

~~~~~  
Please join us after the service for refreshments & conversation in the church parlor.

Please remember the Heifer Project is ongoing through March 22. We will be looking forward to seeing you at coffee hour following the church service. Our Heifer will grow each week only with your help.

Lenten devotionals are available on the Giving Table and in the hallway. Take one for yourself and for a friend or loved one.

 **Palm Sunday Cantata - March 29 at 10:00AM**

Singing Palm Sunday and Holy Week anthems across the ages, with hymns and readings from the Gospel of Matthew. Easter egg hunt to follow!

 **Easter Sunday Service - April 5 at 10:00AM**

Easter Flower Order forms may be found on the giving table.

Subscribe to our weekly email, 'Park Bench' by emailing the office at:  
[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

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

Lent 4, Sunday, March 15, 2026



[www.freepik.com/freephoto/close-up-blue-water-ripple](http://www.freepik.com/freephoto/close-up-blue-water-ripple)



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.

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

Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Guests!

*Please make your offering at the giving table at the door or use the QR code for online giving. Thank you for joining us!*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Judy Gordon, lay reader

Day by day, God leads us:

**to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**to pour out ourselves in service,  
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**the community we could be,  
the family we are called to become.**

*~Adapted from Psalm 23 & 1 John 3:16-24*

\*Hymn      Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound      NCH 547

\*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      My Shepherd Will Supply My Need      Matthew Culloton  
*(Children and youth are dismissed for Sunday School)*

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and Good Shepherd,  
You lead us beside still waters,  
yet we confess that we often choose paths of worry and fear.  
You restore our souls,  
yet we resist your healing and cling to what wounds us.**

**You guide us in paths of righteousness,  
but we wander toward comfort, convenience, and self-interest.**

**You walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death,  
yet we doubt your presence and forget your promises.**

**You prepare a table of abundance for all,  
yet we hoard what we have and ignore the hunger of our neighbors.  
You anoint us with grace until our cup overflows,  
yet we fail to share that grace with others.**

**Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

**Call us back when we stray.**

**Lead us again in your ways of mercy, justice, and love,  
so that we may dwell in your goodness  
and reflect your compassion in the world.**

Old Testament Reading      Psalm 23      pew Bible p.491

\*Hymn      There is a Balm in Gilead      NCH 553  
*During the music, prayer cards will be collected.*

Gospel Reading      John 9:1-30      pew Bible p.976

Sermon      Gospel Healing

Special Music      All I Know      John Purifoy

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      When Peace, Like a River      NCH 438

\*The Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude

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