

OCTOBER 2021 CD A TER GUIDE

Humility is the mother of giants. One sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak. — GK Chesterton

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, USA

Loving God, we pray your blessings upon Paul Kurtz as we celebrate his ordination. May his soul be refreshed with the love of Christ. Fill him with faith for the future.

2 FAITH AVENUE PRAYER: CONNECT GROUPS

Lord God Almighty, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. We pray for our Connect Groups that are relaunching during this season. May your presence be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with you and one another. Call out of us what is not of you, and call us up into the good work you have for us to participate in ministry with you.

3 GCI-USA SOUTHEAST

Lord, have mercy on our GCI members and those in our spiritual family who are experiencing the devastation of Hurricane Ida. Compel the church to be helpers and loving neighbors in the recovery effort. We trust you, Jesus.



4 MEDITATION MONDAY:

The centurion was the commander of roughly one hundred soldiers of the Roman army. He would have been the one to charge his men to beat Jesus, as well as give the order to drive the nails into his hands and feet and supervise the crucifixion. Yet, somehow in the middle of the brutality, this man was able to notice that there was something different about Jesus. At some point, the centurion began to understand that maybe Jesus was exactly who he claimed to be. Then, after Jesus' death, this centurion believed and proclaimed that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Take a few moments to set aside all distractions. Take a breath. Remember that you are in the loving presence of God. Ask him to reveal himself to you. Respond to the question Jesus frequently asked in Scripture: "Who do you say that I am?" In honest prayer, share your thoughts with Jesus.

GCI - USA

God, we thank you for your Word and who it reveals you to be. We thank you for the way your transform us and for the invitation to be and join you in making disciples. We thank you for the leaders who gathered at the Faith Avenue Workshop last month. May the participants be inspired with innovate ideas and discern next steps for their Faith Avenues as they return home to their teams.

OCTOBER 2021



6 HYDERABAD,

We thank our Loving Father for the outpouring of his presence during our retreat. The pastoral team and youth gathered for a time of worship and renewal. To God be the glory and praise for how he transforms us in community.

7 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, USA

We had our second Blessing of Children, Students, and Mentors service, which included a prayer walk over our neighborhood elementary school. Join us in praying for protection, guidance, and wisdom for upcoming generations.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Father, your Word says that you will perfect that which concerns us. We thank you for your loving kindness that has gifted us with our new facility. Thank you, Father, for your blessing on this move. Guide us as we minister to and engage with our new neighborhood.

GCI-USA THE MARK EXPERIENCE

God, we thank you for this group of young adult leaders gathering to immerse themselves in your written Word. We ask that you would bless their time together to be life-giving and spiritually-formative, and that they would develop tools to continue the practice of deep immersion in the scriptures and the facilitation of Connect Group Bible studies.

O GCI - PASTOR APPRECIATION

This Pastor Appreciation Month, we lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for our pastors. Lord, we thank you for calling the shepherds of our congregations around the world. Thank you for guiding them and giving them strength. Please continue to protect and provide for them.

MEDITATION MONDAY:

The scribes could only teach based on traditions and what had been spoken previously by their forefathers. In total contrast, Jesus spoke with authority that came from within his own soul. His authority came directly from the Father and originated from his identity as the Son of God. Jesus was able to interpret and communicate truth to the people in such a way that was both remarkable yet clear. The people were astonished by the teachings of Jesus. It was much different than what was being taught by the religious leaders. The words of Jesus had the ability to penetrate the heart and make a lasting impression. Pause for a moment. Take several deep breaths and allow yourself to be still. Be aware of God's loving presence within you. Jesus has a message for you in this moment. Ask the Holy Spirit to unlock your heart to receive his amazing words for you.



17 GCI-CANADA

We lift up our brothers and sisters in Canada. Spirit, we pray for your guidance and provision. "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent." Philippians 1:9-10

13 SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA

Jesus, we thank you for modeling the need to pause to reflect and connect with you and one other. We rejoice over a successful women's retreat. It was evident that God's presence was in everything we did. May we leave our time together better able to follow your footsteps in all the opportunities and challenges of life.

14 CINCINNATI, OHIO, USA

Please join us in praying for the pumpkin patch that our congregation hosts for neighborhood engagement. We invite our neighbors to explore the patch, play games, take pictures, share a cup of coffee, and find a pumpkin to take home. Our hope is that God will draw us into deeper relationship with him and one another.

15 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, USA

Please pray for God's blessing and provision for our community fall festival event we are hosting at the church building in conjunction with the Highland Heights Neighborhood Association on October 30th. We're asking God to provide not only volunteers and trunk-or-treaters, but community members and their children to come and participate in the fun, and also for the weather to be just right for this outdoor event.

