

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



Image Source Credit

Ascension Sunday May 17, 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 Love, our Companion and Source, shower us with your presence, shelter us in your sanctuary, shield us with your peace. Open our receptivity to your word, wisdom, and way. May our worship honor your name and draw us nearer to you and to our neighbors. Be glorified in our midst as we exalt your Many Names.

Amen

Introit

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Phil Reynolds

Let God rise up! Sing to God; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds—the Holy One—be exultant before God.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Ascribe power to God, full of majesty and power.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Phil Reynolds

Hebrew Scripture

Daniel 7:9-14

Pew Bible p724

Psalms

Psalms 24:7-10 (CEB)

Read by All

Mighty gates: lift up your heads!

Ancient doors: rise up high! So the glorious king can enter!

Who is this glorious king?

The LORD—strong and powerful! The LORD—powerful in battle!

Mighty gates: lift up your heads!

Ancient doors: rise up high! So the glorious king can enter!

Who is this glorious king?

The LORD of heavenly forces—he is the glorious king!

Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-23

Pew Bible p 949

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Wade in the Water”

Chancel Choir

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Pew Bible p 860

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Us with God”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

NCH #303

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... Bless us and make us a blessing to others. Keep us faithful in worship and service, sharing in the joy of the risen Lord. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the earth... You established the world; let it not be moved. As you are enthroned upon the mighty waters, pour out your healing power on all things. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for all nations... As you did in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, let your saving power be known to all peoples, your loving kindness to the ends of the earth. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for this community... Let us be witnesses to the living Lord, offering welcome to all in the community gathered by the Holy Spirit. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones... Lift up those who are falling, clothe the weak with compassion, and encourage all who work for good. 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

Our commitments in the world are tangible and spiritual. Let us bring our whole selves to contribute to the kingdom of God, including material resources, as a faithful act of hope, trust, and companionship in this community and 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

**Generous God, may these gifts we bring be used to bless, to build,
and to beautify through generous and faithful care. Amen.**

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus"

NCH #257

*Benediction

Receive the power of the Holy Spirit and witness to Holy Love in the Champlain Valley, Vermont, the United States, and to the ends of the earth. The gospel calls your light forward, as you go, in the world; 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 guest pianist Carol Schein, liturgist Phil Reynolds and our Chancel choir

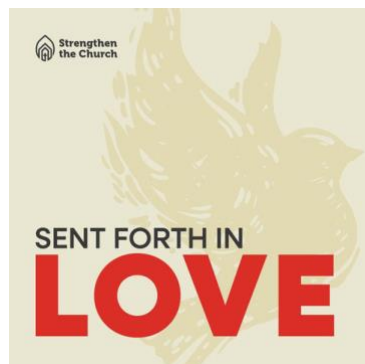
Announcements

Bella Voce Concert Today May 17th 3 p.m.

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 join us for coffee every Sunday following worship. Barb Smith is providing today's refreshments. *thank you.*



Strengthen the Church offering Pentecost Sunday May 24th

This special offering of the United Church of Christ supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, our generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



LITURGIST READER VOLUNTEER

Want to add your voice to worship? We're always looking for people, young and not so young, to serve as liturgists. It's easy to do. Everything is written down for you and emailed to you ahead of your Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the table in fellowship hall near the nametag drop off.



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. We have

inserts available for your own greeting 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.



Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School 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. **Talk with Carrie Bryan or Michelle Galica for more information .**

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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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