



**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.*

*May 12, 2019
Fourth 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.

*"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story
which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."
(C. S. Lewis, 1898-1963)*

PRELUDE

"Sicilienne"

Maria-Theresa V. Paradis

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Psalm 23)

In the darkest valley,
And at the banquet table;
In the hard work of life,
And in moments of ease;
In our daily grind,
And at times set aside—
Like this time now,
When together we pray and break bread—
With every step we take,
Goodness and mercy follow us. Our cup overflows. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN 559**

"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

ALL THE WAY

***OPENING PRAYER**

(John 10:22-30)

**Restoring God,
Whose voice proclaims life
And from whose gentle hands
None can snatch us away:
Give us faith to trust
That we are known and loved
With a passion strong enough
To bring the whole world
Back to you.
Through Jesus Christ,
Who is one with the source of life:
Amen.**

ANTHEM "A Psalm Folksong" Edwin Penhorwood

SCRIPTURE John 10:22-30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 310 (SUNG) HAAS

SCRIPTURE Acts 9:36-43

SERMON "More Life Now"

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 480 "I Love to Tell the Story" HANKEY

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 9:36-43)

OFFERTORY "Now the Green Blade Riseth" John Carter

*DOXOLOGY 50 "Praise God" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OFFERING BLESSING (Acts 9:36-43)

**Eye-opening God,
Who lifts up the lowly
And shows them
That there is more life to live:
Fill these gifts and our spirits
With your goodness and mercy,
That our communities might know
The power of your resurrection love.
In the name of the risen Christ: Amen.**

CONFESSION (Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43)

Lord, you are our shepherd. Christ, you prepare Lord, you raise us
abundant life amid difficulty. to new life now.

When we willfully walk our own way: When we do not trust in the way of the cross: When we schedule your goodness to a later time:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE PEACE

(Acts 9:36-43)

The peace of Christ transforms every moment into a gift of life.

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN 518 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” NEW BEGINNINGS

(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 517** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” BEECHER

***BENEDICTION** (Acts 9:36-43)

**May the God of opened eyes,
The Christ of raised bodies,
And the Spirit of trusting hearts—**

**Raise us and others to more life now.
We go now to love and serve Christ in others. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Allegro”

G. F. Handel

***Please stand if able.**

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

Acknowledgements: Opening Prayer adapted from Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (New York: Church Publishing, 2009), ebook loc. 508.

Scheduled to serve today:

PreacherJonathan Kruschwitz
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Lay Leader Debbie Cook
 Children’s Message Cinda Caiella
 Elders Becky Ennis and Gracie Tingle
 Deacons Debbie Derr, Carol Malla,
 Audrey Schuler, and Jeff Wilber
 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!*

Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God in loving honor of Virginia Taylor by David and Vivian Taylor, and Camden, Madison, and Stephen.

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 on **May 19**, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a small piece of cake, a quick birthday singalong, and a time of celebration for **May’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 **May**, anyone whose last name begins with H or I 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 J or K, start gathering your photos. Your turn will be in June!)

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.

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.

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. As Gayton Road is a church that celebrates the diversity of the body of Christ and welcomes each voice to the congregation, 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.

Prayer List: On **May 19**, the prayer list will be cleared. If you would like any current requests to remain on the prayer list, please let Jonathan know.

Lectionary Scripture

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23:1-6

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11:00 am

THIS WEEK

5/13 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
5/15 Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
5/16 Symphony Manor's Arts in the Park @ 3-7 pm
5/17 Eastertide Coffee: Acts Reading Group @ 10 am
(at Rev. Virginia Taylor's new home: Lakewood B-107)

COMING UP

5/19 Linger Longer: Birthday Bash (after worship)
5/20 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
5/22 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
5/26 Morning Prayer and Communion @ 9:45 am
Sunday Sojourn: Worship at Second Baptist @ 11 am (9614 River Road)
5/27 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
6/2 Elders Meeting (after worship)
6/3 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
6/4 Symphony Manor Memory Care Gathering @ 10:30 am
6/7 Concert: Nicolas Carter, Harpist and Storyteller @ 7 pm

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: Mollie Caiella, Stuart Wilkinson, Ivan and Julie Round, Marion Paitsel, Ben Croxford, Candice Nguyen, Jeremy Borden, Ankie Moore, Jeff Wilber, James Fiorello and family, Darrah Davis, Jim Caiella, and Becky Ennis.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis: Jim Harris, Stuart Wilkinson, Anna Lee Werner, June & Bubba Galbraith, and Marion Paitsel.

Friends of GRCC:

Carol Sharp, mother of Julie Round

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

Ken and Liz Carpenter and family, friends of Anne Waring

Kathleen McGinnis, mother of Rob McGinnis

Family of Cherie Holberg, friends of Daniela Larew

Jerry Galbreath, brother-in-law of Virginia Taylor

Drudy Carlton, sister of Paul Carlton

Doug Cramer, friend of Jeff Wilber

Terri Kenner, daughter of June and Bubba Galbraith

David Ninesling, step-brother of Jeff Wilber

Family and friends of Oscar Silvay, friend of John Malla

Sandy Roy—friend of the Wingos

Wendy Evans—friend of the Wingos

Family and Friends of Leila Hanna, godmother of Anna McFarlane

Lisa Clements, sister-in-law of Mark Clements

Lillie May Slaven, grandmother of Julie Round

Doug & Joan Borden, parents of Jeremy Borden

Linda Grubbs, cousin of David Campbell

Layne Hembree, son of Kathy Habib's cousin

Nathan McCarry and Family, brother-in-law of Jeremy Borden

Brenda Clements, mother of Mark Clements

Julie Gugliotta, family of Kathy Habib

Mike Lecik, family of Chris Carlton

Laura Kinum, niece of Susan Young

Journey and Sharon Johnson, friends and former members of GRCC

Beth Payne, sister of Amanda Carlton

Lacey Fletcher, friend of Amanda Carlton

Isabelle Johns, mother of Chris Carlton

We extend our deepest sympathies to Cliff Campbell and his family upon the passing of his father, Don Campbell.

Please keep Cliff and his family in your prayers.

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

May 5: Nishan Bakalian, Lebanon

May 12: Monica Liddle, East Timor

May 19: Michelle McKay, Haiti

May 26: Phyllis Byrd, Kenya

For more information and weekly prayers for these specific areas please visit www.globalministries.org

*Together with other churches in Richmond **this May**, we pray for the churches and religious institutions of metropolitan Richmond.*

For the week of May 12, 2019: We pray for all religious communities, abbeys, orders, brotherhoods, sisterhoods, religious societies, and para-church organizations.

(www.metroprayrva.org)

Please also keep in your prayers the many recipients of D.D.'s Bears. The patients who recently received bears (and friends) at St. Mary's Hospitals are: Stella, Jillian, Journei, Jackson Ty, Austin, James, Margie, Linda, Arminta, Rose, Tammy, Nellie, Betty, Pamela, Emily, Patricia, Nilo, Jason, Josie, William, Satchel, Luke, Deandre, Savannah, Tula, Blakely, Logan, Gage, Avery, Stephen, Natsu, Thiago, Kwanita, and Amelia.

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

**Gayton Road Christian Church
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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.