



*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**

*September 30, 2018
Ordinary Time: Proper 21*



*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.

*"If even Jesus had a hard time imagining God's mission extending beyond the boundaries of his
community, then perhaps we too might have the same problem."*

(Tripp Fuller)

PRELUDE

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" Robert J. Powell

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Name Unnamed, whose presence is closer than we dare imagine,
Fill us with wonder of you,
That we may be filled with wonder of ourselves.

Name Unnamed, whose spirit is stranger than we dare imagine,
Startle us with difference,
That we may be filled with wonder of others.

Name Unnamed, whose good news is greater than we dare imagine,
Reshape our perceptions, our patterns of living, our politics and prayer,
That we may be filled with wonder of a world made whole.

***OPENING HYMN 66**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Matthew 15:21-28)

**Christ of transformation,
Whose mind was changed
By the cry of the Canaanite woman:
Soften our hearts
And make us vulnerable
To unfamiliar voices.
Turn our spirits
Toward your kingdom coming.
Amen.**

ANTHEM "Love Your Neighbor" Michael Helman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 310 (SUNG) HAAS

SCRIPTURE Matthew 15:21-28

SERMON "When Jesus Repented"

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 518 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"
NEW BEGINNINGS

*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 (Mark 10:17-31)

OFFERTORY "Allegretto" Eugene Gigout

*DOXOLOGY 50 "Praise God" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OFFERING BLESSING (Matthew 15:21-28)

**Shepherd Christ,
Whose care is for sheep
Outside the flock:
Breathe into these gifts
And our lives
Your spirit of welcome,
That we might receive every surprise
With your love.
Amen.**

CONFESSION (Matthew 15:21-28)

Lord, when the Canaanite woman begged, you listened.	Christ, you changed your mind.	Lord, your kingdom is surprising.
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When we do not listen to the unfamiliar cry:	When our minds are made up before another speaks:	When we write off what we do not understand:
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Lord, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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Lord, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Matthew 15:21-28)

THE PEACE

(Matthew 15:21-28)

The peace of Christ is not the benefit of a select few. It is a gift offered to all the world.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 385 “An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare” O WALY WALY

(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 668** “For the Healing of the Nations” CWM RHONDDA

***BENEDICTION** (Matthew 15:21-28)

**May the Spirit surprise us,
Christ change us,
And God bless us.**

**We go now open to the world,
Ready to love and serve. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”

J. S. Bach

***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 Seth Spivey
 Elders Teresa Campbell and Becky Ennis
 Deacons Radek Larew, Kathy Habib,
 Bill Malla, and Alexa McFarlane
 Acolytes Croxford Family
 Children’s Message Seth Spivey
 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 two Sundays ago.

GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Thank You: The August Yard Sale raised over \$4200 for our church! Thanks to a large number of donations, it was the biggest yard sale we have ever had. “Yard Salers” were lined up on the sidewalk just before the doors opened. There was not an empty parking space and even some cars parked along the edges of the parking lot. I want to thank each person who contributed to making this sale a success. People who donated items, got their friends to donate items, priced, cleaned, packed, unpacked, hung clothes and signs, and organized the displays. People who tallied the purchases, collected money, got their friends to work, and packed up the left overs. People who bought and sold. Many treasures found new homes that day. Our homeless ministry benefited with some of the left over clothes. Church World Service is going to receive chairs and a baby bassinet. And our good partners at Salvation Army picked up everything else. Thank you to all who made this yard sale a success!

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.

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 2018: Today and next Sunday, 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 **next 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.

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. We will begin meeting on Monday, October 15. Location has 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 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.

Lectionary Scripture

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11 am
Choir Rehearsal @ 3—5 pm

THIS WEEK

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

COMING UP

10/7 District VII Annual Assembly @ 4 pm
10/8 Youth Apple-picking Outing
10/10 Girl Scouts @ 6:00-7:30
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
10/14 Elders Meeting (after Worship)
10/15 Bites, Brews, and Big Questions Returns @ 6 pm (Location TBD)
10/17 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
10/24 Girl Scouts @ 6:00-7:30
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

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

Linda Albimino, sister of Debbie Cook

Dale Garrett, cousin of Debbie Cook

*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 for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond.

For the week of September 30, 2018: We pray for all in need of social services, all social service departments and caseworkers; for a partnership between the church and other institutions serving the needy.

(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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Elder Chair: Debbie Cook
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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.