

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
Cell: 905-317-5275 Email: info@hsupc.ca
Website: www.hsupc.ca
Church: Hagersville- 905-768-5863 Springvale- 905-768-1501

.....

"Packing Light ... Letting Go of What Weighs Us Down"

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, As we offer these gifts today, remind us that generosity lightens our hearts and deepens our trust. Use these offerings to share your love with others, bringing hope, compassion, and encouragement wherever they are needed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, travelers on life's journey.

All: We come carrying joys and burdens.

One: Come with backpacks full of memories...

All: And hearts full of hope.

One: Lay your worries before God.

All: Lay down your fears.

One: Leave behind whatever weighs you down.

All: For Christ walks beside us every step of the way.

Together: Let us worship the God who lightens every burden.

OPENING HYMN: #415 God, We Praise you for the Morning
God we praise you for the morning;
Hope springs for with each new day,
New beginning, prayer and promise,
Joy in work and in play.

2

God, we praise you for creation,
Mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
In your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
All the loving that you show;
Human touching, tears, and laughter,
Help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
Restless searcher, gentle teacher,
Strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
Come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, As we gather today, we confess that sometimes we carry far more than we were ever meant to carry. We carry worries. We carry disappointments. We carry regrets. Sometimes we even carry hurts from years ago. Today remind us that your invitation is not to carry everything ourselves, but to place our lives into your hands. Teach us to travel through life with lighter hearts, deeper trust, and greater joy. Open our ears to hear your Word. Open our minds to your wisdom. Open our hearts to your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: “Did You Pack Everything?”

Person 1: Okay, are we ready to go?

Person 2: Almost. Did you pack everything?

Person 1: I think so.

Person 2: You *think* so? Did you pack your toothbrush?

Person 1: Yes.

Person 2: A sweater?

Person 1: It's August!

Person 2: Yes, but what if it gets cold?

Person 1: Fine. I will pack the sweater.

Person 2: How many pairs of shoes did you bring?

Person 1: How many do you think I'll need?

Person 2: We're going for five days!

Person 1: Exactly. So...six pairs should do it.

Person 2: Six pairs of shoes for five days? ugh

Person 1: You never know!

Person 2: Have you checked the weather?

Person 1: Three times.

Person 2: And?

Person 1: Three different forecasts.

Person 2: Perfect.

Person 1: Did you pack the sunscreen?

Person 2: Yes.

Person 1: The bug spray?

Person 2: Yes.

Person 1: The phone chargers?

Person 2: Yes.

Person 1: The snacks?

Person 2: Enough to feed a small congregation.

Person 1: Good. We're ready.

Person 2: Not quite. How much can this suitcase weigh?

Person 1: Don't ask.

Person 2: I have to ask. We have to get it on the plane!

Person 1: Okay...you push down on it and I'll try to zip it.

Person 2: Do we really need all this stuff?

Person 1: Of course we do. It's all “just in case.”

Person 2: Wait a minute...

Person 1: What?

Person 2: If we take all of this, will we have any room to bring something back?

Person 1: Oh.

Person 2: Exactly.

Person 1: Maybe we should unpack a few things.....

Peggy: You know, we spend an awful lot of time worrying about what we need for the journey.

What to pack. What to take. What we might need. What might go wrong. And then Jesus comes along and makes it sound so simple. “Come. Follow me.”

Leader: And perhaps that is the lightest way to travel through life.

All: With open hearts, open hands, and room for God to give us something new along the way.

Leader: So, are we ready?

People: Almost...has anybody seen the car keys?

All: Amen!

