

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



17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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 and Awesome God, we come to worship you, to know you and to be known by you. Expand our hearts to love fully. Build our courage to receive the truth. Nurture our spirits to be gracious, merciful, and kind. Transform us in your image and for your glory as we dwell in your presence.

Amen

Introit "Like a Rock" *by Keri Wehlander and Linnea Good* Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Susan Waring

O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God's wonderful works.

Declare God's marvelous deeds among the peoples.

O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

*Gathering Hymn

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

NCH #18

Prayer of Confession

Susan Waring

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone.

Forgive us for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. 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

The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole.

The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair. 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

Susan Waring

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 16:2–15

Pew Bible p 55

Psalms

Psalms 105:1–6, 37–45 (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.
Then God brought Israel out, filled with silver and gold;
not one of its tribes stumbled.
Egypt celebrated when they left,
because the dread of Israel had come upon them.
God spread out clouds as a covering;
gave lightning to provide light at night.
The people asked, and God brought quail;
God filled them full with food from heaven.
God opened the rock and out gushed water—
flowing like a river through the desert!
Because God remembered God's holy promise
to Abraham God's servant,
God brought God's people out with rejoicing,
God's chosen ones with songs of joy.
God gave them the lands of other nations;
they inherited the wealth of many peoples—
all so that they would keep God's laws
and observe God's instructions.
Praise the LORD!**

Epistle

Acts 2:14–21,33–35

Pew Bible p 885

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Praise the Lord with Joyful Song" by Hal Hopson Chancel Choir

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Rewards”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

NCH #23

Reception of New Members

We invite to come forward those who wish to unite with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

[I promise, with the help of God.](#)

Let us, the members of the Congregational Church of South Hero, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Congregational Church of South Hero, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

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... Give us joy in our faith and life together, sharing in the hope of the gospel, and living as a sign of your saving love. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth... Show us it is not too late to receive your mercy. Shelter your creatures from scorching heat; shower upon us your healing grace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations... Let the last be first, and the first be last. Let the high and mighty learn humility; let the lowly and despised find dignity. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community... Inspire us, by your great generosity, to help those who are hungry and homeless, or work long hours for little reward. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones... Give hope and healing to all who suffer—especially those who are consumed by anger and those who wish to end their own lives. 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

Let us give good gifts for the needs of our community with generous and loving hearts.

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

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today.

Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory.

Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" NCH#17 v.1-4

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

As you go, spread the love and hope of Christ. Let generosity be your guide.

Let love be your compass. And let peace be your destination; in the name of

God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Benediction Music

Seek justice. Love Kindness. Live humbly. Rejoice.

**The world needs your wisdom, your passion, your voice,
so go make a difference in all that you do.**

God's endless compassion will carry you through.

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 Susan Waring for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing; Welcome back to Diantha Howard and our Chancel choir.

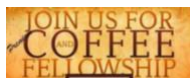
Announcements

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.

Welcome to our new Members this Sunday and next: Jill Crawford, Theresa Gordon, Mark Gordon, Mark Lightner, Diane Monti-Catania

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.*

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 .



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**

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–3P