



**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.*

*June 2, 2019
Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*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.

*"[A human being's freedom] is not freedom from conditions,
but it is freedom to take a stand toward the conditions."*

(Viktor Frankl, 1905-1997)

PRELUDE

"Prelude on 'Converse'"

Raymond H. Haan

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Psalm 97)

As the day dawns,
So our souls awaken.

Earth and earth's people rejoice!

Mountains magnify the Lord.

The coastlands celebrate God.

Earth and earth's people rejoice!

The word of the Lord has no end.

The love of God is everlasting.

Earth and earth's people rejoice!

This is the God who breaks the chains.

This is the God who opens hearts.

Earth and earth's people rejoice!

***OPENING HYMN 2**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26)

Irrepressible God,

Whose love breaks us free

From the bars that imprison

And divide our world:

May we find unity

Not in creed

But in selfless deed,

That the whole creation

Might share in your communion.

Through Jesus Christ, who makes known your love: Amen.

ANTHEM "Let Us Walk This Road Together" John Carter

SCRIPTURE John 17:20-26

BLESSING OF OUR GRADUATES

At this time, children through second grade are invited to depart for Worship & Wonder.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

SCRIPTURE Acts 16:16-34

SERMON "Freedom in Prison"

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 487 "Help Us Accept Each Other" ACCEPTANCE

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 (Acts 16:16-34)

OFFERTORY "Children of the Heavenly Father" Mark Sedio

*DOXOLOGY 50 "Praise God" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OFFERING BLESSING (Acts 16:16-34)

**God of broken chains
And open doors—
Bless these gifts and our lives
With your liberating love,
That they might unlock
Unforeseen possibilities of salvation
In this community and beyond.
In Jesus Christ, who sets us free: Amen.**

CONFESSION (Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26)

Lord, your love draws captor and captive together around the Table.	Christ, you found strength in prayer.	Lord, you break us free from the innermost prisons.
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**When we preserve
the battle lines:**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**When we trust in our own
power instead of God's:**

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

**When we give up on your
liberation:**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE PEACE

(Acts 16:16-34)

Wherever bread is broken in the name of Christ, chains are broken too. There is peace.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 420

“I Come with Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

(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. Please come forward to take communion. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you. The communion bread is gluten free.

PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

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

ST. PETER

***BENEDICTION**

(Acts 16:16-34)

**May God who breaks our chains,
Christ who opens doors,
And Spirit who makes holy our tables—
Save “us” and “them” together.**

We go now to love and serve our Lord in others. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Postlude”

Raymond H. Haan

***Please stand if able.**

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

Scheduled to serve today:

PreacherJonathan Kruschwitz
 Accompanist.....Don Moro
 Lay Leader Carl Schluter
 Elders Carl Schluter and Gracie Tingle
 DeaconsJeff Wilber, Debbie Derr,
 Carol Malla, and Audrey Schuler
 Acolytes
 Worship & Wonder..... Darrah Davis
 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!*

A Special Welcome Back to Don Moro, who returns to accompany our music this Sunday.

Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

GRCC NEWS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITES

Acts for Easter: Eastertide is a season for resurrection. We celebrate not only the empty tomb two thousand years ago, but the many ways that Christ is risen today—in our hearts, in our communities, in the world. We seek the risen Christ in the dirt and dust of our world—in our own “Galilee.” For as the young messenger at the tomb proclaimed, “He has been raised; he is not here. But go...he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you” (Mark 16:6-7).

This Easter season, you are invited to join us as we read together the book of Acts from front to finish. Acts tells the story of the early church, a group of Christ-followers not unlike ourselves who shared together the joy of Christ’s resurrection and sought to follow the risen Christ in their own lives. Each week we will read a handful of chapters. For those who are interested, there is available in the narthex a short printed guide for the weekly reading. Also, keep your eyes peeled for occasional Friday coffee gatherings to discuss our reading: these will be scheduled on the calendar.

