

The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Galica

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

A few things about our church...

- ❖ A **restroom** is in the back area of the church by the closets. Additional restrooms and a **changing table** are available downstairs.
- ❖ A **supervised nursery** is downstairs for children ages 5 and under.
- ❖ **Bold type** in the bulletin indicates a response by all.
- ❖ An * (**asterisk**) notes a time it is appropriate to stand in body or spirit, as you are able.
- ❖ Hymns marked **NCH** are in the **black New Century Hymnal**.
Hymns marked **W&R** are in the **green Worship & Rejoice** hymnal.

Preparing for Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Gathered as One

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Invocation

Pastor Mike

Holy and Present God, hear the sound of praise as we share this space and time gathered among you. May our hearts be opened and our minds engaged. Let the Spirit of Truth live in our songs of adoration, prayers of intercession, and words of pondering. In your name, glory and honor.

Amen

Introit

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Barbara Brown

Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

For God who claims us, tests us, and sustains us comes and invites us to come to them.

Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected our prayer or removed God's steadfast love from us.

Bless the Holy One, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard.

Come as we proclaim, witness, and testify to all God has done. Bless the Holy One!

*Gathering Hymn “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” NCH #467

Prayer of Confession

Barbara Brown

Gracious and Eternal One, we proclaim that you breathe life into us and know us fully.

Yet, sometimes, you remain unknown to us. Sometimes we search for you and sometimes we fumble about for you.

We rest in the assurance that when we seek you, we will find you.

But, there are times when we refuse to seek, refuse to search, refuse to fumble.

There are times when we rather keep you in compartments so that you will not fully impact our lives. There are moments when we close ourselves off from your revealing word, guiding hand, and nudging Spirit.

Forgive us, O God, for not coming to you as you come to us—fully, persistently, and constantly—and give us strength to fumble and reach toward you in all seasons and at all times. Amen.

*A time of silence to contemplate these words
and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.*

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

Pastor Mike

Beloved, you are known by God and received as you are—wonderfully and beautifully made. Draw near to God who knows your limitations and loves you. Seek the Holy One who recognizes your faults and finds the good in you. Search for the Spirit who discovers you on wayward paths and redirects you. Receive the God who comes to you with peace, grace, mercy, and joy. Come to the One who will not reject or rebuff you but will renew and restore you in hope and love.

Amen.

Our Celebration

“Christ Arose!”

W&R #294 v3

**Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus my Savior,
He tore the bars away—Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o’er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Barbara Brown

Hebrew Scripture

Ezekiel 43:1-7a

Pew Bible p 710

Psalms

Psalms 115:1-3, 11-16 (CEB)

Read by All

**Not to us, LORD, not to us—no, but to your own name give glory
because of your loyal love and faithfulness!**

Why do the nations say, "Where's their God now?"

Our God is in heaven—[God] can do whatever [God] wants!

You who honor the LORD, trust in the LORD!

God is their help and shield.

The LORD remembers us and will bless us:

God will bless the house of Israel;

God will bless the house of Aaron;

God will bless those who honor the LORD—

from the smallest to the greatest.

May the LORD add to your numbers—both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth!

The highest heaven belongs to the Lord,

but [God] gave the earth to all people.

Epistle

1 Peter 3:13-22

Pew Bible p 985

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Sound the Trumpet! Praise Him!"

Chancel Choir

by Franz Joseph Haydn, arr. by Hal Hopson.

Gospel

John 14:15-21

Pew Bible p 877

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"God's Still with Us"

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

"O Spirit of God"

NCH #60

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

We offer our prayers through Christ, who lives and reigns forever, and prays for us in heaven. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the church... Let your Spirit of truth abide in us, so that we may follow Christ's example and bear witness to the power of your love. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the earth... Bless and keep the world you have made, a gracious gift from the Creator of all. Let it not be destroyed by human hands. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for all nations... Bring all people into your peace that passes understanding. Show us that we are one family in you, made in your image. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for this community... By your Spirit, make us always ready to bear witness to the good news of your kin-dom and to show your love to our neighbors. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones... Remember those who are tested and tried. Do not let them slip; guard their lives and keep them in your steadfast love. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers, and continue your mighty work among us, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Responding to God's Work

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Mike

As we gather in the presence of God, let us acknowledge and act upon the blessings we receive and the gifts bestowed upon us. Let us give generously, as we are able, to fund the ministry of this gathered body and the work of Christ's church in the world.

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

CREATOR, CHRIST and Holy Ghost.

(sing the ending you are more comfortable with)

Praise FATHER, SON and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Righteous God, receive these gifts we offer from our hearts and hands that they and we might be of service in your kin-dom and for your glory. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

NCH #59

*Benediction

Go forth from this time and place but never from God's presence.

Go forth to witness and minister in the world.

Go forth knowing that as you go...the Holy One comes to you

With strength and courage for the journey.

Go, in peace to love and to serve the Holy One and God's good creation; in the name of God, Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Benediction Song

"Alleluia No. 1"

W&R #291

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

*Dismissal

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Go in peace to love and serve God.

Thanks be to God!

Liturgy adapted from "Worship Ways", Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ and "Call to Worship", published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in partnership with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

Thank you for joining us today and to Mike, our Pastor. Thank you to our liturgist Barbara Brown, organist Mary Jane Wirsing and our Chancel choir

Announcements

No Sunday School May 10th (Mother's Day)

Mother's Day May 10th & Father's Day June 21st



The Board of Missions is offering a \$300.00 challenge to match funds toward Church World Service's Blankets and Tools Projects, as a way to honor and remember our moms and dads.

A *CWS Blanket* brings comfort, care and hope to someone facing a difficult moment. The *CWS Tools* project is a promise of comfort, hope and God's love by empowering farmers with training, seeds, livestock and tools – helping them to grow more food and secure stable incomes. **Last year together we raised \$1355.00 for these projects.** We have cards available for you to insert in your own Mother's Day and Father's Day cards, saying you made a donation in their honor. These can be found in the narthex and in the hall. We will take these offerings through Father's Day, June 21st.

Unable to attend Sunday worship in person? Don't miss out! LIVE on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive> The bulletin is posted on our webpage.



Please us for coffee every Sunday following worship.
The Board of Deacons is responsible for May refreshments.



Upcoming Music Concerts at CCSH

Bella Voce Sunday May 17th 3 p.m.

Village Harmony July 5th 4 p.m.

Welcome Mission Project *Now collecting for May. We need all items 4-6 of each:*

- laundry basket(new) •laundry detergent (unscented & sensitive skin)
- clothes hangers (new) •Shower curtain liner •curtain rings •toilet brush set

Leave items on back counter in fellowship hall.

Wally's Basket (Champlain Island Food Shelf) requests for May:

- hearty soups • stews • chilis • canned meats • toilet paper • paper towels

Dismas House Meals signup sheets are on the board in fellowship hall. On the **third Friday** of each month we provide a meal, typically for **10 people**. Complete menu should include entrée, salad and/or vegetable, bread, and dessert. The only restriction is **no pork**.



Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on **Sunday, August 9th**.

This event is open to everyone, and we invite all ages to participate. Please stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Do you like crafts? Are you a grilling pro? Do you have the PERFECT summer picnic side dish? Have you been told you're too competitive at game night? Or are you just looking for a way to get involved at church? We are looking for some helping hands to make this year's VBS a success. If interested, **talk to Carrie Bryan or Michelle Galica for more information** of how you can help.

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.

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Pastor Mike's office hours for the week are posted outside his office.

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