



**Gayton Road Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Ministers: Every Believer
Pastor: Jonathan Kruschwitz**



*We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness
in a fragmented world.*

*September 9, 2018
Ordinary Time: Proper 18*

*As part of the one body of
Christ, we welcome all to
the Lord's Table as God
has welcomed us.*

*Please use the Narthex for conversation, gathering and visiting,
so that the Sanctuary may be used for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.*

GATHERING

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

"The place God calls you to is...where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."
(Frederick Buechner, b. 1926)

GATHERING

"Halle, Halle"
"I'm So Glad"
"Take Me as I Am"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Centering God,
Who through Christ holds all things together,
We confess we often feel
We are spinning out of control,
Ruled by compulsions,
Enslaved by patterns bigger than ourselves.

O Christ, call us to you.
Call us to you, O Christ.

Creating God,
Who through Christ brings unlikely things together,
We confess we often feel bombarded
With way too much information,
Bewildered by the number of good things to care for,
Unsure of how to choose among all the choices.

O Christ, call us to you.
Call us to you, O Christ.

Surprising God,
Who through Christ calls all things together,
We believe you are constantly summoning us to pay attention,
Calling us to set aside our agenda and to listen,
Beckoning us to set aside our priorities and pray,
Urging us to set aside our itinerary and to follow.

O Christ, call us to you.
Call us to you, O Christ.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Ours the Journey"

OURS THE JOURNEY

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

REFLECTION

“We Are All Ministers”

(Ephesians 4:1-13)

CENTERING

“Take Me as I Am”

LECTIO DIVINA

(Matthew 26:26-29; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 25:35-40)

^{Matt 26:26}While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”
²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

^{Matt 18:20}“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

^{Matt 25:35}“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING BLESSING

(Romans 12:1-8)

Lord, you have formed us to be a people—
The body of Christ, at work in your world.

**We celebrate the gifts you have given us
To carry out the work of your kingdom.**

You have given your people many gifts.

You have called some to teach, some to offer hospitality, some to heal, some to share the good news.

You have given each of us a gift.

We offer ourselves—our gifts, our time, our energy, our resources—to you.

Bless our offerings and our lives,

That Christ might find flesh through which to touch the world.

Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY 50

“Praise God”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

THE PEACE

(Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:7)

The Spirit bears fruit in peace, love, joy, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To each the Spirit is given for the common good of all.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together” LET US BREAK BREAD

Communion is celebrated each Sunday. As a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation, we practice an open table where all are invited to the table. There is no barrier that prevents participation in the Lord's Supper. This Sunday, an elder seated at your table will retrieve a portion of the cup and a portion of the bread. The cup and bread will be passed around your table. Please take a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup. The communion bread is gluten free.

PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN** “Amen, Amen”

***BLESSING**

Giving God—**We say thank you.**
Calling Christ—**We say “Yes!”**
Selfless Spirit—**We are one in you.**

Now, may the life of your Table—**bless these tables.**
And may the life of Christ—**bless our lives and all the world. Amen.**

*Please stay and join us for a potluck luncheon following the service.
You are also invited to remain after the luncheon for a meeting of our three new ministry teams.
Joining a team only means becoming a part of its conversation. All participation in its ministry
is voluntary, as you feel called and are able and willing.*

***Please stand if able.**

As a courtesy to other worshippers, please silence phones. Bibles (electronic or book) are most welcome!

Acknowledgments: Call to Worship inspired by *Words for Worship 2* (ed. Diane Zaerr Brenneman; Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 2009), 65-66; Offering Blessing adapted by *Words for Worship 2*, 86-87.

Scheduled to serve today:

PastorJonathan Kruschwitz
Director of Music..... Jack Fox
Intern Emily Croxford
Elders..... Cinda Caiella & Becky Ennis
DeaconsKathy Habib, Bill Malla,
.....Alexa McFarlane, & Radek Larew
Acolytes Schuler Family
Nursery Darrah Davis & Tatum McFarlane

Welcome to Worship: *Whether you are a member, friend or visiting with us today, may God bless you during worship this morning. You ARE welcome and we’re very blessed that you are worshiping with us today!*

Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Homeless Ministry: We are currently supplying **water and Gatorade** to Rhonda Sneed’s Blessing Warriors homeless ministry. Anyone who wishes to help can bring these items to the outreach area of the narthex.

Fall Schedule: Beginning **today**, Sunday Schools will resume meeting at 9:45 am and worship will resume meeting at 11 am.

Brunswick Stew: The tradition continues! We are making Brunswick Stew again this fall, **Saturday, Sep. 22**, with chicken-picking after church **next Sunday, Sep. 16**. If you are able to help in any way, your assistance is greatly appreciated! There is a help and donation sign-up list in the narthex, as well as a pre-sales sign-up list...this year all orders must be in and paid for by Sunday, Sep. 16, and your name will be on each of the quarts belonging to you. Try to pick up your quarts on Sep. 22 as there is limited room to store them in the church freezer. Cost will be \$7 per quart this year. This is a great opportunity to spread the Word to others through the work of our hands.