Linger Longer (Birthday Bash): After worship **June 30**, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a small piece of cake, a quick birthday singalong, and a time of celebration for **June’s** babies! This birthday-themed Linger Longer will happen (usually) the last Sunday of each month in 2019.

Picture-Your-Pet Wall 2019: We are all God’s creatures, humans and pets alike! This **June**, anyone whose last name begins with J or K is invited to share their pet pictures with Teresa. These will then be shared on a display in the Fellowship Hall! (Anyone whose last name begins with L, start gathering your photos. Your turn will be in July!)

Sunday Sojourns: The ancestors of our faith, Abraham and Sarah, sojourned their entire adult lives. Jesus said the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. The early church met not in official church buildings but in Christ-followers' homes. This summer, we follow in the footsteps of our ancestors in faith. On a few select Sundays, we will invite you to meet with us not in the sanctuary but in another gathering space in the community. For as it was in the Bible, so it is now: we often encounter God in the strange and unfamiliar, in circumstances of vulnerability and risk and trust. We are hopeful that our sojourns will be a blessing both to ourselves and to the communities with whom we gather. Stay tuned for more information about the sojourns that we are planning.

Pentecost Offering: On this Sunday and next Sunday (June 9), we will receive a special Pentecost offering. Half of the offering is designated to the Virginia Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training, and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy. For more, please see disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost

Nicolas Carter in Concert: Relax, refresh, and renew with nurturing soul music and stories of a Latin American life. On June 7, at 7 pm, internationally acclaimed Paraguayan harpist and storyteller Nicolas Carter will perform a concert in our sanctuary. The event will be free with a suggested love offering. We are especially excited to have Nicolas join us, as he is a nephew of Rev. Pat Carter.

Congregational Gathering: Our Path Forward: The Operations Team has been discussing long-range planning for the church. We would like to share the results of our meetings and begin the conversation about our future. Please plan to join us for this important meeting on Sunday, June 9, after worship.

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.

Prayer List: The prayer list has recently been cleared. If you would like any requests from the previous list to be renewed on the present list, please let Jonathan know.

Lectionary Scripture

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11:00 am
Elders Meeting (after Worship)

THIS WEEK

6/3 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
6/4 Symphony Manor Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am
6/6 Blessing Warriors Planning Meeting @ 6:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)
6/7 Eastertide Coffee: Acts Reading Group @ 10 am
(Location TBA)
Concert: Nicolas Carter, Harpist and Storyteller @ 7 pm
6/8 Piano Recital @ 11 am—5 pm (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)

COMING UP

6/9 **Pentecost Sunday** (If you'd like, wear something red!)
Congregational Gathering: Our Path Forward (after Worship)
6/12 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
6/16 **Summer Worship Schedule Begins: Worship @ 10 am**
6/17 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
6/20 Brookdale West End Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am (1800 Gaskins Rd)

LOOKING AHEAD

7/7 Sunday Sojourn: Worship with Symphony Manor @ 10 am
(12411 Gayton Road)
8/3 Yard Sale Prep Begins
8/24 Yard Sale @ 8 am—12 pm

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Our GRCC family:

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:

Terri Kenner, daughter of June and Bubba Galbraith

Beth Payne, sister of Amanda Carlton

Lacey Fletcher, friend of Amanda Carlton

Isobelle Johns, mother of Chris Carlton

Regina Jones and Family—friends of Cody Gallagher

Charlie Davis—brother-in-law of Cinda Caiella

Ted and Hunter Keel and family, friends of June and Bubba Galbraith

Bart Marporell, friend of June and Bubba Galbraith

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

June 2: Brigitte Eale, Kenya

June 9: John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia

June 16: Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine

June 23: Charo Breckenridge, Zambia

June 30: Cindy Moraga, Mexico

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 **this June**, we pray for the criminal justice system in metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of June 2, 2019: We pray for all who are incarcerated in jails and prisons, their families, and their loved ones.

(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
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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.