



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

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



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

*December 30, 2018  
First Sunday after Christmas*

*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.*

*“Above all, trust in the slow work of God....  
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense, and incomplete.”  
(Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 1881-1955)*

**PRELUDE**

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

Lloyd Larsen

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord, O loved ones,  
**Who sing now with angels.**  
Praise God in the heights,  
**You birds with warble and trill.**  
Praise God with lofty chorus,  
**Choir and piano, tone and voice.**

Praise the Lord, O nighttime hush  
**And all who rest in it.**  
Praise God, O gardens of quiet growth,  
**And all you gentle clouds.**  
Praise God you coffee beans  
**And all you wakeful, laughing children!**

Let us all praise the Spirit,  
**Who is in our smile and in our sorrow.**  
Praise God,  
**Whose glory is above and below and around us.**  
Praise Jesus, our brother,  
**Who stands by our side and grows with us.**

**\*OPENING HYMN 165**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

(Luke 2:41-52)

**Holy God,  
Whose wisdom echoes  
In the child’s question  
And the raw insight of youth:  
Renew our curiosity  
And deepen our desire  
For a truth that lives  
And grows before you;  
Through Jesus Christ, the Question and Answer.  
Amen.**

ANTHEM "Some Children See Him" Alfred Burt  
Amanda Carlton, soloist

SCRIPTURE Colossians 3:12-17

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 310 (SUNG) HAAS

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:41-52

SERMON "The Growth of Christ"

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 163 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" W ZLOBIE LEZY

*During this song, all are welcome to come forward to become members of Gayton Road Christian Church by transfer of membership or baptism.*

*Deacons gather in the back of the sanctuary to prepare for the offering.*

OFFERING INVITATION (Colossians 3:12-17)

OFFERTORY "In the Bleak Midwinter" Mark Hayes

\*DOXOLOGY 50 "Praise God" LASST UNSERFREUN

\*OFFERING BLESSING (Luke 2:41-525)

**God of quiet growth,  
Whose steadfast love  
Nurtures us across the years—  
Plant these gifts and our lives  
Where there is need,  
That we and others  
May share together  
Your abundant life.  
Amen.**

CONFESSION (Luke 2:41-52)

Lord, you ask questions  
that open us to life.

Christ, you sit among us  
humbly.

Lord, you enter our world  
and live in time.

**When our close-  
mindedness ends  
the conversation:**

**When we stand over you,  
imposing our will on  
yours:**

**When we seek quick-fixes  
at the cost of what matters  
most:**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Colossians 3:12-17)

## THE PEACE

(Colossians 3:12-17)

We are the body of Christ. Therefore, we are called to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

**COMMUNION HYMN 518** “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” NEW BEGINNINGS

*(Elders and Deacons gather in the back of the Sanctuary to prepare to serve)*

*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. The bread and the cup are taken in unison; hold each in your hands until you are signaled to partake. This communion bread is gluten free.*

*You are invited to bless the bread and the cup for your neighbor. As you pass the element, you may say, “The body of Christ, broken for you,” and, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”*

## PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION

**\*CLOSING HYMN 150** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

**\*BENEDICTION** (Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52)

**May the live-giving questions of the Christ child,  
The endless answers of the Holy Spirit,  
And the knowing love of the Creator God—**

**Nurture us today and everyday,  
Drawing us into beloved communion  
With all creation. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Mark Hayes

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**\*Please stand if able.**

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

**Scheduled to serve today:**

Pastor .....Jonathan Kruschwitz  
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox  
 Intern ..... Emily Croxford  
 Lay Leader ..... Carl Schluter  
 Children’s Message ..... Amanda Carlton  
 Elders .....Gracie Tingle and Teresa Campbell  
 Deacons .....Ivan Round, Garrett Carlton,  
 ..... Chris Carlton, and Holly McGinnis  
 Nursery ..... Darrah Davis

**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 worshipping with us today!*

**Communion** is celebrated each Sunday.

**In Memory of Loved Ones**

This year as a part of our Christmas outreach, we contributed to the Blessing Warriors’ ministry, which befriends and serves the homeless in our city.

