

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



6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 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

Ring the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Gathered as One

Invocation

Pastor Mike

God of all nations and all peoples, bless us as we gather in your name. Open us to vessels in building your kin-dom and spreading the good news of life and liberty. May we drink from the well of your abundance. May our cups overflow with your love. May our hearts burn in your presence. Be with us in this time and place.

Amen

Introit

“O Bless the Lord” *by John Michaels*

Gena Callan

Call to Worship

Gretchen Patterson

In joy and gladness, enter the presence of the Sovereign One who rules and reigns over all creation. Worship the Holy One!

The voice of the Holy One is powerful and gracious, loving and challenging, compassionate and convicting.

In joy and gladness, receive the fresh wind of the Spirit who ignites our hearts and connects us to one another. Worship the Holy Spirit!

The voice of the Holy Spirit gives wisdom, discernment, comfort, and confirmation.

In joy and gladness, follow the path of the Embodied One. Worship God With Us!

The voice of God With Us models for us what to say and how to live. Praise God!

*Gathering Hymn

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

NCH #489

Prayer of Confession

Gretchen Patterson

Holy One, we come before you from different perspectives. Some come in a spirit of celebration. Others bring lament and despair. All of us benefit from the power of transformed lives, individually, relationally, and communally.

We pray in the assurance that new life is available. We ask for the strength, courage, and persistence to seek your kin-dom, peace, justice and righteousness in any and all circumstances and for all people and creation. 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

The God of the covenant is still with us. By the power of the Spirit, we receive the fruit necessary to fuel our shared commitment and commission to building the world as God would have it over the world we inherit.

God has given us everything we need to contribute, including the community of faith so that we do not labor alone.

Our Celebration

“This Is the Day”

W&R #652

This is the day, this is the day

That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice, we will rejoice

And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day

That the Lord has made.

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Gretchen Patterson

Hebrew Scripture Genesis 24:34–38,42–49,58–67 Pew Bible p 17-18

Psalm

Psalm 45:10–17 (CEB)

Read by All

Listen, daughter; pay attention, and listen closely!

Forget your people and your father's house.

Let the king desire your beauty.

Because he is your master, bow down to him now.

The city of Tyre, the wealthiest of all,

will seek your favor with gifts, with riches of every sort

for the royal princess, dressed in pearls,

her robe embroidered with gold.

In robes of many colors, she is led to the king.

**Her attendants, the young women servants following her,
are presented to you as well.**

As they enter the king's palace,

they are led in with celebration and joy.

Your sons, great king, will succeed your fathers;

you will appoint them as princes throughout the land.

I will perpetuate your name from one generation to the next

so the peoples will praise you forever and always.

Epistle

Romans 7:15–25a

Pew Bible p 918

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Praise the Lord”

Gena Callan with Laural Callan

by Brown Bannister & Mike Hudson

Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Pew Bible p 792

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

“Softy and Tenderly”

W&R #348

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the church ... Enlighten us through the truth of your Word—hidden from the wise, revealed to infants—so that we may know and seek your gracious will. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Look with love upon your whole creation: let the winter of destruction be past; let the springtime of healing begin. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Gather all peoples at the oasis of your peace; help us to remember our common heritage and pledge ourselves in love to one another. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Send us out into the streets and markets to be good news to our neighbors and invite them to eat and drink with Christ and with us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Give rest to those who are weary and weighed down by heavy burdens. Hold them in your gentle hand. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God, confident that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God, that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Responding to God's Work

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Mike

The Holy One gives gifts beyond measure or compare. The Holy One gives with abundance and generosity. The Holy has provided for every need and invites us to ensure equitable, faithful, and mutual sharing so that no one needs to experience a lack of resources. Let us give from the well of abundance to honor God's faithfulness and to demonstrate trust in God's provision.

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

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in mutual measure so that all needs are met.

Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. Amen.

Gathering at God's Table

Welcome to the Table of the Lord. In this church all persons who are open to the Holy Spirit, who seek to grow in Christian love, and who choose to serve in the name of Jesus are welcome to participate. Our bread is gluten-free; our cup is grape juice.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Mike

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer & Words of Institution

Pastor Mike

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: In the covenant of your steadfast love for your people, you draw us into new and loving relationships, with you, and with one another. Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Jesus invites us to come and find rest for our souls. With gentleness and humility, he calls us to take up his yoke and learn from him.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Rescue us, O Lord, from the wretched body of death, and give us a place in the glorious body of Christ, whose law is love, whose word is life. Through Jesus Christ, 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

Distribution

We receive Holy Communion by intinction. As you come forward at the instruction of a deacon, receive the bread from the pastor. Continue to the deacon on the side you are seated and dip the bread in the cup. If you consume the bread before you dip, please ask the pastor for another.

Return to your seat via the side aisles. If you would like to partake of Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, let the deacon know and the bread and cup will be brought to you.

Communion Music "Panis Angelicus" by César Franck Gena Callan

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Mike

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our Parent, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

“I Want Jesus to Go with Me”

NCH #490

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

As you go: celebrate liberty and pursue justice, pray for the land on which you are planted and open space for neighbors seeking a home, remember the challenges and blessings of the past, work for the promise and hope of the future; knowing that the God of the Covenant lives, reigns, and abides with us as the journey continues. Go in peace and go for peace to love and to serve; in the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Extroit “America the Beautiful” *by K. Bates & S. Ward* Gena Callan

*Dismissal

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 to our pastor, Mike; thank you to Gretchen Patterson for reading and to our musicians, Gena Callan, Loral Callan and Mary Jane Wirsing.

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

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