



*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.*

*March 11, 2018  
Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*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.*

*“Seek God, not happiness.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

**PRELUDE**

*“What Wondrous Love Is This” Craig Phillips*

*During this time, you are invited to come forward to receive a Lenten anointing on your wrists,  
symbolizing the cross we share and the powerful love of God made perfect in our weakness.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(John 3:14-21)*

*“For God so loved the world”—  
Even when we complained to God.  
Even when we resisted God.  
Even when we rejected God.*

*“For God so loved the world”—  
Enough to become a part of the world.  
Enough to suffer in the world.  
Enough to give God’s life for the world.*

*“For God so loved the world”—  
And so we are lifted up to life anew! Amen.*

**\*OPENING HYMN 16**

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” NETTLETON*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

*(Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21)*

**Merciful and gracious God,  
Abounding in steadfast love—  
Who comes to us  
Without invitation  
Wherever we languish:  
Raise us to new life  
In your gratuitous love;  
Revive us in the wilderness,  
For we rely not on ourselves  
But on you.  
In Christ who shares our journey: Amen.**

ANTHEM "God So Loved the World" Benjamin Harlan

SCRIPTURE John 3:14-21

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

SCRIPTURE Numbers 21:4-9

READER'S THEATER "Lifted Up for Life" Chris and Amanda Carlton

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 205 "Behold the Love, the Grace of God" HAMBURG

*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 (Ephesians 2:1-10)

OFFERTORY "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed" Charles Callahan

\*DOXOLOGY 528 "Give Thanks" GIVE THANKS

\*OFFERING BLESSING (Ps 107; Eph 2:1-10; John 3:14-21)

**Faithful God,  
Whose love does not  
Wait for us to return home,  
But comes seeking us with a gift:  
Join these gifts and our lives  
With your eager love,  
And draw us to those  
Who need it most. Amen.**

CONFESSION (An Orthodox Prayer for Lent; Saint Ephrem of Syria)

O Lord and Master of our lives,  
**Grant not unto us:**  
The spirit of idleness, of discouragement,  
**Of lust for power, and of vain-speaking.**

Grant, rather,  
**Unto us, Thy servants:**  
The spirit of chastity, of meekness,  
**Of patience, and of love.**

Yes, O Lord and King,  
**Grant that we may perceive our own transgressions,**  
And judge not our brothers and sisters,  
**For blessed are you, unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Ephesians 2:1-10)

## THE PEACE

(John 3:14-21)

The peace of God is this: Christ came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Through Christ, we are reconciled with God and one another.

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

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### COMMUNION HYMN 413

“Take Our Bread”

TAKE OUR BREAD

*(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 546

“Amazing Grace”

NEW BRITAIN

### \*BENEDICTION

**May God redeem our loss,  
Christ restore our life,  
And Spirit renew our love,  
That we with God might not condemn the world,  
But bless it with grace and wonder. Amen.**

## Postlude

“Fugue in g Minor”

J. S. Bach

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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 ..... Alex and Audrey Schuler  
 Elders ..... Gracie Tingle & Cinda Caiella  
 Deacons .....Becky Ennis, Alexa McFarland,  
 ..... Chris Carlton, & Carol Malla  
 Children’s Message ..... David Koerner  
 Acolytes ..... Susan Campbell & Barbara Chapman  
 Nursery ..... Darrah Davis & John Ennis

**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.

**GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sunday Morning Lenten Study:** “Explore the meaning of Lent, its importance in spiritual formation, its significance in the preparation of Easter, and the holy season of Easter itself.” Join us this year as we rediscover the meaning of Lent. **Each Sunday morning during Lent at 9:45 am (February 18-April 1)**, we will gather for a time of shared study and exploration, led by Jonathan and based on the book *God for Us* (eds. Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe).

**Fasting Invitation:** Fasting has long been a religious tradition, a way to align our body with our spirit. John Schuler invites all who are interested to join him in another fast this Lenten season, from Saturday evening to Sunday evening on **March 17-18**. If you have interest in sharing the fast, please contact John. There are plans to break the fast after Sunday evening’s prayer gathering.

**Yard Sale News:** At the February Board Meeting, it was reported that the yard sales contributed \$2899 in fiscal year 2017-2018. This is a significant source of funds for our church. To give this some perspective, the yard sale proceeds for this year are equal to a little more than two mortgage payments!

To make the Spring Yard Sale a success, donations are still needed. Please price the items you are donating—using your best judgment—for the amount. Stickers are available in the Fellowship Hall. No need to price clothes, books, CDs, or movies.

In addition, volunteers are needed for the last work day and the day of the yard sale itself. Older youth are welcome!

