

What are FIVE things we must always do because we would not matter if we did not do it? What are five things (programs, behaviors, personality, activities) that we need to keep doing as we live into our “What’s next”? What are five things you don’t think should change?

1. Stay Grounded in Authentic, Biblical Faith

- Remain authentic and sincere
- Keep services and messages Biblically rooted
- Share positive, hopeful messages
- Pray sincerely for one another — in concerns and in joys
- Continue Bible study groups

2. Practice Radical Hospitality

- Be open, welcoming, and genuinely hospitable
- Be inclusive to everyone in the community
- Intentionally engage people at church and at the food pantry
- Welcome young people
- Reach out to visitors during the week

3. Maintain Core Community Ministries

- Continue the food pantry
- Continue community meals
- Keep Community Thanksgiving
- Keep Christmas at the resort
- Keep Easter at the resort
- Continue broader community services on Christmas and Easter

4. Sustain Strong Pastoral Leadership

- Maintain a full-time, continuous pastor
- Provide consistent spiritual guidance and presence in the community

5. Honor Key Partnerships & Structural Commitments

- Maintain fiscal sponsorship of TCS
- Preserve the organizational stability that supports ministry

Theme:

Girdwood Chapel is committed to remaining a Biblically grounded, authentically welcoming church centered on hope, hospitality, and community care — sustained by strong leadership, trusted partnerships, and meaningful

ministries that connect the broader community, especially through food outreach and significant holiday gatherings.

What are FOUR things we could do to improve on the things we must always do from above? What are your ideas for how we could improve on a ministry or lean into our personality or character?

1. Strengthen Outreach & Visibility

- Improve online presence to connect with more people
- Create flyers for Christmas and Easter
- Invite food pantry clients to church
- Increase volunteer opportunities
- Embrace new possibilities with openness and authenticity

2. Deepen Hospitality & Welcome

- Be more intentionally welcoming
- Greet people beyond our usual circles
- Encourage members to engage visitors
- Provide greeter training
- Leave parking spots for visitors
- Improve the physical welcome (bike rack, relocate garbage from entrance)

3. Engage Younger Generations

- Welcome and involve more young people
- Develop a teen ministry

4. Enhance Worship Experience

- Strengthen Easter and Christmas services (possibly adding additional services)
- Begin service at 10:00 am
- Shorten sermons to 10–12 minutes

Revised Theme

Girdwood Chapel sees opportunities to grow in outreach and visibility, intentional hospitality, engagement with younger generations, and thoughtful worship refinement — aligning its communication, space, and congregational culture with its desire to be welcoming, authentic, and open to growth.

What are THREE things we could we press “PAUSE” on for a few months or years to focus on a new initiative that would improve our ability and opportunity to reach the people we feel called to reach? Are there things we could stop doing to conserve energy or money or people as we try new things?

1. Reduce Overextension

- Lessen what core members are carrying
- Reach out to those who are less involved to broaden participation and prevent burnout

2. Scale Back Certain Events

- Pause some events in order to save money and reduce strain on volunteers

3. Reconsider Specific Worship Practices

- Pause “Brunch Church,” as the small-group format has made sharing difficult
- Consider stopping or reducing reliance on technology and returning to hymnals

Overall theme:

Girdwood Chapel recognizes the need to reduce overload, steward financial and volunteer energy wisely, and reassess certain worship practices to ensure they foster participation and sustainability rather than strain.

What are TWO new initiatives, programs, or behaviors we could try within the next six to twelve months to give our all to reaching new people? What's something new or exciting you'd like to see?

1. Strengthen Capacity & Resources

- Raise additional funds
- Hire a piano player to strengthen worship
- Develop new and expanded volunteer teams (“people power”)
- Offer an online Bible session
- Open the church during the week for seniors

This reflects a desire to build both musical, relational, and structural capacity to support growth.

2. Intentionally Engage the Community

- Recruit young families
- Create a welcome gift for new Girdwood residents
- Adjust service time to accommodate skiers
- Personally invite people to Sunday worship
- Consider a more seeker-accessible service (familiar songs, clear sharing about what the Chapel does for the community, refreshments)
- Partner with the school or Little Bears for children and family activities
- Create space for POPs (Parents of Preschoolers) to gather

This reflects a desire to meet people where they are — especially families, newcomers, and community members not yet connected to church life.

Theme:

Girdwood Chapel wants to grow by increasing people power and resources while also becoming more intentionally present, invitational, and family-friendly within the broader community.

What is ONE fear that you are willing to overcome so our church will move forward on at least one new initiative, program, or behavior to reach new people?

The Fear of Stretching Beyond Comfort

Members acknowledged a core fear around **change and vulnerability** — particularly:

- Being fully open to new people
- Personally inviting friends to church
- Risking volunteer burnout
- Facing financial uncertainty

At its heart, this is a fear of stretching — socially, emotionally, and financially. Yet importantly, members also expressed a willingness to move through that fear: to become more open, more invitational, more courageous with resources, and more attentive to shared leadership so that no one carries too much alone.

Theme

Girdwood Chapel recognizes that growth will require courage — openness to new people, shared responsibility, and trust that stepping forward in faith will be met with provision and renewed energy.