

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 7th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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“What Do We Preach On When the Pastor Is Away?”

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings You give us each day.
Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. May they help
continue Your work of hope, compassion, and community through this
church. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Some Sundays are carefully planned months ahead.
People: And some Sundays begin with, “Well... what now?”
Leader: Some sermons arrive after hours of study.
**People: And some begin with a last-minute prayer and a strong cup
of coffee.**
Leader: Yet no matter who stands at the front...
People: God is still present among us.
Leader: God still speaks through scripture, songs, laughter, and
community.
People: And God still gathers us together in love.
Leader: So let us worship with joyful hearts today.
All: For the Spirit never takes a vacation!

OPENING HYMN: #343 I Love to Tell the Story

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**
- 2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **R**
- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **R**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, Today we gather with smiles on our faces and joy in our
hearts. We thank You for the gift of worship, for familiar faces, familiar
hymns, and the comfort of gathering together. And while our minister
enjoys some well-deserved holidays, remind us that Your presence
never takes time away. Open our hearts to laughter, encouragement, and
simple reminders of faith today. Help us leave this place refreshed,
hopeful, and grateful for the many ways You continue to guide Your
church. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN’S SONG: First Verse of #225 Jesus Loves Even Me
(from Hymns from the Family of God)

I am so glad that my Father in heaven
Tells of His love in the Book He has given;
Wonderful things in the Bible I see
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

**R: I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.**

Litany “While the Cat’s Away...”

Leader: There’s an old saying: “While the cat’s away, the mice will play!”

People: So, we’re not sure what we expected would happen today...

Leader: But, the choir still showed up.

People: The doors were unlocked.

Leader: The bulletins were created and printed.

People: And at the back of the church where it usually is.

Leader: Some came wondering who was in charge today...

People: But God has always been leading the church.

Leader: Long before ministers, committees, choirs, and coffee makers...

People: God was already gathering people together.

Leader: The disciples themselves were ordinary people.

People: Unsure, imperfect, and learning as they went.

Leader: Yet Jesus still called them.

People: And Jesus still calls us.

Leader: So, whether the pastor is here or away...

People: We gather in faith, laughter, worship, and love.

Leader: Because the church is more than one person.

People: It is a family held together by God’s grace.

Leader: And while the cat’s away...

People: The mice will worship!

All: Thanks be to God!

CHORUS: #18 “He Has Made Me Glad”

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,

I will enter His courts with praise.

I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made,

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.”

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 121 (A reminder God watches over us wherever we are.) pg. 844

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had

compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

MESSAGE: “What Do We Preach On When the Pastor Is Away?”

Well... here we are. Peggy is away. And every church knows this creates at least a tiny bit of panic. Because somebody always asks: “Who’s taking the service?” And then immediately after ... “What are they going to talk about?”

Now to be fair, ministers do spend a lot of time planning sermons. There are scriptures to read, prayers to write, themes to organize... And occasionally at 11:00 Saturday night...there’s also a mild moment of panic. But today seemed like the perfect opportunity to admit something important: The church has never depended on just one person. Not the minister. Not the organist. Not the choir. Not even the person who remembers to put on the coffee for Coffee Sunday.

The church belongs to God. And long before any of us arrived here... God was already at work. The truth is, faith continues even when routines change. The hymns still get sung. The prayers still get prayed. Sometimes, I think churches are a little like families.

When one person is away, everybody suddenly notices all the little things they normally do.

“Who has the bulletins?”

“Who turns on the lights?”

“Who knows how the microphone works?”

“Why are there seventeen extension cords plugged into one outlet?”

And somehow... through all the small confusions and funny moments... everything still comes together. That's grace. And maybe that's today's message, God's work continues through ALL of us.

Not perfectly. Not flawlessly. But faithfully.

The early disciples probably felt this way too. Jesus would give them instructions, and half the time they probably looked at one another and said, "Are we sure we understood that correctly?"

There's actually a wonderful moment in the Gospel of Matthew, (that was read this morning) Jesus feeds over five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. Now imagine being one of the disciples in that moment. The crowds are hungry. People are tired. And the disciples basically come to Jesus saying:

"Maybe we should send everybody home now." And Jesus replies:

"You give them something to eat."

Can you imagine their reaction? I am thinking of the 12 disciples and this could be some of their responds.

"Us?"

"With what exactly?"

"We barely packed lunch for ourselves!"

In that moment, the disciples didn't feel prepared. They didn't feel capable. They certainly didn't feel organized enough for this situation. And yet... Jesus still used them. Not because they had everything figured out, but because they were willing to serve.

That's encouraging for the church today. Because sometimes we think faith only works when everything is polished and perfect. But the Gospel reminds us: God has always worked through ordinary people. Ordinary people who ask questions. Ordinary people who get nervous. Ordinary people who occasionally misunderstand the instructions completely. And somehow...through all the uncertainty, God still fed people, comforted people, healed people, and changed lives. And the church grew! Because God works through ordinary people doing their best.

That's still how the church works today. The church is not perfect, it's not flawless, but we sure are faithful. And honestly... that may be one of the most comforting things about the church and faithful congregations...

Every handshake. Every hymn sung slightly off-key. Every casserole. Every prayer. Every quiet act of kindness. It all matters.

So today, while Peggy enjoys some rest and relaxation... and not worrying about us to much...we give thanks for the reminder that God watches over this church every single day. And maybe next Sunday when she returns... everyone can simply say, we survived, and some amazing disciples of Jesus took the service. Amen.

HYMN: #331 The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in one,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, thank You for laughter, friendship, and the joy of worship together. Thank you for the people who quietly serve this church in so many ways each week. Today we pray for Peggy as she enjoys a time of rest and renewal. Bless her with peace, refreshment, and a chance to simply breathe deeply and enjoy life. We pray for all who are tired, worried, grieving, or struggling today. Bring comfort where there is sorrow, strength where there is weakness, and hope where it is needed most. Bless our church family and help us continue to care for one another with kindness and compassion. And remind us always that Your love continues to guide this church in every season. In Name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying...

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #337 Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.
**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.**
- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **R**
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. **R**

SENDING FORTH

Go now in peace...and remember,
The church is still standing, the prays were prayed, the hymns were sung, and God was praised.
That sounds like a successful Sunday. May God bless you, keep you laughing, and fill your week with peace and joy.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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BROADVIEW

It is time to renew or subscribe to Broadview for 2026-2027. Cost is \$30.00. Pick up a sample copy of Broadview magazine. Envelopes available at the back of the church; place on the offering plate or e-transfer at barbzdunich@gmail.com

Announcements

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

Wednesday, June 10th: Unified Board meeting at Springvale at 12pm. Official Board at Springvale at 1:30pm. Church council meeting at Hagersville at 6:30pm.

Tuesday, June 23rd: Annual Strawberry Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are limited and this is a takeout only event. To reserve your ticket please call 905-768-3910 or 905-537-4188.

Sunday, June 28th: Join us at the Waterford Legion Pavilion at 2pm to celebrate the life of Debbie Kozicki. There will be a memorial service followed by a gathering with refreshments.

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.

“While the Pastor is Away” One Liners

- "The first question when a pastor is away is always, 'Who's preaching?' The second is, 'Will we get out early?'"
- "When Peggy gets back next Sunday, let's welcome her warmly. Then let's avoid telling her how close we came to replacing the sound system with interpretive dance."
- "We did consider phoning Peggy every fifteen minutes with questions, but apparently that's not what 'vacation' means."
- "The church survived before Peggy arrived, it will survive while she's away, and with any luck it will still be standing when she gets back."