

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



11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

9:30 AM Vacation Bible School

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

Our worship service today will be a little bit different from the usual, because today is Vacation Bible School day! Expect maybe some unfamiliar music and not quite our regular way of doing things, which will resume next week. Stick around after church for games, crafts, fun, and food!

Gathered as One

Invocation

Pastor Mike

Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us. You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us. You come to us and go before us. We come to you now. We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer. Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your kin-dom comes in us and through us for your glory. Amen.

Amen

Introit

“Allelu”

Pastor Mike

Call to Worship

Michelle Galica

O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice

Rejoice in the God's redemptive power.

Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom

Remember God's wondrous works. Praise the Holy One!

***Gathering Song**

“I’ve Got the Joy”

George William Cooke

**I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
Down in my heart, down in my heart,
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.**

Chorus

**And I’m so happy, so very happy.
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.
And I’m so happy, so very happy.
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart**

**I’ve got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart
Down in my heart, down in my heart,
I’ve got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay.**

Chorus

**I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart
Down in my heart, down in my heart,
I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.**

Chorus

**I’ve got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer
way down in the depths of my heart
Down in the depths of my heart, down in depths of my heart,
I’ve got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer
way down in the depths of my heart
Down in the depths of my heart to stay.**

Chorus

Prayer of Confession

Michelle Galica

Gracious God, like Jacob we struggle when faced with hard things.

We avoid them instead of admitting and fixing the wrongs we have done and continue to do.

Like Joseph, we don’t notice how what we do affects others,

We forget that what we do makes life better or worse for those around us.

Like the jealous siblings, we try to find our own way and make our own schemes instead of trusting in your love that knows no favorites and embraces us all.

Help us to change our thinking and doing toward responsibility, welcome, and love. 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

Heirs of the kin-dom, know that the Holy One's love knows no bounds. Know that God will be with you when life's struggles overwhelm you. God is with us on the journey, helping us to carry the burdens and reducing the load. Be made new in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Michelle Galica

Hebrew Scripture Genesis 37:1–4,12–28; 45:1–15

Pew Bible p 30

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Forgiveness and Reconciliation”

Pastor Mike

***Sermon Song**

“This Little Light of Mine”

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

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

The Holy One provides many free gifts so that all will be well and whole. God invites and empowers us to join in providing for one another. There is enough for all. Let us join in the Creator's generosity to share the gifts we have.

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**

**Giver of perfect gifts, grow these offerings and our hearts so that
they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with the joy of giving and help
us know the good that our generosity lends to the world in your Holy
and Precious Name. Amen.**

Sent Forth in God's Name

***Sending Hymn**

"I Saw the Light"

Hank Williams

**I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

Chorus

**I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

**Just like a stranger I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like a lost soul that God met in his plight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

Chorus

**I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

***Benediction**

May the God who loves you give you the strength and compassion to love our neighbors: to protect the vulnerable, marginalized, and threatened; to make space for the stranger; to embrace our siblings. Go, in peace, to redeem the pain of the world, through ordinary and extraordinary acts of love and hope; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the wind and rain in His hands

He's got the wind and rain in His hands

He's got the wind and rain in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got everybody here, in his hands

He's got everybody here, in his hands

He's got everybody here, in his hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

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 Michelle Galica for reading; to musicians Cathy Rude and Cathy Draper; to the Board of Christian Ed. (Carrie Bryan, Michelle Galica, Marguerite Althoff) for planning and organizing today.

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

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Pastor Mike’s office hours for the week are posted outside his office.

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9AM–3PM

Announcements



Following Worship, join us each Sunday for refreshments and coffee. Today is a little different than other Sundays, but there will be fresh coffee. Stay for the cookout after the activities.

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.

We're curious – do you stream or watch the video of Sunday worship when you are away from the Islands? Send us an email with your response. ccshvt@gmail.com



Summer Music

August 15th Champlain Voices **Aug 23rd** Sam Rosenbaum

Aug. 30th OPEN

Sept. 6th OPEN

Sept 13th Jericho Road Crew



School starts the last week of August. Our contact in the school district has sent us a wish list for supplies.

20 backpacks 20 Trapper Keepers

Folders to go in the Trapper Keepers Composition notebooks

Pencils Markers Color pencils Gel pens or similar (fun pens)

Leave in marked bin in fellowship hall by August 16th.



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

The food shelf is averaging over 60 families each week. Add a few items to your grocery cart when you shop for your family. Our donations help others provide for their families.



The U.C.C. reminds us all to vote.

Tuesday August 11th.

Check with your town for polling places.

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