

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



14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 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

Sovereign God, we delight in your presence. Your words bring joy, peace, and strength. You fill us with your Spirit and shape us in truth. Take us beyond the wilderness of our current condition. Remind us of who you are and who we are in you. Receive our praise, our curiosity, our doubts, our fears. With thanksgiving, we come to you just as we are. In hope, we bring our dreams for a better world and better lives. In awe, we recount what you have already done. In faith, we invite you to equip us as your partners in your kin-dom. Set a fire for your way and your will within us as we minister in your name.

Amen

Introit “Your Grace is Enough” by Chris Tomlin

Rob Althoff

Call to Worship

Linda Lake

O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes God’s name known.

We glory in God’s holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!

O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.

O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.

Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!

*Gathering Hymn

NCH #6, v.1–4

“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”

Prayer of Confession

Linda Lake

Redeemer and Guide, we travel with you because you never leave us. Yet, sometimes we drift from the path of life you give us.

Rather than holding fast to what is good, we compromise with evil. Rather than persevering in prayer, we dwell in anger, rage, and conspiracies. Rather than sharing our blessings and pursuing hospitality, we hoard the resources you have given us to share.

Help us to live in love and harmony with one another. Empower us to pursue peace for all.

Let us overcome and overwhelm evil with good, compassion, and hope in your name. 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, wherever we go becomes holy ground because the Holy One goes with us. Be firm in hope that the God who met Moses through a burning bush will meet us wherever we may seek strength, encouragement, and the will to live in righteousness, justice, and peace.

By the grace of the Holy One, all these things are possible in us and through us. 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 Backpack Blessings

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Linda Lake

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 3:1–15

Pew Bible p 44

Psalms

Psalms 105:1–6,23–26,45b (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.

That's how Israel came to Egypt,

how Jacob became an immigrant in the land of Ham.

God made God's people very fruitful,

more powerful than their enemies,

whose hearts God changed so they hated God's people

and dealt shrewdly with God's servants.

God sent Moses God's servant and the one God chose, Aaron.

Praise the LORD!

Epistle

Romans 12:9–21

Pew Bible p922-923

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “To Love Somebody” *by The Bee Gees*

Rob Althoff

Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

Pew Bible p 798

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

NCH #539 v.1,2,4,6

“Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant”

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... Let your church be a temple of forgiveness and a sanctuary for all who are in trouble. Be near to us when we gather in Christ's name. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth... Act with compassion to bring to an end the bitter plagues that are destroying us: wash away the stain of pollution in the land. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations... Bring down oppressive powers and regimes; strengthen leaders who work for justice and peace; defend all exiles, refugees, and victims of war. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community... Show us how to love one another and live in peace. Keep our neighborhoods and streets free of violence; protect our families and homes from all harm. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones... By your saving, healing, liberating grace, help those who are weak and suffering; give life to those who turn to you in need. 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

As a spiritual discipline, generosity demonstrates our commitment to the kingdom of God in a tangible way.

When we share our resources, we proclaim our trust in God's abundant provision, our concern for the condition of our neighbors, and our responsibility for the maintenance and care of our community.

Let us give generously to the good work of God's church.

Offertory "As the Deer" *by Marty Nystrom*

Rob Althorr

*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, we present these offerings to you in hope and love. May they be a gift in our community and the world. May they spread hope and love. May they witness to your abundant and generous creation. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

NCH# 198, v. 1,2,5

***Benediction**

Left in Blue; Right in Red

Trust in God in the wilderness.

Hope in God through the wilderness.

Follow God beyond the wilderness.

With the assurance that God makes the ground holy,

Hears the cries of the people,

And comes near to the suffering,

Join the work of deliverance,

Believe in the possibility of a just world

And work toward its realization.

In the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit “Let it Be” *by Lennon & McCartney*

Rob Althoff

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 Linda Lake for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing and Rob Althoff.

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



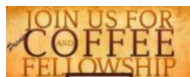
Interested in joining CCSH?

Today New Member Orientation following worship.

Sunday Sept. 27th New Member Sunday

Today is also registration for Sunday School and Nursery.

See Carrie, Michelle or Marguerite.



Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments. Today Christian Ed has hired an ice cream truck to kick off our Sunday School year.

*Ice cream is for **EVERYONE!** Thank you Christian Ed.!*

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

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

We're working on the live stream glitches – worship is recorded and can be found on our webpage after worship.

Guest Musicians

Aug. 30th Rob Althoff **Sept. 6th** 'Duets' (Mary Jane Wirsing, Aleks Lee, Cathy Rude)

Sept 13th Jericho Road Crew **Sept 30th** Choir returns



Better accessibility is advancing. The anticipated elevator will be installed. More information in September about our plans.

Want to donate now? QR code in E News and on bulletin board

If you prefer...Mail/ place in Sunday offering/drop off in the office. Simply memo your donation as elevator fund.



Thank you!

Your many donations of school backpacks, trapper keepers, binders, notebooks, pens & pencils were delivered to the Alburch school. The families, staff and teachers were overwhelmed. The classroom snacks, too, were a big hit with the teachers – who exclaimed all evening about *Trapper Keepers?!!!*