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



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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

Ringing the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Gathered as One

Invocation — **Pastor Mike**

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name. Bind us together and refresh us as a community with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream. Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice. Make yourself known among us. You are our God, and we are your people.
Amen

Introit — **"Born from a Star"** ***by Carole Ann Camp*** — **Chancel Choir**

Call to Worship — **Ruthanne Eldred**

Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.
We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.

Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.
We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.

Set your hope in God, who leads us.
We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

***Gathering Hymn** — **"Soon and Very Soon"** — **W&R #523**

Prayer of Confession **Ruthanne Eldred**

Wise and just God, we do not want to come before you with empty words and meaningless acts.
We know that your love has the power to transform us with compassion. We declare that your truth can liberate us and renew us as liberators in the world.

In the midst of a world too often guided by the pursuit of power, privilege, and prestige, soften our hearts.
Help us reject the othering of our neighbors and your beloved. Help us reflect your goodness and good news through our lives, in word and deed. 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, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet you in your hopes for a new life, will bring strength and power in your struggle, and will release you from actions and attitudes of the past. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward.
Amen.

Our Celebration **"Seek Ye First"** **W&R #349**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young People **Pastor Mike**

Prayer for Illumination **Ruthanne Eldred**

Hebrew Scripture **Joshua 24:1–3a,14–25** **Pew Bible p 187**

Psalm **Psalm 78:1–7 (CEB)** **Read by All**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and God's might
and the wonders that God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments;

Epistle **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** **Pew Bible p 960**

Response
The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem **"Lord God We Worship Thee"** **Chancel Choir**
by Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. by Hal Hopson.

Gospel **Matthew 25:1–13** **Pew Bible p 806**

Response
This is the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Message **"Ready to Love"** **Pastor Mike**

***Sermon Hymn** **"Blessed Assurance"** **NCH # 473**

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… By your faithful hand, direct us to lead a life in keeping with your calling, bearing witness to your kin-dom in all we do. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for the earth… Continue to lead us through the wilderness, so that this world may be a place of promise, a healthy home for all of your creatures. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for all nations… Silence false prophets who claim to love peace but declare war on the poor of the earth. Bring equity and justice to all peoples. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for this community… Help those who are troubled and wandering; satisfy the thirsty and feed the hungry; call to the lost and lead them home. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for loved ones… Bring joy to those who are depressed; send light to those who dwell in darkness; give peace to those who mourn. 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 has given us good and generous gifts out of abundant love. People do not face need because creation is insufficient.
When we share the resources of creation, we proclaim our faith and trust that God provides more than enough for all of us to flourish.
Let us give in faith and hope.

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, accept our offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Magnify them for your glory and to meet the needs of the community. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving, O God. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn — NCH#369

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

*Benediction — Pastor Mike

As you go from this time and gathering, rest in the covenant, choose love every day, sustain hope in action, serve the Holy One with love and honor, and be a witness for the goodness of God in the land of the living; in the name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Benediction Song "Go, Make a Diff'rence"

by Steve Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek.

Refrain: (Choir sings verse)

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

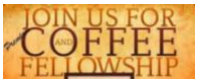
Dismissal

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 Ruthanne Eldred for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing; Diantha Howard and our Chancel Choir.

Announcements



Join us after worship for coffee and refreshments.
The Board of **Trustees** are hosts for November.



Sunday November 22nd 3pm
Thanksgiving service here at CCSH with The Island Catholic and Methodist churches.

The Missions Board is requesting items for the **Welcome Project** that assists formerly unhoused persons transitioning into housing. Needed are:
Hangers(new) Shower curtain liners & rings toilet bowl brushes unscented laundry detergent
Not exciting items – UNLESS you don't own them. Won't you help? We have committed to providing 4 of each per month assisting Grand Isle/Franklin County families. Leave on back shelf in fellowship hall.

Donations for this year's CROP Walk were $21, 188.45! The Champlain Island Food Shelf will receive $5297.00.
According to VT Public, the cost of groceries rose **13.5% in the past year**, the largest increase in 43 years.



We are assisting the **Champlain Islands Food Shelf** with Thanksgiving food. This year the Food Shelf will distribute grocery cards, sharing the purchase with CiDER and CCSH. To donate toward the cards –give 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.



Jim Boyd has signup boards in fellowship hall.
•Keeler Bay Store •Emmons Store
•*New this year* Saturday Farmers Market
We were able to assist 285 Island families with food and/or gas through the voucher program. That is more than $4000.00 in funds NOT from our budget. Thank you!



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



Holiday wreath pre-orders taken now. They sell out fast!
Order forms in the narthex, in fellowship hall or call the office 802-372-4962.
Ready for pickup November 28th
Funds raised help support the CCSH music program, which includes sheet music, summer musicians, piano tuning and bell needs.

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