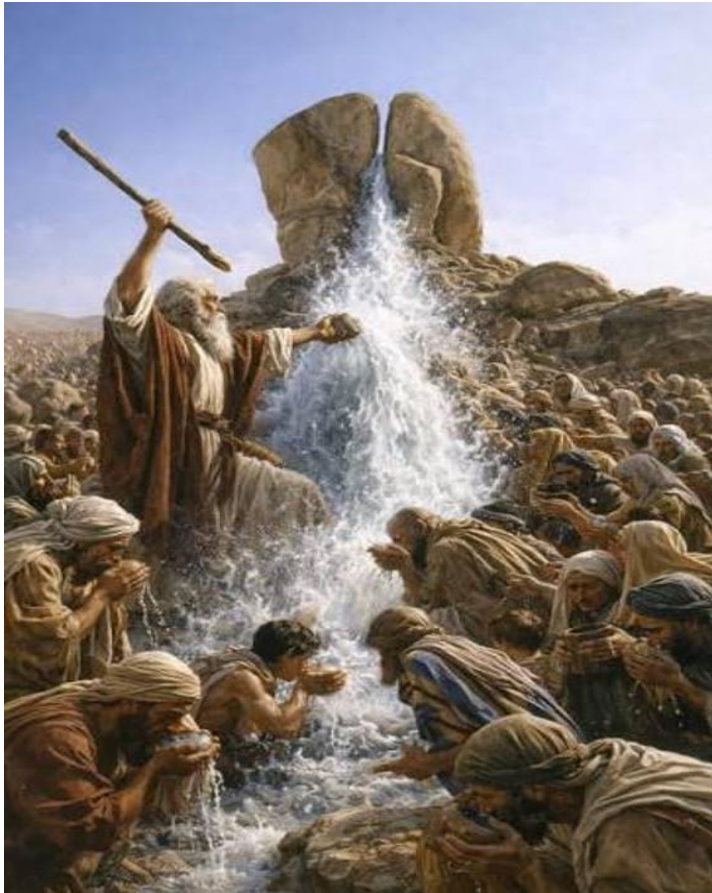


The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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

Living Water, we delight in your presence. You sustain us in dry moments and seasons. Quench our thirst for word and revelation. Let your Spirit flow among us. Send a river of anointing, power, and encouragement in this assembly. We come to worship you and declare that you are with us...and we are with you. **Amen**

Introit

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust you!

Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We follow you!

Lead us in your ways. Your path liberates and saves.

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship you!

Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One!

*Gathering Hymn “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” NCH #42

Prayer of Confession

Lucy Trombley

Holy Presence, you demonstrate the way of love and community, yet so often we turn immediately to quarrels and complaints against one another and against you rather than helpful ways of communicating and confronting conflict.

Teach us to be loving even as we struggle. Stir up compassion and accountability in our interactions. Remind us that you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments. Transform us with trust and care to be faithful and to seek you in prayer when we feel driven to quarrel and complaint. 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 meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God.

Let us follow in the path of trust and faithful remembering of what God has done for us and how God has empowered us for transformation and new life. 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

Lucy Trombley

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 17:1–7

Pew Bible p 56

Psalm

Psalm 78:1–4,12–16 (CEB)

Read by All

Listen, my people, to my teaching;

tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a proverb.

I’ll declare riddles from days long gone—

ones that we’ve heard and learned about,

ones that our ancestors told us.

**We won't hide them from their descendants;
we'll tell the next generation
all about the praise due the LORD and God's strength—
the wondrous works God has done.
But God performed wonders in their ancestors' presence—
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
God split the sea and led them through,
making the waters stand up like a wall.
God led them with the cloud by day;
by the lightning all through the night.
God split rocks open in the wilderness,
gave them plenty to drink—as if from the deep itself!
God made streams flow from the rock, made water run like rivers.**

Epistle

Acts 3:1–19

Pew Bible p 886

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem "We are Singing, for the Lord is our Light"
a traditional Zulu song, arranged by Hal Hopson

Chancel Choir

Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

Pew Bible p 802

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"Whyning"

Pastor Mike

***Sermon Hymn**

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

NCH #596

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.

Responding to God's Work

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... Make us faithful laborers in your vineyard, doing your will and seeking your way. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth... Break open the hardness of our hearts to feel the suffering of your creation; make fresh water flow in desert lands. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations... Give our leaders the wisdom to seek you; give our people the patience to trust you. Keep us from quarreling, and grant us peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community... Encourage those who are suffering; give consolation to those who mourn; satisfy the desires of all who thirst for you. 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**

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Mike

May the gifts that we bring reflect the generosity of Creator's abundance and goodness.

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**

God who Provides, as we present our offerings before you, sanctify them for your glory and magnify them for your people. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

NCH#425

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

Go from this time of worship like streams of water, flowing from the abundance of the Living Water. Saturate every encounter with the goodness and abundance of God as a living witness that the people may drink; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Benediction Song “What Does the Lord Require of You?” *J Carter*

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 Lucy Trombley for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing, Diantha Howard and our Chancel Choir.

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

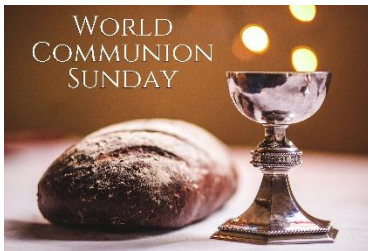
Announcements

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 **all** our new members. Theresa & Mark Gordon, Jill Crawford, 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>



World Communion Sunday, October 4th and Breakfast Church.

As Christians we gather that day to share the Lord's Supper and celebrate unity in Christ.

Sunday Worship Service will be in Fellowship Hall and is planned as a potluck breakfast service.



*Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments.
The Board of Missions will host in October.*



Champlain Islands CROP Walk

One Walk, One Step, at a time to end food insecurity.

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**

All donations greatly appreciated.