HYMN: Where He Leads Me I Will (Hymns for the Family of God)

I can hear my Savior calling,

I can hear my Savior calling,

I can hear my Savior calling,

“Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”

**Refrain: Where He leads me I will follow,
where He leads me I will follow,
where He leads me I will follow,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.**

I'll go with Him through the judgment,

I'll go with Him through the judgment,

I'll go with Him through the judgment,

I'll go with Him, with Him all the way. **R**

He will give me grace and glory,

He will give me grace and glory,

He will give me grace and glory,

and go with me, with me all the way. **R**

SCRIPTURE READING**Luke 10:1-12**

New International Version

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. ⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

MESSAGE: Packing Light

How many of you overpack? You leave for three days. You pack enough clothes for ten. You bring three pairs of shoes. A jacket... just in case. Another sweater... just in case. Extra snacks... just in case. Then you arrive...and discover you used half of what you packed. Life can become exactly like that. Except instead of carrying extra clothes...

we carry worries. We carry guilt. We carry anger. We carry expectations. We carry disappointments. Sometimes we even carry conversations that happened years ago. Someone hurt us. Someone disappointed us. Someone criticized us. And without realizing it... we've been carrying that heavy suitcase ever since. Jesus sends seventy-two followers ahead of Him. He gives them a strange packing list. Actually... He gives them almost no packing list. Don't take a purse. Don't pack an extra bag. Don't take extra sandals.

Trust God. Why? Because Jesus knew something. The more things we cling to... the harder it becomes to trust. Sometimes the heaviest baggage isn't in our hands. It's in our hearts. Imagine walking through Pearson Airport pulling six enormous suitcases. People would stop and stare. Eventually someone would say, "You know...you don't actually need all that."

God says the same thing to us. Do you really need to carry that resentment? Do you need to keep replaying that mistake? Do you need to carry tomorrow's worries before tomorrow even arrives? The Apostle Peter later wrote, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Notice... He doesn't say, "Carry it a little longer."

He says, "Give it to God." Summer has a way of reminding us of simple things. A walk on the beach. A quiet evening. A campfire. Watching grandchildren laugh. Listening to birds. Looking at stars. None of those moments require a lot of baggage. Perhaps that's why they bring us peace. Simple things often make room for God. As summer begins winding down... perhaps Jesus is inviting us to unpack. Unpack worry. Unpack bitterness. Unpack perfectionism. Unpack the need to control everything. Leave room instead for: Faith. Hope. Kindness. Grace. Forgiveness. Joy. Imagine beginning September with a lighter heart. Not because life suddenly became easy... but because you stopped carrying what belonged to God. Jesus never promised an easy journey. He simply promised... "You don't have to carry it alone." That's what packing light really means. Amen.

HYMN: #670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:

**Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.**

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall: **R**

When the darkness appears
 And the night draws near,
 And the day is past and gone,
 At the river, I stand,
 Guide my feet, hold my hand: **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of every journey, Some among us carry worries about health.
 Others carry grief. Some carry loneliness. Others carry uncertainty about
 the future. Today we quietly place these burdens into your loving hands.
 Walk beside those who are ill. Comfort those who mourn. Give strength
 to caregivers. Bless our children as they prepare for another school year.
 Guide teachers, parents, and students. Bless our church family as
 summer draws to a close and new ministries begin once again.
 Help us leave behind whatever keeps us from fully following Christ.
 May we travel through life with lighter hearts because we know you
 walk beside us.
 We pray in Jesus' name his prayer...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: God Will Take Care of You (Hymns for the
 Family of God)

1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide;
 God will take care of you.
 Beneath His wings of love abide;
 God will take care of you.

Refrain:

**God will take care of you,
 through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
 He will take care of you;
 God will take care of you.**

2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you.
 When dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**

3 All you may need He will provide;
 God will take care of you.
 All strength you need will be supplied;
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**
 4 No matter what may be the test,
 God will take care of you.
 Lean, weary one, upon His breast;
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**

CLOSING BLESSING

Go now... Travel light. Leave behind fear. Leave behind worry.
 Leave behind yesterday's burdens. Carry instead the love of Christ.
 Carry hope. Carry kindness. Carry faith. And may the God who
 journeys with you today walk beside you wherever the road may lead.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

.....

Announcements

Wednesday, September 9th: Official Board at Hagersville at 1:30pm.
 Church Council will meet at 6:30pm.

Next Sunday: Sundae Sunday (both churches) &
 Hotdog Lunch (Hagersville only)! 

Question for Today

The Old Testament references 2 talking animals. One was a
 serpent. What was the other one?

-Lion

-Wolf

-Sheep

-Donkey