

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



Moses Being Lowered into the Nile by His Mother, Alexey Tyranox (1839-1842)

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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

Living God, you draw us from the waters that offer both life and death, nourishment and destruction, peace and power. We gather as your people to remember your timely and tangible works. We call upon your many names as we have known you to be Redeemer, Counselor, Shepherd, and Friend. We worship you for who you are, and we draw near to become who you have crafted us to be.

Amen

Introit “Prelude in F -Sharp Major” *by J.S. Bach*

Sam Rosenbaum

Call to Worship

Diane Monti-Catania

Blessed be the Holy One. If it had not been God on our side—
the people proclaim!

With God on our side, we find our help in the name of the Holy One!

Blessed be the Holy One, who draws us from aimlessness, despair,
and bitterness.

With God on our side, we find purpose, hope, and peace.

Blessed be the Holy One, who calls us to love one another—
neighbors, enemies, family and friends.

**With God on our side, we find compassion, grace, and mercy for one
another. Blessed be the Holy One!**

*Gathering Hymn

“O God Beyond All Praising”

W&R #64

Prayer of Confession

Diane Monti-Catania

Sovereign God, we often forget important truths and lessons the past offers us, devalue the relationships brought to us, and misuse the power given to us.

Help us to live in truth, with integrity, and for peace. May love and compassion guide us in all our actions and interactions. 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

Body of Christ, in the words of Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We receive the grace of God and the power of being in community to proceed in the newness of life as the One who loves us draws us from the threat of the depths into the hope of a blessed future. Amen.

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

Diane Monti-Catania

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Pew Bible p 43

Psalms

Psalms 124 (CEB)

Read by All

If the Lord hadn’t been for us—let Israel now repeat!—

**if the Lord hadn’t been for us, when those people attacked us
then they would have swallowed us up whole
with their rage burning against us!**

**Then the waters would have drowned us;
the torrent would have come over our necks;
then the raging waters would have come over our necks!**

**Bless the Lord because he didn't hand us over
like food for our enemies' teeth!
We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap;
the trap was broken so we escaped!
Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Epistle

Romans 12:1–8

Pew Bible p 922

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Bridge Over Troubled Water” *by Paul Simon* Sam Rosenbaum

Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

Pew Bible p 798

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Drawn Out of the World”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“The Church's One Foundation”

NCH #386

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the
Creator of heaven and earth. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the church... Make us one body in Christ,
many as we are, and empower us by the gifts of your Spirit to live in faith
and seek your will in the world. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth... Do not let the rising waters
overwhelm us. Help us to escape from the trap we have made, and to seek
the healing of your creation. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations... Let the leaders of the nations
learn from you to have regard for the poor and lowly and to deliver them
from their trouble. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community... Give rest to those whose work seems endless. Hear the cries of those who are oppressed, who endure harsh treatment and hard labor. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones... Protect children who are in jeopardy; encourage those who struggle against evil; sustain those whose work is to care for others. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the good news we witness, to the glory of the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ 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 resources in community, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God's provision and in our collective discernment.

**When we give, we replicate the Holy One's generosity and creativity.
When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings Creator has
bestowed upon us.**

Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope for the kin-dom of God.

Offertory "Over the Rainbow" by Harburg/Arien

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**

Wonderful God, sanctify these gifts for your glory, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kin-dom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

Sent Forth in God's Name

***Sending Hymn**

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

W&R #466

***Benediction**

With keys to the kin-dom, given by the Creator of all, draw from the water of salvation and redemption. Live in the purpose and promise of God. Proclaim the power of heaven on earth. Be the body of Christ wherever you go, and know that Holy one goes before you; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” by J.S. Bach Sam Rosenbaum

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 guest musician Sam Rosenbaum

WELCOME back to Sam Rosenbaum today. This is Sam's first summer and second Sunday playing at CCSH. We're pleased to have him here. Sam is a 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. Thanks for joining us Sam.

Announcements



Interested in joining CCSH?

Aug. 30th New Member Orientation. *See Pastor Mike for details.*

Sunday Sept. 27th New Member Sunday



Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments and wish Margo safe travels as she leaves for NC and a new chapter in her life.

The bulletin for each week is now on our webpage www.sherochurch.org

You can stream Sunday Worship live. <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive>



<https://www.champlainislandsfoodshelf.org/home>

Our donations help others provide for their families.

Wally's Basket & Little Pantry –after school snacks, breakfast

Always needed: • toilet paper • paper towels • Personal items (shaving items, tampons) • toothpaste •shampoo



Aug. 30th Rob Althoff

Sept. 6th 'Duets' (Mary Jane Wirsing, Aleks Lee, Cathy Rude)

Sept 13th Jericho Road Crew

Sept 20th Choir returns



Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. CCSH has been recognized for donating \$1400.00 this year to their Blankets and Tools programs. CROP Walk is another CWS program that we support. Our next walk is October 4th .



Need a nametag ? Leave your name by the nametag basket in fellowship hall.



Elevator Fund

This QR code links to the church's donation page where you will have the opportunity to donate to the elevator fund.



When you select donate, you'll go to another page where you will see a percentage fee that Zeffy suggests.

It's automatically set for 17%, "tip" which goes to Zeffy, not CCSH.

You can change that with the drop down menu to other, and **set the amount, or choose no amount as a tip.**

If you are planning on a large donation, it's best to drop a check in the mail (PO Box 99, South Hero, VT 05486) or come to the office. *If it is easier, no matter the size of your donation, you can also mail or deliver it.*

Make sure your check memo says: **Elevator fund.** *Thank you!*

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

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