

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Returning to God ~ Renewed in Faith

The reality that summer can be busy, full of travel, sports, family, and other commitments, and that sometimes faith practices take a “back seat.” Fall then becomes a season of returning ... to school, to church, and to God’s rhythm of grace.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you have carried us through every season.
We bring our gifts as signs of gratitude and hope,
that your church may continue to be a place of renewal and celebration.
Bless these offerings and the work of our hands, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The seasons turn, and God is faithful through them all.
People: In summer’s rest and play, God was with us.
Leader: In autumn’s new beginnings, God calls us back to community.
People: We come with open hearts, ready to be renewed.
Leader: Let us worship the One who meets us in every season of life.

OPENING HYMN: #574 Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true,
tender and true, out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you: wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2

- 2 Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell joyfully came,
joyfully came, came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame, seeking the lost, seeking the
lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet; why do they roam?
Why do they roam? Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home! Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above
- 4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love! Come and abide,
come and abide, lifting my life till it rises above envy and
falsehood and pride: seeking to be, seeking to be lowly and
humble, a learner of thee.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all seasons, as summer fades and autumn begins,
we gather to remember your steady presence in every time of life.
Forgive us when we have drifted from you in our busyness,
and renew our spirits for the season ahead.
Draw us close in worship, that we may grow in faith,
trusting your love to guide us each day. Amen.

ANTHEM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All: God of mercy, we admit that sometimes our faith slips to the background. We have filled our days with many things, and neglected time with you. We have taken for granted the gift of worship and community. Forgive us, renew us, and help us return with joy.

Leader: Hear the good news: God welcomes us back with open arms. In Christ, we are forgiven and invited to begin again. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN’S VIDEO

LITANY: “Seasons Of Faith”

Leader: Summer is fading, autumn is near!

People: God is with us, year by year!

Leader: In sunny days of play and rest,

People: God was with us, we were blessed!

Leader: In autumn’s start, with school and friends,

People: God is with us, love never ends!

Leader: In worship now, we lift our song,

People: God is with us , all year long!

***CHORUS: #91 “GREAT ARE YOU, LORD”**

Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, you alone are worthy of my praise,

O Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, with all of my heart I sing:

Great are You, Lord, worthy of praise;

Holy and true, great are You, Lord, Most Holy Lord. (X 2)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Jeremiah 29:11–13, Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

Jeremiah 29:11–13

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

A Time for Everything

³ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

MESSAGE *Where Do We Stop to Celebrate Our Faith?*”

Let Me begin with a short story...

There was once a little apple tree in a farmer’s orchard. In spring, it burst into blossoms, so white and pink that everyone stopped to admire

its beauty. In summer, it grew strong leaves and offered cool shade to children playing beneath it. By fall, its branches were heavy with apples, a gift for everyone to enjoy. And then winter came. The tree looked bare, its branches empty. The children wondered if the tree had died. But the farmer knew better. He said, “*The tree is not dead, it’s resting, we all need a time of rest. For the apple tree is it winter. In spring it will bloom again.*”

And sure enough, when the seasons turned, blossoms returned. The tree had never stopped being alive; it had simply been faithful in every season, blooming, growing, giving, resting.

Summer has a way of sweeping us up, doesn’t it? The days are longer, schedules more relaxed, and church sometimes takes a back seat. We don’t mean to neglect our faith, it just happens. Vacations, barbecues, baseball games, gardening, and travel, a time to just rest and relax and it can leave little room for worship or prayer.

But as summer turns to fall, we’re given a fresh opportunity. The children are back in school. Families settle into new routines. The church fills again with familiar faces. It’s the perfect moment to stop and ask: Where do we pause to celebrate our faith?

Well to begin, Ecclesiastes reminds us: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

There is a time to play and rest ... summer gives us that.

There is a time to return, to refocus, to regather ... fall offers us that gift. And then, God’s wisdom weaves all the seasons together ... none is wasted.

Remember, when faith feels pushed aside, God patiently waits for us.

And when we return, God meets us with joy.

So, let’s call it “The Back Burner Faith”. Think about cooking: if you put a pot on the back burner and forget it, what happens? It boils dry or burns. Our faith can feel the same when we don’t tend to it.