**Easter Lilies and Shamrocks**—Worship and Outreach are teaming up! For the month of March, you may purchase an Easter Lily to adorn our sanctuary on April 1 and/or purchase a Shamrock which represents a donation to sponsor Campers of all ages at Craig Springs. Both are \$10.00. You may do this “In Memory” or “In Honor” of someone. Please fill out a form in the Narthex and make your checks payable to GRCC. Please indicate in the memo line what you wish to donate. For ordering purposes, next Sunday, **March 18**, will be the last day to order Easter Lilies. Please see Teresa Campbell or Carol Malla if you have any questions.

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

**Palm Sunday Breakfast and Egg Hunt**—Donations requested for this year’s Egg Hunt, and volunteers for Palm Sunday Breakfast! Please donate individually wrapped candy to the cause by next Sunday, **March 18**. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex to volunteer a dish for the Palm Sunday Breakfast.

All are invited to gather for breakfast on Palm Sunday (**March 25**) at 9:00 am. The Egg Hunt will take place following the breakfast.

**District VII Variety Show**—On Saturday, **April 21**, 12:00-2:00 pm, at Battery Park Christian Church, there will be a district variety show which will raise funds to support locals efforts to aid victims of human trafficking. All churches are invited to share a couple “acts/talents” for the show, which will feature music, laughter, and more! In addition to the show, there will be lunch (“Make Your Own Sandwich”) and activities for folks to get to know each other.

**Craig Springs Summer Camp**: Registration has opened for 2018 Summer Camp at our Region’s beloved Craig Springs. Please see information packets in the narthex. (More information on the individual camps is available at [www.craigsprings.com/camp-program/](http://www.craigsprings.com/camp-program/)) If you have interest or questions in any camp, please let Jonathan know.

**Directory Update**: Marion Paitsel’s new address is:  
Lakewood; Health Services Building #223; 1900 Lauderdale Dr.; Henrico, VA 23238.

**Prayer List**: Please note that **last Sunday**, the prayer list was cleared. If there are any requests that have disappeared that you would like returned to the list, please email Jonathan.

### **Lectionary Scripture**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

# CALENDAR

## TODAY

Children & Youth Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Lenten Study Begins @ 9:45 am  
Prayer Gathering @ 5 pm

## THIS WEEK

3/13 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm  
3/14 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm  
3/17 **Yard Sale @ 8 am–1 pm** (arrive at 7:45 am; pack up from 1-2 pm)  
Shared Fasting (from 3/17 evening to 3/18 evening)

## COMING UP

3/18 Board Meeting (after worship)  
Final Day for Egg Hunt Candy Donations and Lily/Shamrock purchases  
3/21 Common Table @ 6 pm  
Choir @ 7:15 pm  
3/24 Virginia State Young People of AA Gathering—Sanctuary, 2-6 pm  
3/25 Palm Sunday  
Breakfast @ 9 am  
Egg Hunt (after Breakfast)  
3/27 Girl Scouts @ 4 pm  
3/28 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
3/29 Maundy Thursday Special Service @ 7 pm  
3/30 Good Friday—Shared Prayer (wherever you are)  
4/1 Easter Sunday  
“Sonrise” Service @ 6:30 am  
Breakfast (following Sonrise Service)  
Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Easter Worship @ 11:00 am

**LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...**

**Our GRCC family:** Tom and Candice Nguyen, Mary Harris, Ankie Moore, Marion Paitsel, Bubba Galbraith, Carl Schluter, and Jim Harris.

**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:**

Chris Atkinson, cousin of Carol Malla  
Mae Stancliffe, aunt of Julie Round  
Donald Mason, uncle of Julie Round  
Bruce and Carol Sharpe, parents of Julie Round  
Amy Penland, cousin of Susan Campbell  
Kelly Harris, friend of Amanda Carlton  
Barbara Burns, friend of Amanda Carlton  
Jeff Price, friend of Debbie Cook  
Cuppert Family, family friends of Debbie Cook  
Cherie Holberg, friend of Daniela Larew

**We extend our deepest sympathy to  
Emily Croxford and her family on  
the passing of her grandmother,  
Velma Huggans.**

**Please keep Emily and her family in  
your heart and prayers.**

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

Mar 4-10: Karen Campbell Nelson, Indonesia

Mar 11-17: Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala

Mar 18-24: Monica Liddie, East Timor

Mar 25-31: Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine

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

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*Together with other churches in Richmond, we pray this **March** for health care in metropolitan Richmond.*

*For the week of March 11, 2018: We pray for health care in metropolitan Richmond: for all the sick and their caregivers, doctors, nurses, hospice workers, home healthcare workers, and all who minister to the health of others. For clinics, medical personnel, and all institutions that serve persons who are uninsured or underinsured.*

*([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  
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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

**Moderator:** Seth Spivey  
Phone: 804-873-5629  
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**Chair of Elders:** Nancy Patterson  
Phone: 804-301-0322  
Email: nancy.patterson@yahoo.com

**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.