

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



8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 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

Holy Love, God of Sarah and Rebekah, we come before you knowing you go before us and you keep us in safety. We come to this place in space and time across distance and difference as your offspring to receive an inheritance of your promise and to renew our lives in your covenant. Let our spirits receive your word and our hearts ignite with your compassion, mercy, and righteousness. Let your kin-dom spread in us and through us as we worship and follow you.

Amen

Introit “Ode to God” *traditional melody, lyrics by Karen* Karen McFeeters

Call to Worship

Susan Davis

The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?

The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.

The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!

Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there!

The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.

The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

***Gathering Hymn “Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling”**

NCH#67 v.1–4

Prayer of Confession

Susan Davis

Righteous God, test us and stretch us, strengthen us in your truth and justice, fortify us with resolve and power so that we might be the people you have called us to be.

Holy One, even beyond forgiveness, we seek transformation.

Renew our minds, open our hearts, and release our hands to repair, reconcile, and restore in your name.

Keep us from being the cause of suffering. Equip us to be agents of healing.

Make us attentive to your presence. Attune us to your will.

Lead us on the path you have paved before us so that the grace we receive will sow seeds of redemption and healing in the world. 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

Offspring of the Divine, live in your power and purpose as beneficiaries of the new covenant and conspirators of God’s liberating work and impact in the world. Receive God’s forgiveness and move beyond shame and judgment to new life and right relationships with the Holy One and neighbor.

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
Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Mike
Susan Davis

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 28:10–19a

Pew Bible p 22

Psalm

Psalm 139:1–12,23–24 (CEB)

Read by All

**Lord, you have examined me. You know me.
You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
You study my traveling and resting.
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,
that you don't already know completely.
You surround me—front and back. You put your hand on me.
That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.**

**Where could I go to get away from your spirit?
Where could I go to escape your presence?
If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!
If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
even there your hand would guide me;
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;
the light will become night around me,"
even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!
Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!**

**Examine me, God! Look at my heart!
Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!
Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!**

Epistle

Romans 8:12–25

Pew Bible p 919

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Tide and the River Rising” *by Cindy Kallet*

Karen McFeeters

Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30,36–43

Pew Bible p 794

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Weeds, Wheat, and Waiting”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“For the Healing of the Nations”

NCH #576

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... Lead us more and more, by your Holy Spirit, to live as those you have chosen and claimed, beloved children and members of Christ’s body. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Help us to hear the groaning of creation, and let us join the cry of suffering, until you come to renew and restore all things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Gather up all the peoples of the earth in the harvest of righteousness and justice. Let the seeds of peace flourish in this world. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Let the working of your Spirit among us cause our neighbors to say with joy: surely the Lord is in this place! God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Show yourself to those who search for you, at the limits of longing or in deep despair. Lead them by your hand and hold them fast. 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

God's gifts are generous and abundant. Give in the spirit of sufficiency and trust that God has provided for all of our needs. Our gifts enable us to share abundance so that all may feast and rejoice in God's creation.

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**

**Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision.
Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be
caretakers of the resources entrusted to us. Amen.**

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

NCH #43

*Benediction

In God, promises are not contained; they overflow. Therefore, as you go from this time of communal worship, return as participants in the communal witness: to spread the overwhelming love of God, to spread the overarching peace of God, and to spread the overcoming hope of God; like good seeds, sowing and planting a future that will shine like the sun in the kin-dom of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit “There’s a Light” by Beth Nielsen Chapman

Karen McFeeters

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 Susan Davis for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing and special guest Karen McFeeters

Summer Music Schedule

July 26th Phil Reynolds

Aug. 2nd Sam Rosenbaum

Aug. 16th Champlain Voices

Aug. 23rd Sam Rosenbaum

Karen McFeeters is a lifelong singer who at age 30 discovered she could write songs. She has released four albums of original contemporary folk music and has performed in venues throughout the state. In 2014, while working as a speech-language pathologist at the UVM Medical Center, she founded the Aphasia Choir of Vermont, a group of stroke and traumatic brain injury survivors who can sing despite having significant difficulty speaking or being nonverbal. In 2019, Karen completed a training program to become a Certified Music Practitioner through the Music for Healing and Transition program. Sponsored by Age Well, she leads weekly singing groups for people with memory loss and their caregivers. Karen has been providing special summertime music at the Congregational Church of South Hero for nearly 25 years.



Please join us for coffee and refreshments every Sunday following worship. The Board of Trustees will host in July.

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

Announcements

Family Vacation Bible Camp for all ages Sunday, August 9th, 2026 - Beginning at 9:30am

A One-Day Family Adventure Through the Life of Joseph

Theme: The Fabric of Forgiveness

For the community art project "Tapestry of Grace" we are collecting **strips of fabrics (of all kinds), ribbon, yarn, rope, edging and anything that will weave nicely. 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.



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!



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

Check out the updates to our website. Thanks Mike!

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

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