



**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 23, 2018
Ordinary Time: Proper 20*

*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.

*“Lazarus [Luke 16:19-31] needs not only money but also a place to stay,
medical treatment, maybe work, and, even more, he needs friendship.”*

(Jean Vanier)

PRELUDE

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Johann Walther

*During the prelude, you are invited to the table at the back, where you may write a word of blessing
to share with the Taylors—perhaps a memory, a thought of gratitude, or a hope for the future.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Genesis 2:18-23; Isaiah 40, 43)

Creator God, who made the sea and sky,

Who measured the waters in the hollow of your hand,

You desire that we share life together.

Righteous God, who accounts the power of nations as dust,

And brings corrupt rulers to nothing,

You desire that we share life together.

Loving God, in whose sight all people are precious and blessed,

Honored and redeemed,

You desire that we share life together.

Holy God, who calls us each by name, come among us today,

Open our eyes to see our sisters and brothers.

Teach us today how to share life together.

***OPENING HYMN 683**

“O for a World”

AZMON

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Luke 16:19-31)

God of Abraham, Moses, and the prophets,

Your covenant binds us

As sisters and brothers:

Help us to overcome

The scandal of poverty—

The fixed chasm of indifference—

And to recognize you

In the wounded poor;

Through Jesus Christ, the Builder of Bridges. Amen.

ANTHEM "Poor Man Lazrus" Jester Hairston

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

SCRIPTURE Luke 16:19-31

SERMON "In Front of a Chasm"

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 684 "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*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 (Luke 16:19-31)

OFFERTORY "Allegretto" Eugene Gigout

*DOXOLOGY 50 "Praise God" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OFFERING BLESSING (Luke 16:19-31)

**Brother Christ,
Bless these gifts—
And in this act of giving,
Draw our hearts
Across the cold chasm
Of security and independence
To share life
With our sisters and brothers
In need. Amen.**

CONFESSION (Psalm 10)

"In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised."

God, forgive us our arrogance to justify our wealth and the poverty of others.

"They think in their heart, 'We shall not be moved; throughout all the generations we shall not meet adversity.'"

God, forgive us our complacency to accept the gap between rich and poor as your natural order.

"Their eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; they lurk that they may seize the poor."

God, forgive us our part in an economy in which dollars are more important than people.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Colossians 1:20)

THE PEACE

(Luke 16:19-31)

The peace of Christ is not earned. It is a gift shared among the needful.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 426

“The Voice of Jesus”

THE VOICE OF JESUS

(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 687** “In Christ There Is No East or West”

ST. PETER

BLESSING A DEPARTURE 435

Larry and Jonda Taylor

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

***BENEDICTION**

(Luke 16:19-31)

**May the kingdom of God,
The love of Christ,
And the unity of the Spirit,
Bridge the gaps between us
And bring us together at God’s banquet table.
We go now in the peace and love of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Grand Chorus”

Theodore Dubois

***Please stand if able.**

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

Scheduled to serve today:

PastorJonathan Kruschwitz
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Intern Emily Croxford
 Lay Leader Teresa Campbell
 Elders Anna McFarlane & Debbie Cook
 DeaconsJeff Wilber, Debbie Derr,
Alex Schuler, and Audrey Schuler
 AcolytesSchuler Family
 Children’s Message Teresa Campbell
 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 worshipping with us today!*

Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

We welcome Marion Elder as a new member of our church family! Marion joined last 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.

“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)

For the next few weeks, we will diverge from our normal lectionary readings for this five-week series of scripture readings and sermons that wrestle with the problem of reading the Bible from above rather than below.

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 2018: On **Sundays September 30 and October 7**, the church will collect a special offering for the Disciples’ Reconciliation Ministry. Gifts to the Reconciliation Ministry contribute to faith-based projects across the nation that promote a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church. For more information, please see www.reconciliationministry.org.

Grounds Keeping Event: Come join us for a grounds keeping event on **Saturday, October 6.** We'll start at **9:00 am** and finish at **1:00 pm.** Homemade breakfast bars and coffee will be available. Our hope is to clean up the weeds and trim the bushes before the District VII Annual Assembly on the next day. **Please bring whatever gardening tools you may have** to help in the effort, and sign up on the sign-up sheet so we'll know how many will be there (and how many goodies to bring!).

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.

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 **October** as we gather weekly around tables with food, drink, and questions. Day, time, and place have yet to be determined—stay tuned!

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*. (If you'd like to purchase the book, you can do so *and* support GRCC at the same time! Please use this Amazon link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1241622>. Reading the book alongside the gatherings may enrich your experience, but it is not necessary.)

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.

Lectionary Scripture

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8^a

Mark 9:30-37

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11 am
Send-off Reception (after worship)

THIS WEEK

9/26 Girl Scouts @ 6:00—7:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
9/29 AA Corrections Workshop in Fellowship Hall @ 7 am—6 pm

COMING UP

9/30 Choir Rehearsal @ 3—5 pm
10/2 Symphony Manor: Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am
10/3 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
10/6 Grounds Keeping Event @ 9 am—1 pm
10/7 Elders Meeting (after Worship)
District VII Annual Assembly @ 4 pm
10/8 Youth Apple-picking Outing
10/10 Girl Scouts @ 6:00-7:30

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family: Mollie Caiella, Tom and Candice Nguyen, Debbie Derr, 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

Cherie Holberg and Abby, friends of Daniela

Larew

Ken and Liz Carpenter and family, friends of Anne Waring

Joe Butler, father of Carrie Wingo

Andy Hrabovsky, friend of the Wingo family

*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 23, 2018: We pray for healthy relationships between parents, teachers, and students; for cooperation between superintendents and administrators of public and private schools throughout this metropolitan city.

(www.metroprayrva.org)

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

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Intern: Emily Croxford
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Elder Chair: Debbie Cook
Phone: 804-360-0565
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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.