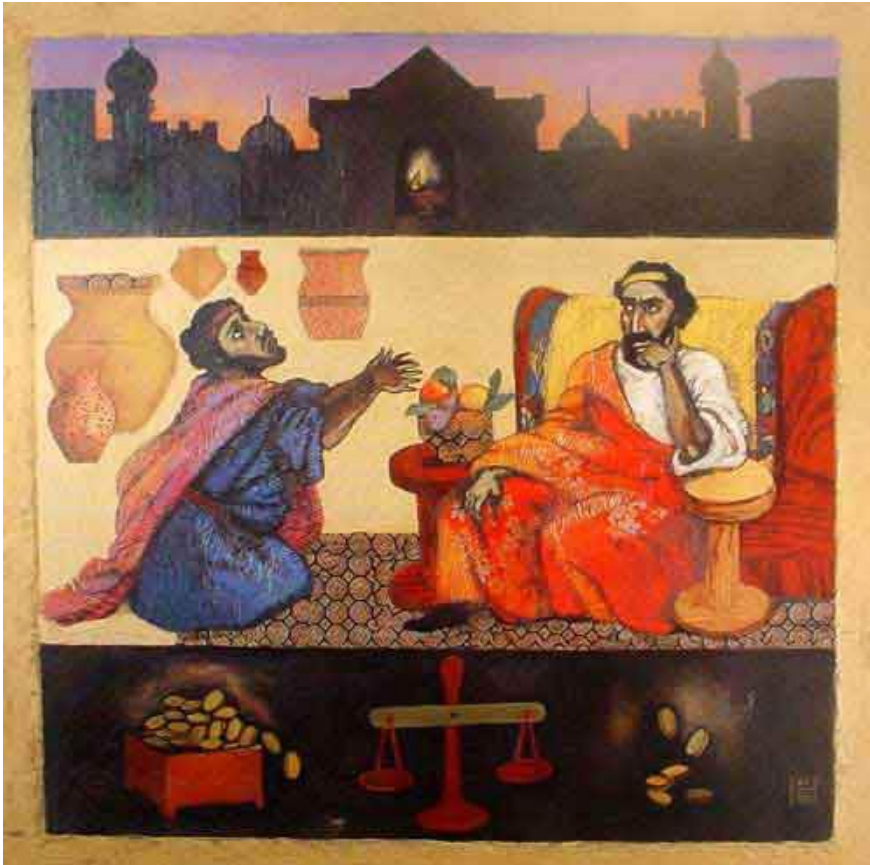


The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



"The Unforgiving Servant" by Kazakhstan artist, Nelly Bube

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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

God of Heaven and Earth, we bask in your presence. We thank you for being our Companion and Counselor. Receive our praise, thanksgiving, worship, and petitions. You are the object and center of our worship so we fix our attention on you. We remember your awesome acts. We worship you for who you are.

Amen

Introit

Jericho Road Crew

Call to Worship

Diane Monti-Catania

Bless the Holy One! Bless God's holy name!

Bless God our Healer, Redeemer, and Friend.

Bless the Holy One! Remember the works of God.

Bless the God who saves us, loves us, and forgives us.

Bless the Holy One! Bless the God of life and justice!

Bless the One whose loves and mercy endures but whose anger does not. Bless God, O our souls!

*Gathering Hymn "Come, You Faithful, Rise the Strain" NCH #230

Prayer of Confession

Diane Monti-Catania

Holy One, you have given us companions in life, family, friends, and neighbors. As Romans 14:7–8 reminds us, “For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

Help us live in ways that reflect your goodness, righteousness, and truth. Help us to love our neighbors with the fullness of shared life, accountability, and community. Help us repair what has been damaged, redeem what has been lost, and restore what has been broken for your name’s sake. 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, God blesses us with the gift of accountability so that we need not settle for forgiveness that trivializes harm, ignores the need for repair, and leaves relationships fractured.

God has given us accountability so that we may be transformed both individually and collectively, offender and offended, perpetrator and survivor for restoration, reconciliation, and righteousness.

Receive the conjoined gifts of accountability and forgiveness.
Amen.

Our Celebration

“Change My Heart, O God”

W&R #373

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

Proclaiming God’s Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Diane Monti-Catania

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 14:19–31

Pew Bible p 53

Psalm

Psalm 114 (CEB)

Read by All

When Israel came out of Egypt—

when the house of Jacob came out

from a people who spoke a different language—

Judah was God's sanctuary;

Israel was God's territory.

