

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



Canonite Woman, Tres Riches Heures; Duc de Berry, circa 1410

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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 and Healing God, in your presence, we find the fullness of joy, love, and life. Expand our vision and write a new way forward upon our hearts. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We need your comfort and conviction. We trust your provision and power. As we come near to you, we affirm your goodness and the goodness within us. Receive our presence and our dreams of the world you help us make possible.

Amen

Introit

Call to Worship

Char Kennedy

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

We gather together to worship the Holy One in unity!

How very good and powerful it is when we commit to the kin-dom of God!

We gather together to discern God's will and declare God's reign!

How very good and hopeful it is when we reconcile and repair our brokenness and bless one another!

We gather together to love and to serve! Praise the Holy One!

*Gathering Hymn

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

NCH #293

Prayer of Confession

Char Kennedy

God of abundance, forgive us for living as if scarcity is an unavoidable reality.

Forgive us for allowing siblings in our neighborhoods, communities, and world to live in poverty as an unending condition.

Forgive us for not trusting in your abundance, and propel us to defy the temptation to adopt a scarcity mindset due to challenging economic conditions.

Empower us to participate in mutual sharing of resources, as well as to demand and create equitable systems that eliminate poverty for all your creation. 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, Creator has crafted a world full of all we need. Embrace abundance as an act of faith and trust in the God who provides, who redeems, and who repairs. The kin-dom will come as we insist upon it, and the Holy One meets us in our commitments.

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

Char Kennedy

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 56:1,6–8

Pew Bible p 599

Psalm

Psalm 133 (CEB)

Read by All

Look at how good and pleasing it is

when families live together as one!

**It is like expensive oil poured over the head,
running down onto the beard—Aaron’s beard!—
which extended over the collar of his robes.**

**It is like the dew on Mount Hermon
streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,
because it is there that the Lord has commanded the blessing:
everlasting life.**

Epistle

Romans 11:1–2a,29–32 Pew Bible p 921-922

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Guide My Feet”, *arr. Hal Hopson*

Champlain Voices

African American Spiritual

Gospel

Matthew 15:10–28

Pew Bible p 797

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Ins and Outs”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NCH #391

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... Continue to show mercy to us, by your
Spirit, so that we may show your mercy to others. Keep us faithful in our
calling by your gift of grace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Be gracious, O God, and bless the earth; let your face shine upon your creation so that it may yield the harvest of peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Let all the peoples praise you, O God, for your desire is justice throughout the world and equity for all the people you have made. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Help us to listen to the voices of strangers, honoring the wisdom and faith they bring and sharing your gifts of healing and bread. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Deliver those who are tormented by evil; embrace those who are outcast or despised; reunite those who have been estranged. 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

Knowing that every good and perfect gift has the Holy One as its original source, let us share the blessings that God has trusted with us. Give generously and lovingly in the name of the Holy One.

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, receive these gifts as a deposit into the kingdom and an act of trust and gratitude. May these offerings provide for the needs of our neighbors and enable this faith community to offer ministry in your name and your honor. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

NCH #76

*Benediction

As you go with the assurance that God goes with you, invite others near to share the blessings of God, through abundance, reconciliation, and hope; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit “This Little Light of Mine” *arr. John Leavitt* Champlain Voices

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 Char Kennedy for reading and to Mary Jane Wirsing, organist and guest musicians Champlain Voices (Gina Fearn, Todd Fearn, Linda Libby, Carl Frenning)

Announcements



Interested in joining CCSH?

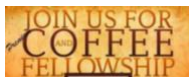
Aug. 30th New Member Orientation. *See Pastor Mike for details.*

Sunday Sept. 27th New Member Sunday



Thank you to Christian Ed -Family Vacation Bible Camp last Sunday was FUN! Your activities, along with the Worship Service, united us across the ages.

Continue weaving the wall hanging- materials and frame are in fellowship hall.



*Join us Sunday after worship for coffee and refreshments.
Christian Ed is responsible for August.*

The bulletin for each week is now on our webpage www.sherochurch.org
You can stream Sunday Worship live. <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive>



A request from the GISU School Support Specialist:
snacks (individually wrapped, NO NUTS) for the teachers to have in their classrooms. These snacks can be dropped off in fellowship hall. Kaight and Margaret, as representatives of CCSH Missions, have been invited to attend the Back-to School Event at the Alburgh Community Education Center on August 24th.



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

The food shelf is averaging over 60 families each week. Our donations help others provide for their families.

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

Following up on last week's letter from the Board of Trustees...



Installing an elevator strengthens the sense of belonging, ensuring that long-time members remain active and that new visitors feel welcomed, reinforcing that everyone has a place in our church community.



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".

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.**



Copies of the letter are in Fellowship hall, as well as posted to the bulletin boards.