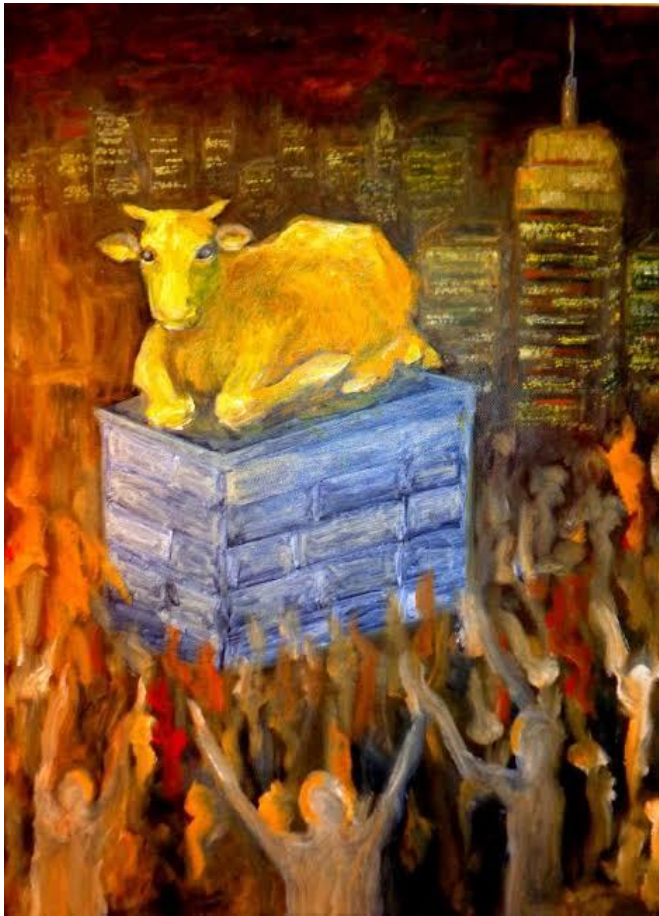


The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



The Golden Calf by Vida Khadem

20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 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

Holy Divine, everything we need, at birth we have: each gift, each story, each body, each way of moving through the world; nothing lost, nothing missing, nothing wrong, nothing without purpose—designed with divinity in mind. When the world teaches us otherwise, remind us that You have always called us whole. You have always called beloved. May our worship reveal Christ among us, Your grace be made known through us, and our collective vulnerability become a testimony to Your abiding love.

Amen

Introit

“Come My People”

Chancel Choir

by James Martin & Elizabeth Martin Cliffe

Call to Worship

Char Kennedy

The Divine is our Shepherd. We want not, not missing anything. Nothing holy, forgotten, or left out.

Created in love, we are one!

The world names us by what it believes we lack. The Divine always calls us whole.

Created differently, we are one!

One band, one body; many members. One sound, one song; many voices. One truth, one Spirit; many stories. No life stands alone, no gift exists apart from another.

Created creatively, we are one!

*Gathering Hymn

“Come Forth, O Love Divine”

NCH #289

Prayer of Confession

Char Kennedy

God, we confess—that we took the truth that we are each made in Your image, marked with sacred worth from the moment of our birth, and placed conditions upon that first act of Your love. Change us, Holy One, change us.

God, fill us with life anew—for the sake of the worth of all You’ve made, that it may endure. For the sake of Christ’s ministry of grace and mercy. For the sake of us remembering that the Holy Spirit is beneath and between every breath. Renew us, Holy One, renew us! 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, receive the grace of God, The Good Shepherd: The boundless compassion of our Creator guides at our own pace through storm and stress to green fields; Their loving kindness sets us to rest by cool streams and eases any pain. Surely, we are each accompanied by the goodness, the mercy, the endless grace of the Holy One day by day.

Amen.

Our Celebration

“Bind Us Together”

by Bob Gillman

Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord,

Bind us together,

Bind us together with love.

