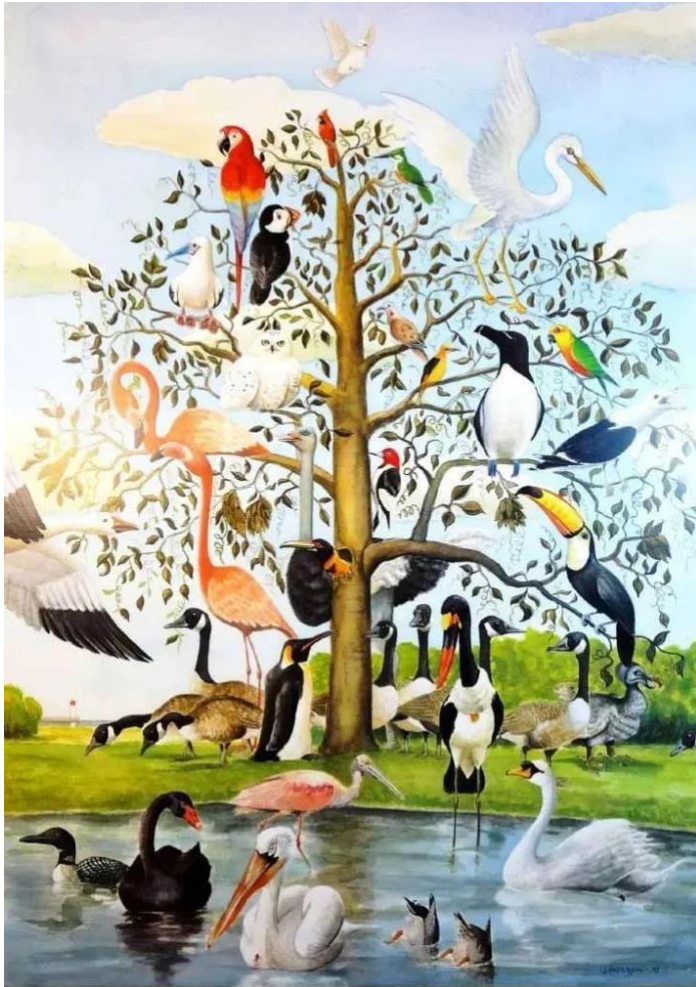


The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



The Mustard Seed Tree by James Paterson

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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

Gracious God, you have made yourself known among us. When we seek you, we find you. You surround us with love and righteousness. Your presence strengthens and upholds us. While we gather together, let us be mindful that your wisdom speaks, your power fuels, and your heart fills us. Grant us discernment. Let us be faithful. May you be glorified.

Amen

Introit

“Water Song” *by Jorma Kaukonen*

Phil & friends

Call to Worship

Diane Monti-Catania

Give thanks to the Holy One. Make God’s deeds known among the peoples.

We call upon the name of the Holy One!

Give thanks to the Holy One. Tell of all God’s wonderful works!

We sing praises and remember the wonderful works, miracles, and judgements!

Give thanks to the Holy One. Glory in God’s holy name!

We seek the Holy One, and our hearts rejoice! Praise the Holy One!

*Gathering Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

W&R #51

Prayer of Confession

Diane Monti-Catania

Glorious God, may your face shine upon us. Teach us your ways so that we may live in peace, justice, and righteousness. Keep our way steady and directed toward you. Remove the hold of oppression and evil from among your people. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might reflect your goodness and love 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

Servants of God, the Holy One radiates grace and mercy. By the power of Love and Spirit, receive the opportunity to redeem and repair every mistake, every passive participation, every deliberate action that has caused harm. Receive God’s forgiveness; be released from shame and released to make things right. Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

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

Diane Monti-Catania

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 29:15–28

Pew Bible p 22

Psalm

Psalm 105:1–10,45b (CEB)

Read by All

**Give thanks to the LORD; call upon God's name;
make God's deeds known to all people!**

**Sing to God; sing praises to the LORD;
dwell on all God's wondrous works!**

Give praise to God's holy name!

Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the LORD!

Pursue the LORD and God's strength; seek God's face always!

**Remember the wondrous works God has done,
all God's marvelous works, and the justice God declared—
you who are the offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
and the children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

The LORD—The LORD is our God.

God's justice is everywhere throughout the whole world.

**God remembers God's covenant forever,
the word God commanded to a thousand generations,
which God made with Abraham,
the solemn pledge God swore to Isaac.**

**God set it up as binding law for Jacob,
as an eternal covenant for Israel.**

Praise the LORD!

Epistle

Romans 8:26–39

Pew Bible p 919-920

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Give Me Love” *by George Harrison*

Phil & friends

Gospel

Matthew 13:31–33,44–52

Pew Bible p 795

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“A Harvest of Just Redemption”

Pastor Mike

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... As nothing can separate us from your love, let nothing stand between us and our calling to share the love of Christ with others. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Give us a greater respect for smaller things—the tiny seed, small creature, or subtle event that plays a vital part in your good creation. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Grant our leaders wise and discerning minds, so that they may live in faithfulness, and govern with righteousness and justice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Help us to deal honestly with one another, keeping faith and honoring commitments in public life and in personal affairs. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Remember those in peril, hardship or distress. Show them that nothing in life or in death can separate them from your love. 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

We are privileged to participate in the construction of the kin-dom of God.

Through our gifts, we follow the model of God's generosity, we express our hope for a better future, and we tangibly love our neighbor.

Let us give with joy and expectation that our gifts are met with God's magnifying power.

Offertory music "Nobody Knows" (When You're Down and Out) *by Jimmy Cox*
Phil & Friends

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 be sufficient to meet the needs before. May we be good stewards of your resources, and may we be moved to live the generous life more deeply and completely in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

W&R #502

*Benediction

As you go, carry the kin-dom of God with you: like mustard seeds ready to be planted along your journey; like the greatest treasure that may be shared without limit; like a net of love cast widely and deeply. Go, in peace and hope for the glory of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit

“Why Can't We Be Friends”

Phil & friends

by the band War (T., Allen, L. Jordan, C. Miller, Jo. Goldstein, M. Dickerson, J. Brown, H. Scott, L. Oskar)

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 Diane Monti-Catania for reading and to our musicians, Cathy Rude, Phil Reynolds, Mike Galica, Mike Domenic, Carl Frenning and Barbara Brown.



Summer music schedule :

July 26th Phil & friends

Aug 2nd & Aug 23rd Sam Rosenbaum

August 16th Champlain Voices

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 9AM–3PM

Announcements



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



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

Family Vacation Bible Adventure for all ages

A One-Day Family Adventure Study 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."** There is a collection box in the narthex.



Following the activities Christian Ed will provide burgers (beef & veggie), hot dogs and pulled pork. **Please bring a side dish to share.** If you have any questions - Kaight Althoff is our food coordinator!



"Accessible for All" Church Reinforcing that everyone has a place in our church, the Trustees are moving forward with plans for a church elevator. Accessibility demonstrates care, dignity, and hospitality. Stay tuned for updates.



To ease the struggles of many Island families, the Board of Missions is working with area schools to determine the school supply needs for children returning in the fall. We will have lists shortly and ask that you consider helping as you are able.