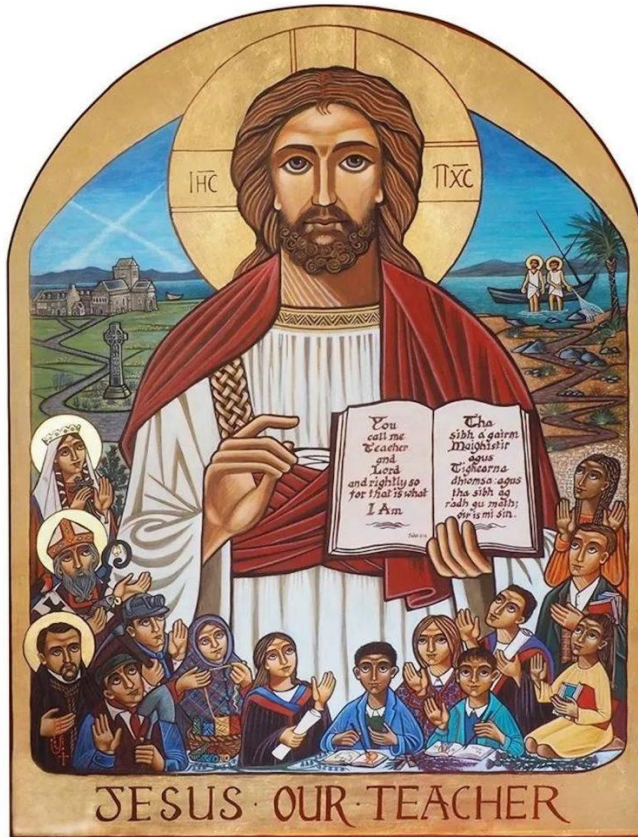


The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 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

Loving God, we gather before you in praise and thanksgiving, wonder and awe, doubt and uncertainty, joy and pain. We seek your guidance and direction, assurance and challenge, correction, and encouragement. Make your presence known among us this day. Let your Spirit reign in our worship, in our hearts, and in our lives. Just your presence among us gives us comfort, strength, and joy. Be glorified in our love, O God.

Amen

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

Call to Worship

Diane Monti-Catania

Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are Sovereign!

Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!

**Let your favor be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —
O prosper the work of our hands!**

Blessing of Pledges

Pastor Mike

The apostle Paul writes: "I appeal to you, siblings, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." As we come forward with the symbols of our pledges, let us offer our lives to God.

All are invited to come forward with your pledge card or small heart as a physical representation of an inner commitment to join in the work of God in our church, our community, our the world.

God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives.

As we bring our pledges to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

NCH #556

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Prayer of Confession

Diane Monti-Catania

Gracious God, we hear the direction in biblical law, and we can reduce our faith into all the things we cannot do. We can begin to perceive following you to a way of life that restricts our choices and binds us to certain behaviors.

Help us to recognize that life with you transcends the rules and invites us to loving you, our neighbor, and ourselves. Through the Law, the Prophets, and the Messiah, you have helped us know how to love better and more. Help us again today. 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 loves you and your journey. With the help of God, continue on this journey with faith, hope, trust, and love.

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

Diane Monti-Catania

Hebrew Scripture

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Pew Bible p 168

Psalm

Psalm 90:1–6,13–17 (CEB)

Read by All

Lord, you have been our help, generation after generation.

Before the mountains were born,

before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world—

from forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God.

You return people to dust, saying, “Go back, humans,”

because in your perspective a thousand years

are like yesterday past,

like a short period during the night watch.

You sweep humans away like a dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning.

True, in the morning it thrives, renewed,

but come evening it withers, all dried up.

Come back to us, LORD!

Please, quick! Have some compassion for your servants!

Fill us full every morning with your faithful love

so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long.

Make us happy for the same amount of time that you afflicted us—

for the same number of years that we saw only trouble.

Let your acts be seen by your servants;

let your glory be seen by their children.

Let the kindness of the LORD our God be over us.

Make the work of our hands last.

Make the work of our hands last!

Epistle

Acts 10:44–48

Pew Bible p 865

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem "For the Beauty of the Earth" *by John Rutter*

Chancel Choir

Gospel

Matthew 22:34–46

Pew Bible p 804

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Greatests”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” NCH #565

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... Entrust to us the message of your gospel, so that we may share your good news through simple kindness and tender words. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for the earth... How long, O Lord, will your creation suffer? Let the work of our hands be a blessing, not a curse, to the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for all nations... Lift up leaders who delight in your law, and people who rejoice in what is right. Let them prosper, like trees bearing good fruit. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for this community... By your wisdom, show us what it means to live according to your justice and mercy, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for loved ones... Bless and keep your faithful servants who have come at last to their life’s end; give them a clear vision of your promised land. 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

Generosity is a spiritual discipline rooted in love. When we give of ourselves in time, treasure, and talent, we make our love for God and neighbor tangible in the lives of our community. So, let our love show through the gifts we bring to the glory of God and love of all.

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**

Holy Love, we dedicate these gifts to you in hope and trust that, through you, our generosity makes a difference in the world. We give you thanks in advance for the fruit nurtured by this offering. As you bless these gifts, also bless the giver and those entrusted with the stewardship of these resources in your name and for your church and world. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn

“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

NCH#573

*Benediction

Pastor Mike

Let love be your law. Let love be your compass. Let love abound and abide.
And know that the God of love is with you and for you, now and forever; 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 Diane Mont-Catania 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

Today - Sunday School Heifer Collection



Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments.

The Board of Christian Ed are hosts in October. The Board of Deacons will host in November.



Stewardship Annual Campaign

October 4th – October 25th

Today October 25th, we offer our pledge cards together during the Worship service.

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



As in the past, we are assisting the **Champlain Islands Food Shelf** with Thanksgiving baskets.

This year, rather than purchasing turkeys, the Food Shelf will distribute grocery cards. We will share that purchase with CiDER. If you would like to donate toward the cards – donate cash or check to CCSH with Wally's Basket on the memo line. Place in the Sunday offering, mail, or drop off in the office.



In-person voting for South Hero residents will be in CCSH Fellowship Hall on Tuesday November 3rd due to construction at the Town Offices.