

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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God Always Gives Us Something to Look Forward To

Even in challenging times, God continually places before us signs of hope, renewal, and purpose. The Christian life is not about looking back in regret, but forward in faith.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of promise and possibility,
We offer these gifts as seeds of hope for the future You are creating among us.
Bless what we give, and bless what we keep,
that all we are and all we have may be used in Your purpose—
to bring hope, healing, and new beginnings to the world.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today in expectation.

People: For we know that God is not finished with us yet.

Leader: When life feels uncertain, God reminds us: *"I have plans for you, plans for a future with hope."*

People: We look to the future with courage, trusting in God's promises.

Leader: Let us worship the God who opens new doors, begins new chapters, and leads us into life.

All: We come with hearts ready to receive, and eyes lifted toward God's unfolding grace.

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OPENING 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

OPENING PRAYER

God of past, present, and future, We thank You that You are the One who goes before us, preparing the way. You do not leave us in yesterday's shadows, but You lead us toward new light, new joy, and new purpose. Help us today to release what is behind us and reach forward to what You are calling us to. Open our hearts to Your guiding Spirit, open our minds to Your truth, and open our souls to the hope found only in You. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Leader: When we are tempted to look back in regret...

People: God calls us to look forward with hope.

Leader: When we feel stuck in the present...

People: God reminds us that His plans are still unfolding.

Leader: When we wonder what tomorrow will bring...

People: We trust that God is already there.

Leader: God of our future, we place our hope in You.

All: For You are the One who always gives us something to look forward to. Amen.

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You

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 supplies;

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]**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Isaiah 43:18-19

¹⁸ "Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 21:5

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said [a]to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Romans 8:24-25

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

MESSAGE: "Living Forward in Faith"

Have you ever wondered why our windshields are larger than our rearview mirrors. Well maybe it's because

Where we are going is more important than where we have been.

Yet in life, we often find ourselves looking behind us. You know things like ... replaying old mistakes, dwelling on what we've lost, or longing for what used to be. The people of Israel felt that way when the prophet Jeremiah wrote to them. They had been taken into exile, away from their homes, their routines, their comfort. They couldn't imagine a hopeful future. But into that moment, God speaks these words:

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you a future with hope." It's important to notice: God didn't say, "I might have plans," or "I'm thinking about it." God says, "*I know the plans I have for you.*" Our future does not depend on our strength, it rests on God's certainty. Don't think that God's hope is wishful thinking, it is a promise.

Human hope is often based on circumstance: *“I hope the weather is nice”* or *“I hope this works out.”*

But God’s hope is based on His character.

We hope not because of what we see, but because of who God is.

In life no matter what happens, God calls us to move forward, not stay stuck.

In Philippians 3, Paul writes, *“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal.”*

Paul doesn’t say the past doesn’t matter...

Paul understands that while his past shaped him, it does not define his future. Throughout Scripture we see this same truth echoed again and again: God is always calling His people forward, not based on where they have been, but based on where He is leading them. Abraham was told, *“Go to the land I will show you,”* though he had no map. Moses was commanded, *“Lead My people out,”* though he had no assurance other than God’s promise to be with him. The disciples were invited simply, *“Follow Me,”* without a full explanation of what that journey would demand.

What defined all of these moments was not certainty, but faith; not comfort, but obedience; not nostalgia for the past, but hope in God’s unfolding future. Each of them had a history, but their identity and purpose were defined by God’s call forward. And so it is with us ... God is not finished writing our story. The same God who called Abraham, Moses, and the disciples is still calling us to move forward in trust, believing that what lies ahead in Christ is far greater than anything left behind.

Remember, God’s future is already in motion. Even when we don’t see it, God is working. Even when we feel stuck, God is preparing new things. The God we worship is not the God of “what was,” but the God of “what is to come.”

So, you might be thinking.... what does this mean for us today? It means that if you are in a season of waiting, God is not absent...God is at work behind the scenes, preparing the path ahead. If you are feeling discouraged or overwhelmed, remember that this moment is not the end of your story ... God is still writing, and greater things are yet to come. And if you find yourself in a place of joy and blessing, know that what you are experiencing now is only a small taste of the fullness of joy God

has planned for you. In every season of waiting, struggling, or celebrating know that God is moving us forward toward His promise.

Remember, Hope is not pretending everything will be easy in the future. Hope is knowing that whatever comes next, God will be in it.

As Christians, we don’t just look back at what Christ did, as powerful as that is, we look forward to what Christ will do.

New opportunities. New mercies. New life.

God always gives us something to look forward to.

So let us live not with fear or regret, but with expectation.

Because with God, the best is yet to come! Amen.

HYMN: #603 In Loving Partnership We Come

- 1 In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.
- 2 We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.
- 3 Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.
- 4 In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of new beginnings, We thank You that in every season, You give us reasons to hope. For those who feel anxious about tomorrow—remind them that You hold every tomorrow in Your hands.

For those facing illness, uncertainty, or grief—surround them with Your comfort and give them strength for the journey ahead.

For our church—help us not to rest in what has been,
but to look forward to the work You are calling us to do.
When we cannot see the way, show us the next step.
When we grow weary, lift our eyes toward Your promises.
Fill us with the assurance that Your plans are always for good.
We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our future,
who taught us to pray, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING 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.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go forward into this week with courage.

People: For God goes before us.

Leader: Live with expectation.

People: For God is preparing good things.

Leader: Walk in hope.

All: For God always gives us something to look forward to.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, November 12th: Official board meeting at Springvale at 1:30pm. Moved from Oct. 15th.

Wednesday, November 12th: Unified Board meeting at Springvale at noon. Please bring lunch with you.

Friday, November 14th: Soup lunch at Hagersville from 11am-12:30pm. \$10/person. Soup options to be determined.

Wednesday, November 26th: Springvale will be selling their cookie trays. Pickup will be from 4-6pm. Large trays are \$40, medium trays are \$30 & small trays are \$20. Cabbage rolls available by pre-order, \$30/dozen. Chili will also be available for purchase for \$10/bowl. To pre-order please call: 905-537-4188 or 905-768-3910.

Friday, November 28th: Family movie night at Hagersville featuring "The Star" beginning at 6pm. Free event. Pizza will be served at 6pm with the movie beginning shortly after. Monetary donations appreciated to help with the cost of the pizza. Please let Peggy know if you and your family are coming or if you are able to donate.

Next Sunday, November 9th, we will be having a Joint Remembrance Service at Hagersville United at 11am.

Music & presentations by Brenda Gallant & Beverly Petheram. Everyone is invited to this special service.

There will be no service at Springvale.

Lunch and fellowship to follow.

**Please bring your paper products for the
Hagersville Food Bank!**

