

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



21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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 Radiant God, you go before us and invite us to meet you. Today, we gather in your presence as a community. You gift us “the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places.” We respond as you call us by name. We come to know you as you invite us to be known, by you. Receive our worship and form us as your people in justice, truth, righteousness, compassion, and love. Be glorified among us and through us, we pray.

Amen

Introit “Sing to God” *by James Martin*

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Linda Lake

Sing to the Holy One, all the earth. Declare God’s glory!

Great is the Holy One, who made the heavens and the earth.

Sing a new song unto the Holy One. Join with all creation in praise and reverence!

We witness God’s marvelous works among the peoples.

Worship the Holy One, all the earth! Declare God’s sovereignty!

Rejoice and be glad! God is great!!

*Gathering Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NCH #277

Prayer of Confession

Linda Lake

Gracious God, you have revealed yourself in scripture, prophets, and the Christ.

Yet, we have reduced your gospel of liberation for all people, restoration of all creation, and redemption for the world into personal piety and devotion.

We make idols of the trappings of empire, trusting in our own plots and plans while failing to believe and trust you with bold, transformative prayers.

Help us, O God, live in faith and access your power. Remind us that you equip and endow us to be your body in the world so that all may flourish and experience abundance. 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, Creator continues to do a new thing in you and will strengthen and encourage you to be bold and faithful in the journey. Receive the invitation to new and full life in Christ. Reject hopelessness, fatalism, and despair. That is not your portion. God has given you a spirit to live in the kin-dom and be ambassadors and agents of the good news for the glory of God and the good of the world.

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

Linda Lake

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 33:12–23

Pew Bible p 70

Psalm

Psalm 99 (CEB)

Read by All

The LORD rules—the nations shake!

**God sits enthroned on the winged heavenly creatures—
the earth quakes!**

**The LORD is great in Zion; God is exalted over all the nations.
Let them thank your great and awesome name. God is holy!**

Strong ruler who loves justice,

you are the one who established what is fair.

You worked justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Magnify the LORD, our God! Bow low at God's footstool! God is holy!

Moses and Aaron were among God's priests,

Samuel too among those who called on God's name.

They cried out to the LORD, and God Godself answered them—

God spoke to them from a pillar of cloud.

They kept the laws and the rules God gave to them.

LORD our God, you answered them.

To them you were a God who forgives

but also the one who avenged their wrong deeds.

Magnify the LORD our God!

Bow low at God's holy mountain because the LORD our God is holy!

Epistle

Acts 10:34–43

Pew Bible p 895

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Sing, Shout, Alleluia!” *by Joseph Martin*

Chancel Choir

Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

Pew Bible p 803

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“What Belongs to Whom?”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

NCH #498

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... Make us steadfast in our love and service, remembering your people in our prayers and giving thanks to you in all things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for the earth... Let the whole earth sing a new song to you: a song of redemption, of gladness and joy; a song of thanksgiving for your saving grace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for all nations... In every place, anoint faithful leaders, who know your name and seek your will, who share your love of justice and peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for this community... Break down the walls that divide us; bend the bars that imprison us in fear; open the doors that lead to new life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for loved ones... Speak healing to those who are hurting; give courage to those who are afraid; let your grace and peace be known to all. 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

The offerings we bring before the Holy One do not function as a tax. They are a gift given freely. At times, we give sacrificially. Mostly, we give from the abundance that the Holy One has seeded throughout all creation. Let us give generously, hopefully, and lovingly knowing that needs will be met and lives will be changed through our ministry.

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 of good and perfect gifts receive our humble gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May they contribute to a world of abundance and your kin-dom come. May we experience the joy and privilege of giving as a gift in and of itself. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

NCH#77

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

Remember, you belong to the kin-dom of God. As you go, embody the good news of the Holy One in the world. May the Love of our God our Parent envelop you; may the Presence of God the Son encourage and embolden you; and may God the Holy Spirit guide you.

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 Linda Lake 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

The bulletin for each week is now on our webpage www.sherochurch.org
You can stream Sunday Worship live. <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive>

Sunday October 25th – Sunday School Heifer Collection



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



Stewardship Annual Campaign **October 4th – October 25th**

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.



Women's Tea
next **Saturday, October 31st 2pm**
No Tricks! Just Treats!



SOCKS for COTS now- to December 1st
Collection basket in fellowship hall

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

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

Sat. October 31st 2pm women's Tea

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).