

Outward Facing - Action Plan

Strategy

"Gathering in Presence and Story "

GOAL: People experience Girdwood Chapel as a place where they already belong—before believing, joining, or performing. Belonging is discovered through presence and relationship—not effort or agreement.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	STATUS	START	END	NOTES
1. Host regular open meals (indoors or outdoors) with chapel members and community partners.						
a) Need has bubbled up that "senior dinners" are a need. Quarterly is a stretch - and doable.	Deborah & Terry					Start with a list of people who get senior boxes. Terry talking with Donna. Future idea - multigenerational space with preschoolers and seniors.
b) Men's group - Solstice/ Equinox Bonfires in the Parking Lot - 1 to 2 a year	Seth with Men's Group					Open mic, smores, music - hosting it outside. Focus on young people. Non-alcoholic event - may include AA Groups.
2. Center each gathering on a simple human theme (belonging, home, grief, hope, gratitude).						Blessing practices for communal devotion.
3. Invite 1–2 short personal stories at each gathering—about life, not belief.						
a) Laity sharing stories during worship - quarterly (Collaboration with sermon)						
b) 10/10/10 practice						Revisit Girdwood Inc. as a partner. Invite community members to share a story from their life. Previously this was 10 pictures - 10 minutes - 10 people.
c) Storywood						Doesn't have to be about Girdwood - regularly - maybe twice per year - have a community gathering to share theme based stories
4. Train hosts to practice curiosity and listening, not persuasion.						Note: The Art of Gathering might have ideas.
a) Food Pantry Meals						Being intentionally present - making time to chat and develop relationships with those serving.

5. End each gathering with a shared moment: blessing, silence, prayer, or gratitude.						Pastor Hyunghee to continue to prepare and include blessings in gatherings.
6. Plan collaborations with churches in the connection (i.e. St John Youth Group) for retreats/ lock-ins, events, etc.						Include Bonfires. Dependency on Safe Ministries Training
7. Parents with Preschoolers (PoPs) get together to socialize and be together.						Gathering space for those who have common experience with preschool aged children to form relationships. "Ice Stroll." Support families where parenting classes and training might be able to happen.
8. Blessings of the Skis & Boards						
9. Blessing of the Animals and photos with animals.						Girdwood is very dog friendly. David Jenson (Anchorage) is the pet photographer. Kelsey Hoke Martin (Juneau) is the artist/ painter who draws/ paints pets and homes.

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

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	PRIORITY	STATUS	START	END	NOTES
Offer short-term (4–6 week) Dwelling Groups using Scripture as conversation, not instruction.						Seminar - discussion groups. Continue to integrate and be intentional about continuing this practice.
a) Integrate dwelling practices into existing groups (Bible study, men's and women's groups, ministry gatherings).						Men's group might use a speech instead of Scripture. A passage of Scripture shared through Chapel Ladies text group for discussion/ chat. Needs, prayers, and concerns are "dwelling" actively in Chapel Ladies forum. How to integrate this into Men's group. Important part is the connection - how to bring in others. Could be more consistent and intentional. One year we did Advent arts and crafts - wasn't as "Biblical" and "churchy." Could still have Scripture as conversation but would include
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.						Pictures where grace has been "seen" during the week - method of sharing in worship or other gatherings.
use listening practices to include more voices and practice walking alongside participants.						Utilize "Gradients of Agreement" in meetings. Cultivate listening practices to bring to Chapel friends, own families and the community when in gatherings.

Strategy 3