We may feel spiritually dry.

We may lose sight of God’s presence in our daily lives.

We may feel disconnected from community.

But here’s the good news: God doesn’t get upset with us for being too busy. God simply invites us back to the table, saying, “Come, taste and see that I am good.”

So, coming back to church is not about guilt, it’s about feeling that joy again. Because God never leaves us. When we return, we are filled

once again with worship, prayer and community of faith. Also, we are reminded that in every season, God is faithful.

Just as children return to school to learn, we return to church to be renewed in our faith. And each Sunday becomes our pause ... our chance to stop and celebrate our faith before stepping back into the busyness of life.

Fall is not just back-to-school. It's back-to-faith.

It's the season to pick up what may have slipped away during summer and to walk with God into the days ahead.

So, where do we stop to celebrate our faith? Where do we go to get renewed, new energy for our faith? You stop here, for worship, for prayer, for laughter, to come to the table and to feel the faith of others present around you.

And when we do, we discover again that in every season, summer, fall, winter, spring ... God's love never changes.

So going back to my opening story about the Apple tree...

Our lives, and our faith, are like that apple tree. There are seasons when we bloom with joy. Seasons when we are busy and full of energy. Seasons when we give to others. And seasons when we feel empty or quiet.

But God is present in every season. Even when it feels like our faith has gone quiet, like winter, God is still at work within us, preparing us for new growth. Friends, let's step into this season of fall with joy, celebrating our faith together, and trusting that God is with us always, in every season. Amen.

HYMN: Pg 820-821 Psalm 100 – Make a Joyful Noise

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! **R**

- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! **R**

- 3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God of all seasons, we come before you in prayer, bringing our gratitude, our concerns, and our hopes. Hear us as we lift the prayers of your people.

For Thanksgiving

Creator God, we give thanks for the blessings of summer — for rest, travel, laughter, and time with family and friends. We thank you for the beauty of creation, for warm sunshine and gentle rains, and for moments of joy that reminded us of your goodness.

For New Beginnings

God of wisdom, we pray for children and youth beginning a new school year. Bless their learning, their friendships, and their teachers. Be with parents adjusting to new routines. Strengthen them with patience and love. Guide all who return to work or new responsibilities this season.

For the Church

Faithful God, as many return to the rhythm of worship and community this fall, renew our spirits and deepen our faith. May this congregation be a place of welcome, hope, and growth. Help us to celebrate our faith with joy and to carry it into our daily lives.

For Those in Need

Compassionate God, we pray for those in difficult seasons:

- For the sick and those awaiting healing.
 - For those who grieve or feel the emptiness of loss.
 - For those facing change, uncertainty, or worry.
- Surround them with your comfort, peace, and strength.

For the World

God of justice and peace, we pray for our world in its many struggles. Where there is conflict, bring peace. Where there is disaster, bring relief.

Where there is division, bring understanding. Guide leaders and communities to work together for the common good.

Closing

God of all times and seasons, we trust that you are with us in every moment of life — in endings and beginnings, in joy and sorrow, in change and in hope. Keep us rooted in your love as we step into this new season together.

We lift all these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #658 O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Sending Forth

Leader: As we step into this new season, may we carry with us God's promise of renewal.

People: We go, ready to celebrate and live out our faith.

Leader: In every season, God is with us.

All: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, September 10th: Church Council meeting at Hagersville at 6:30pm.

Thursday, September 25th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the evening. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, September 28th: The Ryerse Jazz Singers will be performing at 2pm in the sanctuary. Join us to share in the love of music while raising money for the C.E. Wing floor. Free will offering.

Sunday, September 28th: Springvale Anniversary joint service beginning at 11am. Gary & Shirley Teal will be speaking on their mission work in Africa. Lunch to follow.

Tuesday, September 30th: Turkey Supper at Springvale from 4pm-6pm. Takeout only. Adults are \$25, ages 12 and under are \$10. For tickets call Barb at 905-768-3910 or Betty at 905-537-4188.

Sunday, October 19th: Hagersville United 156th Anniversary service & the town of Hagersville 150th special service at 2pm with guest speaker Rev. Douglas Mitchell. More details to come.

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

