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Thank you for joining us! Please join us after the service for refreshments & conversation in the church parlor.

**Today is the final day of Park Church's Backpack School Kit Mission.** Thank you for your generous support of this important mission. If you have school supplies that you intended to donate but were unable to bring today, please contact Dennis Mooney after worship or by phone at (860) 376-8648 to arrange delivery.

**Are you considering membership in Park Church?** Would you like more information about what that means? The Deacons invite anyone who wants to learn more about becoming a member to their meeting today following worship. There will be an opportunity to join the church on Homecoming Sunday, September 13.

**The Book of Joshua and Current Events**, Sunday, August 30 at Park Church at 11:30am. Plan to join us for the conclusion of our series of Inter-faith Bible Studies with the members of Beth Jacob Synagogue and Rabbi Julius Rabinowitz. All are welcome!

Subscribe to our weekly email, 'Park Bench' by filling out a welcome card or by emailing the office [officemanager@parkchurchnorwich1874.org](mailto:officemanager@parkchurchnorwich1874.org)

The ministries of Park Congregational Church are supported by the generosity of our members and friends. Please make your offering at the giving table at the door or use the QR code for online giving:

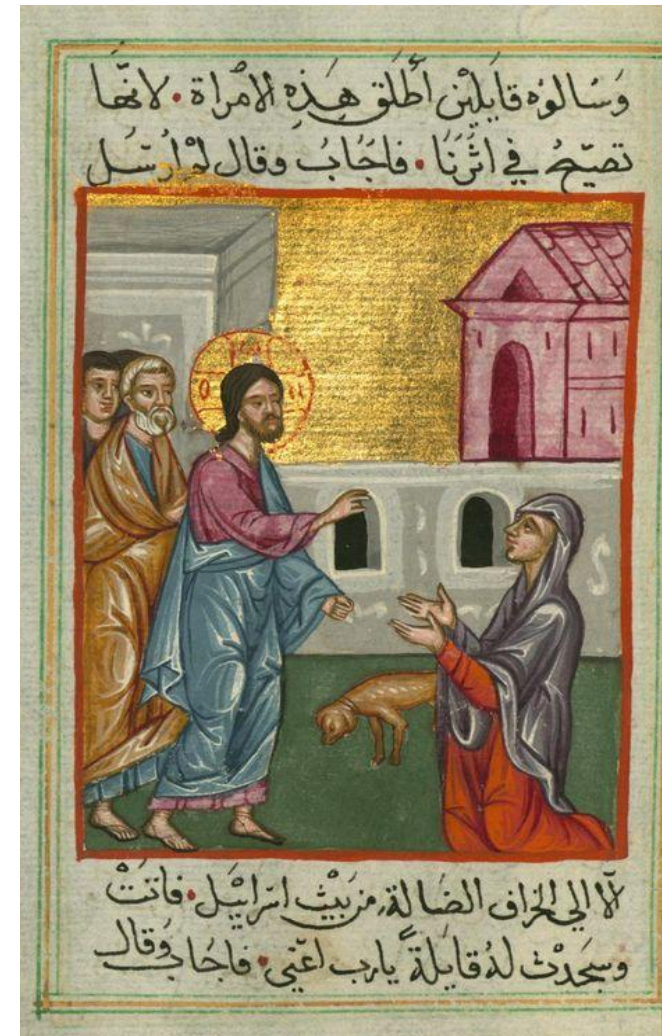


Park Congregational Church, 283 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360  
(860) 887-3747 ~ [www.parkchurchnorwich.org](http://www.parkchurchnorwich.org)  
The office is open Monday 9AM-4PM, Tuesday 1PM-4:30PM,  
Thursday 2PM-5:30PM, and by appointment.

# PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ --An Open and Affirming Congregation

Sunday, August 16, 2026



Bazzi Rahib and Ilyas Basim Khuri, 1684

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship Judy Gordon, lay reader

Jesus reminds us that it is not what enters our mouths that defines us, but what comes from our hearts.  
**Our words reveal our inner life.**

Our words can wound, exclude, and divide.  
**Our words can also heal, welcome, and bring hope.**

Today, we come before the One who listens beyond our words and knows our hearts.  
**May our hearts be shaped by compassion, courage, and truth.**

May we speak when silence would cause harm.  
**May we listen when another voice needs to be heard.**

May our faith be more than words we say.  
**May our lives be the word of God's love.**

Come, let us worship the God whose Word creates, restores, and makes all things new.

\*Hymn God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak NCH 531

\*Opening Prayer

\*Gloria Patri Pilgrim hymnal 513

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Special Music There is a Savior Sally Masse, soloist

Old Testament Reading Psalm 5:1-8 Pew Bible p.

\*Hymn O Word of God Incarnate NCH 315

*During the music, prayer cards will be collected.*

New Testament Reading Matthew 15:10-28 Pew Bible p.892

Sermon Words that Matter

Music for mediation and reflection

Sharing Joys and Concerns, and Pastoral 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\*Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal 514

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Hymn Congregation’s Choice! New Century Hymnal

\*Benediction

Postlude

*\* Please rise, if you are able.*

Reverend Erica Wimber Avena, Interim Minister  
Dr. Laura Hibbard, Music Director  
Karen Redanz, Religious Education Director