The sea saw it happen and ran away; the Jordan River retreated!

The mountains leaped away like rams;

the hills leaped away like lambs!

Sea, why did you run away? Jordan, why did you retreat?

Mountains, why did you leap away like rams?

Hills, why did you leap away like lambs?

Earth: Tremble before the Lord! Tremble before the God of Jacob,

the one who turned that rock into a pool of water,

that flint stone into a spring of water!

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

Pew Bible p 923

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Jericho Road Crew

Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

Pew Bible p 800

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Getting Along”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

NCH #388

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 us live as new and holy people, delivered from sin and death by the grace of Christ, and gathered together to show God's love. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth... Stretch out your hand to stop the rising waters; lead us away from death and destruction into the land of promise you provide. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations... Lead all peoples, by the light of your presence, to walk in freedom, to work for justice, to seek your purpose, and to live in peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community... Allow us to learn from our siblings, respecting different patterns and practices of life, doing everything to your honor and glory. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones... Bless those for whom we pray: heal their diseases, deliver them from trouble, renew their strength, and satisfy them with goodness as long as they live. 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 we benefit from the treasures of a bountiful creation, the Holy One charges us to remember our roles as caretakers and our responsibilities as recipients of God's good and perfect gifts.

Let us hold ourselves accountable by giving freely, generously, and cheerfully to the redemptive, restorative work of God's church.

Offertory

Offertory Music

Jericho Road Crew

*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, magnify the offerings we bring and may they be fruitful for the nurture and care of creation, the faithfulness of your church, and the needs of the communities and world we inhabit. Be glorified through our generosity. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

NCH# 565

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

May the blessings of God empower you. May the accountability of God transform you. May the mercy and forgiveness of God release you. May the love of God embolden you. May the peace of God assure you. And may the grace you receive be the grace you extend; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Extroit

Jericho Road Crew

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 Diane Monti-Catania for reading and to our musicians, Cathy Rude and guests Jericho Road Crew..

Jericho Road Crew closes out our summer music program. Thank you Sylvia Corbin for inviting them back to sing. Thank you to Ron Lawrence and friends for returning this summer and sharing their music.

Since 1988, the Jericho Road Crew has offered a variety of music both Christian and secular, from different genres: from gospel to Celtic, country to rock and roll.

"Faith is an important component of our music; but really our music is about how we meet life through our faith."

These are the songs they performed today:

Promises I Kept

Let 'em See the Love

We Don't Talk Anymore

Just a Waste of Time

Announcements

Warning – Special Meeting-Accessibility Project

Sunday September 27, 2026

The members of the Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC are warned that a special meeting and vote will be held on Sunday September 27, 2026 in the sanctuary following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve fundraising of \$150,000 to improve the accessibility of our church. There will be a presentation by the Trustees, prior to the vote.

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

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



Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments.

The Deacons are our hosts for September.



Champlain Islands CROP Walk

GOAL \$16,600.

DATE Sunday October 4, 2026 registration 1:00 pm

LOCATION Congregational Church of South Hero, UCC

TO DONATE On line: crophungerwalk.org/southherovt

By check or cash (memo CROP Walk) **QR code** (on bulletin board)

At the September Missions Board meeting \$500.00 to CROP Walk was approved.

Missions also approved \$750.00 to José Andrés' **World Central Kitchen**. (*Every dollar is matched before 9/22.*) Usually within hours, WCK is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Crises are happening more often in more places, which means more people need a hot meal that tastes like home, especially if they've just lost theirs. That plate becomes one of hope and a reminder that people care. wck.org



Pride Vermont in Burlington **today, September 13th** . Join in the parade with the UCC Conference who has a space in the festival area where they will be giving out stickers, (temporary) tattoos, and glitter blessings.

Northern Bronze will be marching! Come show your support!

Parade Begins 12:00pm - Church Street Festival 1:00-4:00pm - Battery Park

World Communion Sunday, October 4th and Breakfast Church.

Sunday Worship Service will be in Fellowship Hall and is planned as a potluck breakfast service. As Christians we gather that day to share the Lord's Supper and celebrate unity in Christ .

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