16 PANDEMIC PRAYER

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble, be near to us. The current pandemic is touching the lives of so many. Look on us with the eyes of your mercy, comfort us with a sense of your presence, and preserve us from the enemy. Restore us to health, and lead us to your eternal glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7 GCI - PRAYER FOR NEW FACILITIES

Gracious God, we thank you for infinite mercies and for the gift of participating in ministry with you. Many of our congregations are looking for new locations in which to gather. We commit this move to you, knowing that you provide for your children. We trust you and delight ourselves in you. We lean not on our own understanding, but in all our ways we acknowledge you, and we know that you will direct our next steps forward.

18 MEDITATION MONDAY: MARK 11:25

God's forgiveness was never conditional to our asking. God already forgave us while we were dead in our sins (Col. 2:13). So why do we need to forgive others in order for God to forgive us? When we are unable to forgive others, our hearts become hardened and closed off to experiencing love and forgiveness. The act of forgiveness enables us to place ourselves before God in a receiving position. It opens up our soul to allow the Father's forgiveness to easily flow in and out from his heart to ourselves and others. Pause and let the Holy Spirit show you the names or faces of people you need to forgive. As the Lord shows them to you, pray and forgive them in your own words. Be filled with God's mercy and forgiveness.

19 KENOCKEE, MICHIGAN, USA

We are rejoicing over our largest event to date, our Community Yard Sale, hosted on our property. We were able to hand out our church information to about 200 people, but many more than that came through that day. We had around 35 sellers in the yard and about 20 tables of vendors and crafters. We gave away a hot dog meal to all who wanted. We have already secured a date for next year's event. We are very pleased with the turn out and so were the sellers. Praise God!

OCTOBER 2021



20 SOUTH KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, USA

As we move forward, please pray that the faithfulness of God will be seen and recognized in the hearts of the family here in GC South Kansas City. In light of recent struggles and losses, the church has seen a decrease in having things to celebrate. While there is always something to celebrate, finding them has been clouded with a lot of despair and doubt. Please pray for our hearts to be lifted and our leadership to be guided by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

21 GCI - SOUTH AFRICA

We are so grateful for our international leaders. Let us remember our co-laborers in South Africa today and ask God to continue to transform their ministry. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6





22 HELENA, MONTANA,

We are celebrating a successful neighborhood camp which resulted in twenty-three baptisms. Let us welcome our new brothers and sisters in the fellowship! "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninetynine righteous persons who need no repentance."- Luke 15:7 (ESV)

23 GCI - PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Faithful God, we praise you for your work in and through our denomination. Please continue to create in us hearts that seek to know and serve you more. Fill us with your joy and uphold us while we participate in Christ's ministry to the world.

24 GCI-PRAYER FOR MINISTRY WORKERS

Eternal Father, it is a joy to join in your ministry. We thank you for all the volunteers who have answered your call to serve in GCI congregations. We ask that you sustain them and may they experience your love in meaningful ways.

25 MEDITATION MONDAY: MARK 10:49-50

During the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire provided those who were blind with a "beggar's coat," which gave a person the legal right to beg. The blind man's cloak was most likely his sole source of shelter, warmth, and income. Undoubtedly, it was his most valuable possession. However, when he hears that Jesus is calling him, he throws off his beggar's cloak, jumps up, and makes his way to Jesus. He chooses to put ALL his trust in Jesus. He throws off his old way of life. He's done with the beggar's life. When Jesus asks him what he wants, he doesn't ask for money or some other temporary fix; he says he wants to see. Jesus responds, "Your faith has healed you," and immediately, the blind man recovers his sight. What "beggar's coat" are you holding onto? Holy Spirit, show us our own personal "cloak" that hinders us from living the abundant, rich life of God.

26 GCI - JAMAICA

We are so grateful for our international leaders. Pray for our leaders and members in Jamaica today. "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people..."

1 Timothy 2:1

$27 \, {\rm ^{GCI-IRELAND}}_{\rm \&\,UK}$

Adventure Camp 2021 was a huge success! We had around 55 people at the camp, and it was a really happy, fun, and memorable time. God was so good to us, and we thank everyone for their prayers!

28 GCI-USA

Jesus, as our GCI and GCS boards gather today, we ask that you guide the conversation and decisions made so that they will be pleasing to you. Unite us together by your Spirit and give us the strength to carry out your will.

29 GCI - PHILIPPINES

We are rejoicing over a successful One Thing online worship night, where members from across our country worshipped in one voice and shared testimonies of God's faithfulness.

30 gci

Gracious God, we pray for a vibrant missional heartbeat to permeate GCI congregations. We are blessed, so help us to be a blessing to the world.

77 GCI

Eternal Father, it is a joy to join in your ministry. We thank you for all the volunteers who have answered your call to serve in GCI congregations. We ask that you sustain them and may they experience your love in meaningful ways.

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE AN EVENT, CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUEST, OR PRAISE REPORT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S PRAYER GUIDE OR OTHER GCI PUBLICATIONS?

Please email info@gci.org with details and photos.