

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



Parable of the Sower, by Bertram Poole

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 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 who gathers us together, we delight to be in community with you and one another. Let your word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst into songs that reflect the depths of our spirits. May our prayers be formed in your name and granted by your wisdom. May we know you, Divine Mystery, and ourselves better and deeper because we have entered your presence as a community of faithful, questioning, and hope-seeking participants in your kin-dom.

Amen

Introit

Jen O'Rourke Lavoie

Call to Worship

Char Kennedy

Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

The Faithful One holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the Holy One!

Worship is due to the Holy One, whose revelation illuminates our path.

The Just God is righteous. Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfies the prayers spoken and unspoken.

The Sovereign God answers prayer. Happy are we who love the Holy One!

*Gathering Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

NCH #436

Prayer of Confession

Char Kennedy

Holy One, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away.

Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence.

Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we companion with siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new.

Remove the misleading veil that disguises sufficiency with scarcity.

Sustain us with being satisfied with enough and abundance materially while continuing to thirst for righteousness so that all may be well.

In you, we hope and believe. 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, rest in the assurance of Psalm 65:5, “By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.” The Holy One receives and responds to our prayers and offers the promise of renewed life and the power of community in the kin-dom of God.

Through Christ, we participate as witnesses, agents, and recipients of transformation for the glory of God and by the grace of God. Amen.

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

Char Kennedy

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 25:19–34

Pew Bible p 19

Psalms

Psalms 119:105–112 (CEB)

Read by All

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.

I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules.

I have been suffering so much—

Lord, make me live again according to your promise.

Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise.

Teach me your rules!

Though my life is constantly in danger,

I won't forget your Instruction.

Though the wicked have set a trap for me,

I won't stray from your precepts.

Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy.

I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

Epistle

Romans 8:1–11

Pew Bible p 918-919

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Jen O'Rourke Lavoie

Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Pew Bible p 794

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Sow You Want to Be a Sower”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“Thy Word”

W&R #664

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... Give new life to your church, Christ's body; let your Spirit of life and love abide in us, so that the world will know who you are through us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Let your will be done in all creation, so that the mountains and hills may sing with joy and the trees of the fields clap their hands. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Where nations and neighbors are at war and siblings struggle with one another, renew our birthright, our common kinship in you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Let us be extravagant with your grace, casting our witness to the gospel far and wide, trusting that you will bring forth good fruit. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Give light to those who dwell in darkness; give life to those who are afflicted. Hold them close, and deliver them from trouble. 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, 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

When we share our material resources, we proclaim our trust in God's provision, abundance, and community. Let us give in order to support the ministry of this church in hope and faith.

Offertory

Jen O'Rourke Lavoie

*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, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kin-dom. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

NCH #446

*Benediction

May you drink from the wells of God's abundance: nourished by the grace of God, sustained by the truth of God, hydrated by the promise of God. As you go, spread the good news and good gifts the Holy One bestows upon all; in the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit

Jen O'Rourke Lavoie

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 Char Kennedy for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing; and Jen O'Rourke Lavoie

Announcements

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 and refreshments every Sunday following worship. The Board of Trustees will host in July.

Summer Music Schedule

July 12th Jen O'Rourke Lavoie **July 19th** Karen McFeeters
July 26th Phil Reynolds **Aug. 2nd** Sam Rosenbaum
Aug. 16th Champlain Voices

Welcome Mission Project assists unhoused families in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties moving into residences. **Week of July 5th we are asking for donations of laundry detergent** (*unscented & sensitive skin*). Leave on back shelf.



The Food shelf needs personal items such as: Razors, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Toilet Paper, & Dish Soap and Paper Towels.

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

P.O. Box 99 24 South Street South Hero VT 05486

Pastor Mike cell: **801**-209-6880 Email: mike@galica.us **In office Monday–Thursday**
Pastor Mike's office hours for the week are posted outside his office.

Email: ccshvt@gmail.com Office: 802-372-4962 Web: www.sherochurch.org

Office Hours: Monday–Friday



Family Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, August 9th, 2026 - Beginning at 9:30am

Theme: The Fabric of Forgiveness

A One-Day Family Adventure Through the Life of Joseph

This is an all-ages event.

Whether you're 2 or 92, there is a place for you in the story!

Join us for an epic journey from the Pit to the Palace! We are diving into the incredible life of Joseph (Genesis 37, 39–45) to discover how God takes the "tangled threads" of our lives—betrayal, hardship, and unfairness—and weaves them into a beautiful masterpiece of grace.

Powerful Worship: *Sing along to songs of hope and restoration.*

Inspiring Lessons: *Learn how Joseph's choice to forgive changed history.*

Minute to Win It Games: *Test your skills in the "Escape the Pit" & "Grain for the Family" challenges!*

****Community Craft:** *Help us weave a "Tapestry of Grace".*

****For the community art project "Tapestry of Grace"** we will begin collecting strips of fabrics (of all kinds), ribbon, yarn, rope, edging and anything that will weave nicely. We recommend 1"- 3" widths / any length at least 6." (The final piece will be approximately 3ft by 2.5ft) There will be a collection box in the narthex.

CHURCH COOKOUT



Family Feast: We'll share a pot-luck style BBQ together.

Burgers (beef & veggie), hot dogs and pulled pork will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

If you have any questions - Kaight Althoff is our event food coordinator!