Our gifts were given in service to Christ.

Several were also given in memory of loved ones.

**In Memory of:**

**By:**

John Schmucker

Carl Schluter and Nancy Patterson

Jim Bovay

Carl Schluter

Anne and Hugo Schluter

Carl Schluter

Tim Cook

Debbie Cook

## GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Bites, Brews, and Big Questions:** If Jesus went missing, where would you look for him? According to the gospels, tables with food and drink and questions would be a good place to start. Join us this **January** as our gatherings resume around tables with food, drink, and questions. We will meet next on **Monday, January 7** at Rico's Mexican Grill on 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy at **6 pm** (same mall as Publix Market, at the far right end).

In this BBQ installment, we will discuss a recurring question from our summer series: Just what is God's job description? As a guide for our conversation, we will be using James Bryan Smith's *The Good and Beautiful God*.

**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. As Gayton Road is a church that celebrates the diversity of the body of Christ and welcomes each voice to the congregation, we invite you to write and share an experience of your own, however great or small. Please send any entries to [grccdoc@verizon.net](mailto:grccdoc@verizon.net). These will be shared with the church through email.

**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.

**Out of Office:** Jonathan Kruschwitz will be out of the office January 1-6.

### Lectionary Scripture

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

**Thank you** for the generous love offerings. We are deeply grateful for your love and support!

Darrah, John, Jack, and Jonathan

# CALENDAR

## TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Worship @ 11 am

## THIS WEEK

1/2                      Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

## COMING UP

1/6                      Elders Meeting (after Worship)  
1/7                      Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm  
1/8                      Symphony Manor Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am  
1/9                      Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
                            Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm  
1/14                     Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm  
1/16                     Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm  
1/21                     Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm  
1/23                     Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
                            Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm  
1/28                     Bites, Brews, and Big Questions @ 6 pm  
1/30                     Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

**LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...**

**Our GRCC family:** Mollie Caiella, Stuart Wilkinson, Ivan and Julie Round, Tom and Candice Nguyen, Marion Paitzel, Ben Croxford, and Jeff Wilber.

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

**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  
Ken and Liz Carpenter and family, friends of Anne Waring  
Andy Hrabovsky, friend of the Wingo family  
Linda Albimino, sister of Debbie Cook  
Dale Garrett, cousin of Debbie Cook  
Elizabeth Reich, sister of Kathy Moran  
Amanda Stiverson, family of Debbie Cook  
Kathleen McGinnis, mother of Rob McGinnis  
Barbara Pietschman and family, friends of the Wingo family  
Sandy Row, friend of the Wingo family  
Family of Cherie Holberg, friends of Daniela Larew  
Lillian Stewart, aunt of Debbie Cook  
Bernadette McCabe, friend of Carl Schluter  
Don, friend of Amanda Carlton  
Jerry Galbreath, brother-in-law of Virginia Taylor  
Drudy Carlton, sister of Paul Carlton  
Doug Cramer, friend of Jeff Wilber  
Gene Thompson, friend of Lu Roberts  
Terri Kenner, daughter of June and Bubba Galbraith  
**David Ninesling**, step-brother of Jeff Wilber

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

Dec 2-8: Nikotemo Sopepa, Fiji  
Dec 9-15: Mary Kathryn Ball, Ecuador  
Dec 16-22: Larry and Deborah Colvin, Ghana  
Dec 23-29: Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines  
Dec 30-Jan 5: Phyllis Byrd, Kenya

*For more information and weekly prayers for these specific areas please visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)*

*Together with other churches in Richmond **this December**, we pray for the families of metropolitan Richmond.*

*For the week of December 30, 2018: We pray for peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and accord among family members, whatever the distance, and however old the hurt or grievance.*

*([www.metroprayrva.org](http://www.metroprayrva.org))*

**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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(804) 360-4464

**Pastor:** Jonathan Kruschwitz  
Phone: 804-316-8434  
Email: grccdoc@verizon.net  
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.