



**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 19, 2019
Fifth 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.

*"The name of God is the name of an event that is unforeseeable, unimaginable, uncontainable."
(John Caputo)*

PRELUDE

"Prelude on 'Converse'"

Raymond H. Haan

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord, O loved ones,
Who sing now with angels.
Praise God in the heights,
You birds with warble and trill.
Praise God with lofty chorus,
Choir and piano, tone and voice.

Praise the Lord, O nighttime hush
And all who rest in it.
Praise God, O gardens of quiet growth,
And all you gentle clouds.
Praise God you coffee beans
And all you wakeful, laughing children!

Let us all praise the Spirit,
Who shares our smile and our sorrow.
Praise God,
Who is making all things new.
Praise Jesus, our brother,
Who leads us into life.

***OPENING HYMN 2**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

***OPENING PRAYER**

(Acts 11:1-18)

**O God of what is not yet here,
Who redeems the past
With a future we cannot see coming:
Spring up among us from the smallest of seeds.
Surprise us with beauty and goodness
Where we would not expect it.
And may our broken hearts become
Open hearts,
So that we would always be ready to welcome
Your kingdom here on earth.
In Christ, who leads us to life: Amen.**

ANTHEM "Let Us Walk This Road Together" John Carter

SCRIPTURE John 13:31-35

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 11:1-18

SERMON "The Repentance That Leads to Life"

***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 11:1-18)

OFFERTORY "Children of the Heavenly Father" Mark Sedio

***DOXOLOGY 50** "Praise God" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***OFFERING BLESSING** (Acts 11:1-18)

**Gracious God,
Who is making all things new—
Bless these gifts
And our lives
With your love,
That they might help
To break through
Old circles of need
With unexpected life.
In Christ, who restores our souls: Amen.**

CONFESSION (Acts 11:1-18)

"The spirit of God desires to work in you as in me. Who am I to stand in God's way?"

RESPONSE 260 "Let It Breathe on Me" LET IT BREATHE ON ME

THE PEACE

(Acts 11:1-18)

The peace of Christ makes no distinction between “us” and “them.”

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

ST. PETER

***BENEDICTION**

(Acts 11:1-18)

**May the Spirit be in every surprise,
Christ in every stranger,
And God in every change—**

**And may we have eyes to see, celebrate, and share
The new life before us. 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
 Director of Music..... Jack Fox
 Lay Leader Anna McFarlane
 Children’s Message Teresa Campbell
 Elders Carl Schluter and Anna McFarlane
 DeaconsKathy Habib, Bill Malla,
 Alexa McFarlane, and Radek Larew
 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.

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 **today**, 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.

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.

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: Today, the prayer list has 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 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

CALENDAR

TODAY

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Worship @ 11:00 am
Linger Longer: Birthday Bash (after worship)

THIS WEEK

5/20 BBQ @ 6:30 pm (Ricos; 2316 John Rolfe Pkwy)
5/22 Girl Scouts @ 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm
5/24 Eastertide Coffee: Acts Reading Group @ 10 am
(Location TBA)

COMING UP

5/26 **Morning Prayer and Communion @ 9:45 am**
Sunday Sojourn: Worship at Second Baptist @ 11 am (9614 River Road)
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
6/8 Piano Recital @ 11 am—5 pm (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)
6/9 Congregational Gathering: Our Path Forward (after Worship)

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:

Keel Family (esp. Hunter), friends of June and Bubba Galbraith

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

*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

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

For the week of May 19, 2019: We pray for seminaries, bible colleges, and schools training persons for vocations in ministry; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

(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.