

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 19th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Peace • Love • Faith • Jesus
“A Groovy Sunday Celebration”

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, Thank You for filling our lives with peace, love, joy, and grace. As we offer these gifts today, may they become signs of Your love in our community and beyond. Use what we bring to share hope with those who are hurting, kindness with those who feel alone, and the good news of Jesus with all we meet. May our giving remind us that the greatest gift is Your love, freely given to us through Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome, friends! Come just as you are, with memories of yesterday and hopes for tomorrow.

People: We come to worship the God who is faithful through every generation.

Leader: The world longs for peace.

People: Jesus says, *"My peace I give to you."*

Leader: The world searches for love.

People: God's love is everlasting and never fails.

Leader: The world hopes for unity.

People: In Christ we are one family, one faith, one body.

Leader: Fashions may change.

People: God's grace never goes out of style.

Leader: Music may change.

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People: But God's love remains the same forever.

Leader: Today we celebrate peace, love, faith, and the joy of belonging to Christ.

People: With thankful hearts, joyful spirits, and open minds, let us worship God together!

OPENING HYMN: #409 Morning Has Broken

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

OPENING PRAYER

God of every generation, You were present during the changing times of the sixties and seventies, just as You are present in our changing world today. Thank You for music that lifts our spirits... for memories that make us smile... for friendships that have stood the test of time... and for Your love that has never changed. As we worship today, fill us with Your peace, renew us with Your grace, and remind us that no matter how much the world changes, You remain faithful forever. In Christ's name, Amen.

VIDEO: Put a Little Love in Your Heart – Jackie DeShannon

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

LITANY: "Lean on Me"

Leader: Today we remember that God's love is meant to be shared... through kindness, through friendship, through laughter, and through helping one another.

People: We have come to worship the God who never leaves us standing alone.

Leader: There are days when life feels easy...

People: And there are days when we need someone to lean on.

Leader: God gives us family.

People: To lean on.

Leader: God gives us friends.

People: To lean on.

Leader: God gives us neighbours.

People: To lean on.

Leader: God gives us this church family.

People: To lean on.

Leader: And when everyone else seems far away...

People: God is always close beside us.

Leader: The Apostle Paul reminds us,
"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

People: Together we are stronger. Together we are kinder. Together we reflect God's love.

Leader: So today... smile at one another, sing with one another, laugh together, and worship the One who teaches us that no one walks this journey alone.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now... let's stand, sing, and lean on one another as we celebrate God's gift of community!

VIDEO: Lean on Me – Bill Withers

"This song became an anthem of friendship in the 1970s, but long before Bill Withers ever wrote these words, God had already been teaching us to lean on one another in love.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:27 ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 4:4-6 ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

MESSAGE: Peace, Love, Faith...and Jesus

If you grew up in the sixties or seventies, there are certain things you'll never forget. Tie-dye shirts. Bell-bottom jeans. Peace signs. Flower power. Long hair. Vinyl records. And music that still makes us tap our feet. It was an exciting time. People dreamed of changing the world. They wanted peace instead of war. Love instead of hatred. Acceptance instead of division. Those dreams weren't wrong. In fact, many of them reflected the very things Jesus taught centuries earlier.

Jesus spoke about peace long before anyone painted it on a protest sign. He spoke about loving our neighbours long before anyone sang about it on the radio. He prayed for unity long before people began talking about changing the world.

The difference is this: The world tried to change people from the outside in. Jesus changes us from the inside out. When Christ fills a heart... peace begins there. Love begins there. Forgiveness begins there. And when enough hearts are changed... families change. Churches change. Communities change. The world begins to change. Paul reminds us in Ephesians, "There is one body... one Spirit... one Lord... one faith... one baptism... one God and Father of all." What wonderful words.

Because today our world still longs for the very things people longed for sixty years ago. Peace. Love. Hope. Belonging. And the answer is still Jesus. The fashions changed. Bell bottoms disappeared. Platform shoes wore out. Vinyl records became CDs... then streaming... and somehow vinyl came back again! But one thing has never gone out of style. Grace. God's grace. Grace that forgives. Grace that welcomes. Grace that restores. Grace that reminds us we don't earn God's love—we simply receive it. As Paul says, "It is by grace you have been saved through faith." Not because we are perfect. But because God is. Today, perhaps we need to become a little "groovy" again. Not by dressing differently... but by living differently. Imagine if every Christian became known for bringing peace instead of arguments.

Love instead of criticism. Kindness instead of judgment. Hope instead of fear. Wouldn't that change the world? Maybe that's exactly what Jesus had in mind all along. So, whether you're wearing tie-dye today... or just remembering when you did... remember this: Peace isn't a slogan. Love isn't just a song. Grace never goes out of style. And Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Now that's something worth celebrating.

HYMN: #684 Make Me a Channel of your Peace

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and gracious God, Today our hearts are filled with gratitude. Thank You for the gift of memories that make us smile, songs that still lift our spirits, and friends and family who have walked beside us through the years. Thank You for every generation that has helped shape our lives and our faith.

As we remember days gone by, remind us that You have been with us through every season. You were there in our childhood laughter, our youthful dreams, our celebrations, our disappointments, and every step of the journey. Your love has remained constant, even when everything around us has changed. Today we pray for our world. Where there is

conflict, bring Your peace. Where there is loneliness, bring Your love. Where there is division, bring understanding. Where there is fear, bring hope. Help us to become people who reflect the peace of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and our communities. We pray for those who are struggling today. For those who are ill or recovering... For those facing treatments or waiting for answers... For those carrying grief or missing someone they love... For those who feel anxious, discouraged, or overwhelmed... Wrap each one in Your comforting presence and remind them they are never alone. We pray for our children and grandchildren. Fill their lives with kindness, wisdom, curiosity, and compassion. May they grow to appreciate the beauty of Your creation and discover the joy of following Jesus. Bless this church family. Continue to unite us in faith, strengthen us in service, and inspire us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Thank You, God, that while the years continue to pass, Your grace never grows old, Your mercy never runs out, and Your promises never fail. With grateful hearts, we join together in the prayer Jesus taught us, saying,

LORD'S PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: "Let There be Peace on Earth" #681 *From Hymns for the Family of God*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me

SENDING FORTH

Go now into God's world with joyful hearts. Carry Christ's peace into places of worry. Carry Christ's love into places of loneliness. Carry Christ's grace into places where forgiveness is needed. And carry Christ's hope wherever life leads you. May you remember that fashions fade, music changes, and years pass by...

But the love of God remains forever. So go in peace. Go in faith.
Go in love. And may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, go with you today, tomorrow, and always.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank ☺

Announcements

July 27th-31st: Join us this year for VBS at Springvale United as we learn about God's Creatures Great & Small from 9am-12pm. Ages 4-11 welcome to participate, and we welcome ages 12+ to join in as helpers. Bring your sense of wonder, and maybe your favourite stuffed animal friend, as we discover how God's love is woven through every wing, paw & footprint. Email Emily at info@hsupc.ca with your child's information to register.

Sunday August 2nd & 9th: No church—Peggy on holidays!

VBS is almost here, and we are looking forward to welcoming another wonderful group of children as we celebrate God's Creatures Great and Small! If you are able, we would be very grateful for donations of snacks and refreshments for the week. Items we are looking for include:

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| -Fruit (watermelon, grapes, oranges) | -Kielbasa |
| -Veggies (celery, carrots, cucumber) | -Cheese |
| -Crackers | -Chips/cheesies |
| -Cookies (homemade or store bought) | -Bottled water |

