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Please join us after the service for cake and special presentations in the church parlor.

**2026 High School Graduates, and their plans for Higher Education:**

- Ny'Asia Brown - CT State Community College Three Rivers
- Analys Canales Alvarez - ECSU
- Alyssa Simonet-Selbe - Appalachian State University
- Ricardo Amado Gomes - UConn
- August Holdridge- QVCC EMT Program
- Ian Redanz - CT State Community College Three Rivers

**2026 College Graduates:**

- Kayla Redanz - ECSU
- Sophie Holdridge - UVT

*Love Lives Here: One Norwich Many Stories, One community* kick off campaign Sunday, June 14, 1pm at Castle Church, 4 Broadway

2026 Annual Park Church Picnic - Save the Date! **Thursday, June 25th, 2026**

Odetah Camping Resort, Bozrah, CT 12:30 pm - 8:00 pm

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. 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 8AM-4PM, Tuesday 1PM-4:30PM  
 Thursday 2PM-5:30PM, and by appointment.

# PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ --*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Children and Youth Sunday, June 7, 2026

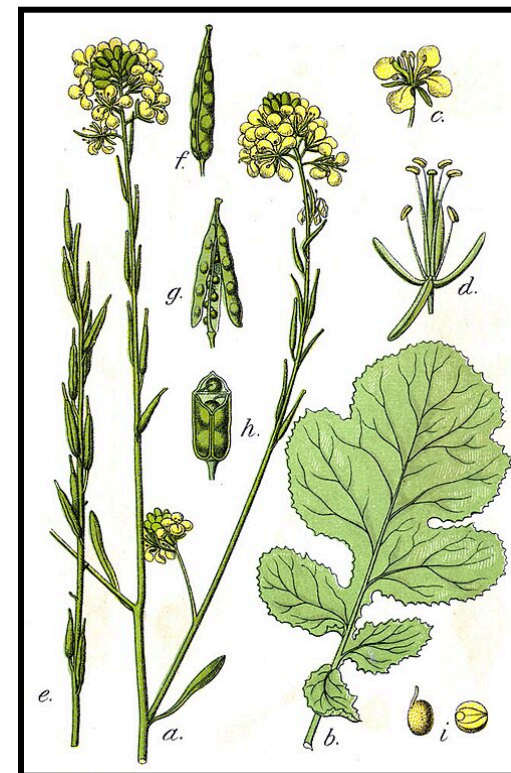


Illustration of the black mustard plant  
Mustard Seed: The faith journey

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

# Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Guests!

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Introit                      Reap What You Sow                      Pepper Choplin  
Call to Worship                      Ricardo Amado-Gomes

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed."

**Small and full of possibility.**

A tiny seed grows into a great shrub, offering shelter and welcome.

**God nurtures growth in ways we cannot always see.**

In every child and youth, God has planted gifts, dreams, and faith.

**We celebrate the ways faith in God is growing among us.**

Faith begins in small acts of kindness, courage, curiosity, and love.

**With God's help, these seeds grow into lives of compassion and service.**

We come together as one family of faith—young and old, learning and growing side by side.

**We are God's garden, rooted in grace and reaching toward hope.**

Come, let us worship the One who plants, nurtures, and brings growth.

\*Opening Prayer                      Gus Holdridge

\*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.**

\*Hymn      I've Got Peace Like a River                      NCH 478

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

Recognition of children and youth, then and now:

*Where did the Time Go?*

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:31-32                      pew Bible 890

Reflections on Growing in Faith:

Alyssa Simonet-Selbe

Marina Lathrop

Analys Canales Alvarez

Call for the Offering                      Ian Redanz

Offertory                      My Faith                      John Purifoy

Prayer of Dedication

\*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**

Welcoming New Members (see insert)

Sharing Communion:

Invitation

Prayers of the people followed by 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 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.**

Words of Institution followed by Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*(gluten free bread, and unfermented grape juice)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn                      NCH

\*Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude

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