

Girdwood Chapel – Living the Vision

Vision:

At Girdwood Chapel, we envision a community of grace where every person belongs. Rooted in Christ and grounded in prayer, we gather around real bread and real stories, cultivating hope and honoring difference.

STRATEGY 1: Gathering in Presence and Story

Goal

People experience Girdwood Chapel as a place where they already belong—before believing, joining, or performing.

What We Do

- Host regular open meals (indoors or outdoors) with chapel members and community partners.
- Center each gathering on a simple human theme (belonging, home, grief, hope, gratitude).
- Invite 1–2 short personal stories at each gathering—about life, not belief.
- Train hosts to practice curiosity and listening, not persuasion.
- End with a shared moment: blessing, silence, prayer, or gratitude.

Why It Matters

Belonging is discovered through presence and relationship—not effort or agreement.

STRATEGY 2: The Dwelling Path (Learning That Forms Belonging)

Goal

People learn to see Scripture and daily life as places where God is already present.

What We Do

- Offer short-term (4–6 week) Dwelling Groups using Scripture as conversation, not instruction.
- Begin with the question: “*What are you seeking?*”
- Integrate dwelling practices into existing groups (Bible study, men’s and women’s groups, ministry gatherings).
- Connect Scripture to everyday Girdwood life—on the trail, at work, in community service.
- End each gathering with an invitation to notice grace during the week.
- Create training for leaders to use listening practices to include more voices and practice walking alongside participants.

Why It Matters

Faith grows through reflection and rest, not pressure or certainty.

STRATEGY 3: The Listening Path (Leadership of Presence)

Goal

Leaders embody the message “You already belong here” through how they lead and decide.

What We Do

- Begin all leadership meetings with prayer, silence, and shared joys and concerns.
- Practice community listening before planning—meeting neighbors, partners, and chapel users.
- Share what leaders hear as part of discernment.
- Name and record “Sightings of Grace” after events and ministries.
- Hold retreats focused on rest, reflection, and blessing.

Why It Matters

Leadership rooted in listening makes space for grace to guide our shared life.

OUR SHARED PRACTICE

We gather simply. We learn gently. We lead by listening.

Trusting that grace is already at work—and that *you already belong here*.