“The Bias of the Bible?”: “I have a problem with the Bible....I’m an ancient Egyptian, a comfortable Babylonian, a Roman in his villa. See, I’m trying to read the Bible for all it’s worth, but I’m not a Hebrew slave suffering in Egypt. I’m not a conquered Judean deported to Babylon. I’m not a first century Jew living under Roman occupation. I’m a citizen of a superpower. I was born among conquerors. I live in the empire. But I want to read the Bible and think it’s talking to me. This is a problem.” (Brian Zahnd)

Beginning **next Sunday, September 16**, we will diverge from our normal lectionary readings for a short, five-week series of scripture readings and sermons that wrestle with the problem of reading the Bible from above rather than below.

District VII Annual Assembly: This year, Gayton Road will be hosting the District VII Annual Assembly on **Sunday, October 7, at 4 pm!** As this is World Communion Sunday, our gathering will celebrate the communion of our district churches and the universal church. Our joint worship will feature music from a district choir; an address by Dr. Richard Voelz (professor of preaching and worship at Union Seminary); a collection of personal care items to be donated to Safe Harbor, which provides shelter for human trafficking and domestic violence victims; and a shared supper. Please see the flyers in the narthex for more information.

As we will be hosting this year's event, we will be helping with registration and meal preparation. Stay tuned for more information on how you can volunteer.

The church continues to collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids to help children learn and parents maintain their jobs; tab tops from drink cans, soup cans, & cat/dog food cans, etc. to support Ronald McDonald house; and box tops found on cereal boxes, soup cans, Kleenex, etc. to support our educational system. The collection boxes are in our narthex.

From Where I Sit: Faith is an experience. As a community of faith, we share our faith experiences to encourage and inspire each other, and to learn about the ways that God is moving among our community and our world. We invite you to write and share an experience of your own, however great or small. Please send any entries to grccdoc@verizon.net. These will be shared with the church through email.

Directory Update: Tom and Candice Nguyen's new mailing address is River City RV Park / 2225 Merrill Ave., Space 76 / Bullhead City, AZ 86442.

Thank You for all the help, prayers, and support that made possible our recent yard sale and the evening meal that we shared with Caritas families at St. Matthews UMC.

Lectionary Scripture

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

CALENDAR

TODAY

Fall Schedule Resumes

Sunday School @ 9:45 am

Special Worship: Luncheon and Ministry Team Gatherings @ 11 am

THIS WEEK

9/12

Girl Scouts @ 6:15—7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

COMING UP

9/16

Chicken-Picking for Stew (after Worship)

Deadline for Stew orders

9/19

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

9/22

Brunswick Stew (Pickup from 3—5 pm)

9/26

Girl Scouts @ 6:15—7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

9/29

AA Corrections Workshop in Fellowship Hall @ 7 am—6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

10/2

Symphony Manor: Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am

10/3

Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

10/7

Elders Meeting (after Worship)

District VII Annual Assembly @ 4 pm

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family: Mollie Caiella, Tom and Candice Nguyen, Debbie Derr, Darrah Davis, and **Ivan and Julie Round.**

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Harris, Stuart Wilkinson, Anna Lee Werner, Marion Stinnett, June & Bubba Galbraith, and Marion Paitsel.

Friends of GRCC:

Carol Sharp, mother of Julie Round

Lillie May Slaven, grandmother of Julie Round

Joan & Doug Borden, parents of Jeremy Borden

Valerie McCarry, sister of Jeremy Borden

Don Campbell, father of Cliff Campbell

Keel Family (esp. Hunter), friends of June and Bubba Galbraith

Donna Bell, sister-in-law of Barbara Chapman

The Allen Family, friends of Barbara Chapman

Rose Wingard, mother of Anna McFarlane

Cherie Holberg and Abby, friends of Daniela Larew

Ken and Liz Carpenter and family, friends of Anne Waring

*During the month of **September**, please be in prayer for these Mission Personnel of the Global Ministries for our church.*

Sep 2-8: Jeanette Salley, Nicaragua

Sep 9-15: Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan

Sep 16-22: Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco

Sep 23-29: Tom Liddle, East Timor

Sep 30-Oct 6: Robert Breckenridge, Zambia

For more information and weekly prayers for these specific areas please visit www.globalministries.org

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*Together with other churches in Richmond, we pray this **September** for schools and educational institutions of metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of September 9, 2018: We pray for all public schools; for students, teachers, and support personnel, including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers; for all private and religious schools, pre-schools and daycare centers, and for children in home schools.

(www.metroprayrva.org)

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**People listed in bold added this week.
(Please email or call the church with updates.)**

**Gayton Road Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-3pm

Director of Music: Jack Fox
Phone: 804-447-3863 (home)
Email: jack_fox_1998@yahoo.com

Intern: Emily Croxford
Phone: 804-687-5710
Email: emilycroxford@yahoo.com

Elder Chair: Debbie Cook
Phone: 804-360-0565
Email: debbiecook1283@verizon.net

GAYTON ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Where everybody is welcome”

Gayton Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a family of friendly, accepting, God-centered people. With our come-as-you-are attitude and non-judgmental philosophy, we believe we are called to love and care for one another and share the Good News of God’s love and grace with the community through our words and actions.