

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



10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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

Sam Rosenbaum

Ring the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Gathered as One

Invocation

Pastor Mike

Faithful and persistent God, we turn to you with who we are, with what we have, and with all we hope. We call upon you because you care and are attentive to our cries of concern and shouts of joy. We come to pray, sing, and wrestle with you, O God. We also come to receive clarity and discernment, to receive and give testimony of your persistent love, and to receive and affirm the beauty of your path. Hold us securely by your Spirit and never let us go.

Amen

Introit “Cello Suite No.3 , IV: Sarabande” *by J.S. Bach* Sam Rosenbaum

Call to Worship

Mark Kennedy

The Holy One wondrously demonstrates steadfast love. Seek refuge at God’s right hand.

Let God’s love meet us and flow through us.

The Holy One attentively hears the just cause. Seek justice and righteousness for God’s name’s sake.

Let us be steady and vigilant for the kin-dom of God.

The Holy One faithfully vindicates our lives. Seek the path God paves for us.

Let us worship, honor and praise the God who delivers, redeems, and restores. Praise the Holy One!

Prayer of Confession

Mark Kennedy

Holy One, we strive to be your people and reflect your goodness in the world.

Yet, the way of wickedness is not far from us, and we have not passed every test.

Fortify us in your word and drench us with your compassion so that we may find the courage to repent and repair.

Help us acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused.

Empower us to make things right with our neighbors and with ourselves.

Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of reconciliation and restoration in our families, communities, and 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

Blessed of God, receive God’s transformative and liberating grace. Be made new in Christ and make a new way in mending broken relationships and forging new ones. Let the love of God be your guide and assurance that the One who is gracious and merciful, is good to all, and abundant in compassion has planted those seeds in you, upholds all who fall and remains near to you.

Our Celebration

“Jesus Loves Me”

W&R #437 v.1

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!

Little ones to him belong: they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Proclaiming God’s Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Mark Kennedy

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 32:22–31

Pew Bible p 26

Psalm

Psalm 17:1–7,15 (CEB)

Read by All

Listen to what’s right, LORD; pay attention to my cry!

Listen closely to my prayer; it’s spoken by lips that don’t lie!

My justice comes from you; let your eyes see what is right!

You have examined my heart, testing me at night.

You’ve looked me over closely, but haven’t found anything wrong.

My mouth doesn’t sin.

But these other people’s deeds?

I have avoided such violent ways by the command from your lips.

My steps are set firmly on your paths; my feet haven’t slipped.

I cry out to you because you answer me.

So tilt your ears toward me now—listen to what I’m saying!

Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways

**because you are the one who saves those who take refuge in you,
saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.**

But me? I will see your face in righteousness;

when I awake, I will be filled full by seeing your image.

Epistle

Romans 9:1–5

Pew Bible p 920

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Abide With Me/Nearer My God to Thee/I Need Thee Every Hour”

arr. Kevin Pace Sam Rosenbaum

Gospel

Matthew 14:13–21

Pew Bible p 796

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Wrestling Faithfully”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

NCH #321

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 ... Let the mission and ministry of your church be a sign of your miraculous grace, feeding the hungry in Christ's name. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... The eyes of all your creatures look to you, for you give them their food in due season. Open your hand, to touch and heal the earth. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Hear the voices of those who cry for justice; answer the prayers of those who struggle for peace. Let your reign of love prevail throughout the world. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Teach us to use the resources you have given us to respond to the hunger of our neighbors, sharing Christ with them, in word and in bread. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Show your compassion to those who suffer, uphold those who are falling, and be near to those who cry to you. 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 good and generous gifts so that creation radiates with abundance.

As we share in the blessings and gifts of God, let us give so that all will be filled and all needs will be met to the glory of God.

Offertory “Consolation No. 4” *by Franz Liszt*

Sam Rosenbaum

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

Creator, thank you for the opportunity to share in your abundant and renewing work. Use these gifts for the kin-dom. Sow wisdom and discernment as we support the ministry of this church 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: You have made an everlasting covenant with us, the promise of your faithfulness and steadfast love. Even when we struggle against you, you never let us go. Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: You sent Jesus to show the abundance of your love. With five loaves and two fish he fed a multitude; still he feeds us with the extravagance of his grace.

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. As you love and bless your chosen people, Israel, let your church be a sign of Christ's blessing and love, calling all people into your gracious covenant. 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

Sam Rosenbaum

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 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”**

NCH #347

***Benediction**

Pastor Mike

Hold fast to the persistent, abiding, and enduring love of God. May it surround and fill you with hope, courage, compassion, and strength to bless the world with the blessings you receive as a tangible testimony and demonstration that Love prevails; in the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Extroit “Georgia On My Mind”** *by Carmichael/Gorrell*

Sam Rosenbaum

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve God.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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 Mark Kennedy for reading and to our guest musician Sam Rosenbaum who played the service pieces as well as special music.

WELCOME to Sam Rosenbaum today. Sam is a rising junior at the University of Vermont, where he is studying biochemistry and music. This summer, he is playing piano for Between the Willow's production of *Falsettos* as well as working in his research lab at UVM. This is Sam's first summer playing at CCSH, and he is excited to meet everyone!