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

**The School Kit Backpack Mission** continues today at Park Church. Please consider donating supplies, backpacks, or funds to help provide local students with the tools they need to learn and succeed.

**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 on Sunday, August 16 following worship. There will be an opportunity to join the church on Homecoming Sunday, September 13.

On **Saturday, August 15 at 11:30 AM** there will be a memorial service for Margaret Aldrich in our sanctuary.

**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. You can make a secure online donation here:



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 9, 2026



Jesus Walks on Water, miniature by Daniel of Uranc, 1433  
Kentron District, Armenia

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship Mark Mikkelson, lay reader

Come and worship, there is room in God’s house for each and for all; for our doubt, for our hope, and for keeping faith.  
**We come, trusting that Christ meets us where we are.**  
When the winds of fear rise around us,  
**God is our steadfast companion.**  
When grief weighs heavily and uncertainty clouds our vision,  
**Christ comes to us, saying, "Take heart. Do not be afraid."**  
We have known seasons of abundance and seasons of struggle.  
**Through them all, God's love abides.**  
Come, not because your faith is perfect, but because God is faithful.  
**We come to worship the One who calls us beyond fear, strengthens our hope, and holds us fast.**

\*Hymn      O Sing a Song of Bethlehem NCH 51

\*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 Nick Tedeschi

Litany of Confession

God of steadfast love, you call us to trust you, even when the winds rise and the waves seem stronger than our faith.  
**We confess that our fear often speaks louder than our faith.**  
We cling to certainty instead of trusting your presence.  
**We doubt that your grace is sufficient for the journey.**  
We confess the ways we withhold compassion, forgetting the abundance you have already placed among us.  
**Forgive us when fear makes us selfish, when a scarcity mindset shapes our choices, and when we fail to share your good news.**  
Lift our eyes beyond what frightens us.

**Strengthen us to follow where Christ leads, even when the path is uncertain.**

Old Testament Reading      Psalm 85:8-13      Pew Bible p.532

\*Hymn      Incarnate God, Immortal Love      NCH 414 v.1-3  
*During the music, prayer cards will be collected.*

New Testament Reading      Matthew 14:22-33      Pew Bible p.892

Sermon    Holding Faith: from Parables to Storms

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.*