Proclaiming God’s Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Char Kennedy

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 32:1–14

Pew Bible p 69

Psalm

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

Read by All

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

God makes me to lie down in green pastures;

God leads me beside the still waters. God restores my soul;

God leads me in the paths of righteousness for God's name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Epistle

Acts 8:14–25

Pew Bible p 812

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Seek Ye First”

Chancel Choir

by Karen Lafferty, arr. Douglas Wagner

Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

Pew Bible p 803

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Grabbing the Bull”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

NCH #332

Responding to God's Work

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

Our shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to God. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for the church... Fix our minds on what is honorable and true, pure and just, pleasing and commendable—whatever is excellent and worthy of praise. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for the earth... We wait for you, our only hope of salvation: prepare a feast of plenty for all creatures; destroy the shroud of death cast over us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for all nations... Show your favor to those who love your way, who observe justice and do what is right; bless them with prosperity and peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for this community... Let your church be a refuge for the poor and a sanctuary for those in distress, to shelter them from every storm. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for loved ones... Remember those who mourn: wipe away the tears of their eyes and give them the hope of new life in you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving shepherd, lead and guide us—in green pastures and by still waters, in right paths and through dark valleys, until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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

God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community.

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 loves as exactly as we are, with these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work with you to create a world where all your people can belong, and find peace in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and liberation for all.

Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

NCH#43

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

Friends, as we leave this place, we leave to witness to the work of God's reign. The work of welcome, the work of inclusion; full, unabashed lavish even. The work of journeying alongside each other, the work of meeting needs when and where we can. The work of resting, the work restoring those cast aside back to community, the work of setting tables and making sure that spaces at those tables are accessible to all, the work of making the road ahead a little easier to travel. Accompanied by grace and mercy, we have been called to and equipped to join in God's work. May we do it with joy; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Benediction Song

Wherever you go, God is with you;

Wherever you go, God is there.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, you are in God's care.

Wherever we go, God is with us;

Wherever we go, God is there.

Wherever we go, whatever we do, we are in God's care.

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 our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing, Diantha Howard and our Chancel Choir.

Announcements



Memorial Service for Russ Waring
Saturday, October 17th 1pm



*Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments.
The Board of Christian Ed are hosts in October.*



Stewardship Annual Campaign October 4th – October 25th

If you weren't able to pick up your brochure packet last Sunday, we mailed them to you.

On October 25th, we will offer our pledge cards together during the Worship service. Please hold onto them until then – unless you can't attend worship in person that Sunday. We ask that you return the cards, whether or not you intend to pledge.

Brochures and pledge cards are also available in the narthex.

Thank you for helping CCSH be a place of love, welcome and care



Thank you!

This year's CROP Walk raised \$18038.00 to date!

Mark Kennedy, Cathy Rude, all the walkers, donors and volunteers made this another successful walk. Our 25% will go to the Champlain Islands Food Shelf.



Looking ahead to winter – it *will* snow!

Tim Maxham won't be available to shovel this winter.

The town plows the driveway and parking lot; we need a few shovelers for the walkways and steps especially on Sundays- can you help?



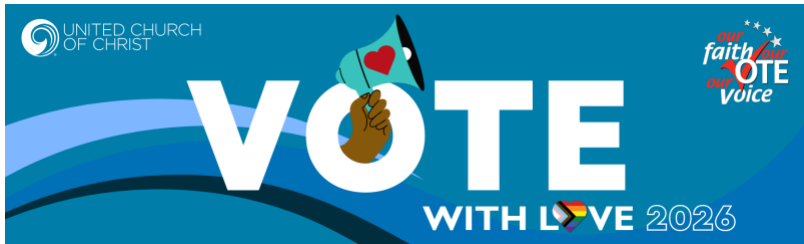
In addition to our 'usual' building use, these groups have reserved times/space:

All Mondays in October: 5:30pm Grand Isle County Chorus practices

Wed. October 28th Folsom School Evacuation Drill (afternoon)

All Saturdays in November – January 2nd: Indoor Farmers' Markets

November 2nd & 3rd – The Town of South Hero will use Fellowship Hall for voting setup (2nd) and voting (3rd).



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

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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