



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

Next Sunday we welcome the Rev. Dr. Ede Steele, who will join Park Church as guest preacher. Dr. Steele has been married to Terry Steele for 18 years and they live here in Norwich. Both lost their spouses to cancer in 1999 and together have five grown children and four grandchildren. She holds a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Texas, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Ministry from Hartford International Seminary. Dr. Steele retired from full-time ministry from the UCC church in Griswold, and she and Terry are now planning their twentieth anniversary celebration.

Rev Erica will be on vacation beginning May 15 and will return June 1.

Join us for Bible Study: the Book of Joshua with Rev. Erica and Rabbi Julius Rabinowitz from Congregation Beth Jacob.

- Saturday, June 6, Joshua 24:1-33 Joshua’s farewell address; at Beth Jacob
- Sunday, TBD, current events and the book of Joshua; at Park Church

Subscribe to our weekly email, ‘Park Bench’ by filling out a welcome card or by emailing the office 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
The office is open Monday 9 AM-4 PM, Tuesday 1 PM-4:30 PM, Thursday 2 PM-5:30 PM, and by appointment.

PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Easter 6, Sunday, May 10, 2026



When the Apostle Paul preached to the Athenians in front of the Areopagus, he was inspired by an altar he found inscribed to an unknown god. He said: *“What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you: the God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heavens and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands...”* This ancient altar dedicated to an “unknown god” was rediscovered in 1820 on Palatine Hill, Rome

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 Laura Hibbard, lay reader

Come, God gathers us for worship, like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings.

Our God, loving, protecting, nurturing.

In love, God saves and supports us, teaching us and revealing to us the way we should go.

Trusting in God, we seek to follow, and to give thanks!

~Matthew 23:37

*Hymn I Look to You in Every Need NCH 463

*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 Let All the World Praise Him Pepper Choplin

(Children and youth are dismissed for Sunday School)

A Prayer for Mothers

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to love and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the support of family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the challenges of motherhood. And most of all, give them wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Psalm 66:8-20 pew Bible 517

*Hymn I Heard My Mother Say NCH 409

During the music, prayer cards will be collected.

New Testament Reading Acts 17:22-31 pew Bible 1010

Sermon A Word from Athens

Special Music If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis

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 I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry NCH 351

*Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude

**Please rise, if you are able.*