
SERVICE NOTES

UMH: *United Methodist Hymnal*, TFWS: *The Faith We Sing*, Girdwood Chapel's
CCLI Basic #: 11038417, CCLI Streaming License #: CSPL155734, NRSVue: *New
Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

The Worship Helpers—Greeter: Jody, Tech Helper: Lynné, Liturgist:, Preacher:
Pastor Hyunghee

Announcements:

- **Girdwood Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **2026 Summer Message Series “Mission and Evangelism in Our Context”:** Throughout July and August, we will explore what mission and evangelism mean in the unique context of Girdwood. Using the Revised Common Lectionary, along with selected biblical passages and insights from mission and evangelism scholars and practitioners, we will reflect on how God calls us to live, serve, and share the good news in our community today.
- **Church Anniversary Planning Team Meeting: on Aug 7** | Friday | 2p.m. via Zoom | If you are interested in joining the planning team, please contact Pastor Hyunghee.
- **Leadership Board Meeting: on Aug 11** | Tuesday | 7p.m. via Zoom
- **Brunch Church on August 16th:** we will gather for a Brunch Church as part of our ongoing reflection on what it means to be a welcoming congregation. Please bring a dish to share and join us as we reflect on how Girdwood Chapel can continue to embody Christ's welcome in our congregation and community.



August 2, 2026 | Sunday Worship | 9:30 a.m.

** Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

*Call to Worship

One: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

All: We come longing for the life that only God can give.

One: All who hunger, come and receive what is good.

All: God opens God's hand and satisfies every living thing.

One: Come without money and without price; God's grace is freely given.

All: We come to be welcomed, nourished, and renewed.

One: Having received God's abundant grace, let us become signs of that grace to others.

All: With open hearts and open hands, let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" UMH #301
lyrics on the screen

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

God of abundant grace, you invite us into your presence where thirst is quenched and hunger is met with good things.

Still the noise within and around us that pulls us away from you, and open our hearts to receive your Word with joy and trust.

Teach us to see the needs of those around us, and form us into a people who respond with compassion and generosity. Nourish us with your love, so that what we receive from you may become a gift we share with others. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1–5 (NRSVue)

1 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

One: This is the Word of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message “Come, All Who Are Thirsty”

Holy Communion: All are welcome at this open table.

Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Epiclesis; Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Invitation to Generosity: Offering baskets are available on the side/back of the sanctuary. Or Mail your check: PO Box 1068, Girdwood, AK 99587, or give online; *scan QR code*→



Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Please join me in offertory prayer: **Generous God,
you open your hand and provide for all creation.**

Receive these gifts and use them

to feed the hungry, welcome the thirsty,

and widen the table of your grace.

Having freely received, may we freely give.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers and Celebration & The Lord's prayer

Concerns: “God in Your mercy” | **Response: “Hear our prayer”**

Joys: “Thanks be to God” | **Response: “Alleluia”**

*Closing Hymn “Freely, Freely” UMH #389

lyrics on the screen

*Benediction

*Sending Forth Song “On Eagles Wings” (CCLI Song #3127)

It is the tradition of the Girdwood Chapel UMC to form a circle, hold hands, and sing ‘On Eagles Wings.’

Our Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. year-round

Sunday Column August 2

– MAYBE WE'RE ALREADY DOING THIS

This happens, or so we like to say, all the time in Girdwood. Someone runs into a neighbor on the trail — not planned, not a scheduled coffee, just two people who happened to be walking the same direction at the same hour — and the conversation goes somewhere real. Not weather, not small talk. Something true about how the year has actually been going. They walk on together for a while, and then they go their separate ways, and that is it. No follow-up meeting. No agenda. Just two people, momentarily, actually known to each other.

And we tell ourselves other versions of this story too. The neighbor who shows up with a chainsaw, or a truck, or a dish of food or homemade dessert, before anyone has had to ask. The work crew that gets each other through a hard winter. I want to be honest: this is a little bit of a flattering story we tell about ourselves, and it is not true of every neighbor or every week. There are plenty of ordinary Tuesdays in Girdwood, same as anywhere, when nobody notices and nobody shows up. But the story persists because it is true often enough to feel like it describes something real about how this town tries to take care of itself — even if we tell it a little larger than life.

I have been wondering about that story lately. Not because I think it is simply accurate, but because I think the version of it that is true might be closer to what John Wesley meant by holiness than anything we might try to build on purpose.

Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, is often quoted as having said ‘there is no holiness but social holiness.’ People sometimes hear that as a call to social justice activism. That is not quite what he meant. He meant something more basic: you cannot become holy by yourself. Not through private discipline, not through solitary prayer, not through personal effort alone.

Holiness, for Wesley, required other people — the friction and grace of being actually known, actually challenged, actually accountable to someone else.

The early Methodists built their whole movement around this conviction. The class meeting — about twelve people gathering weekly, asking each other one honest question, how is it with your soul — was not a program alongside the real spiritual work. It was the spiritual work. And Wesley believed something followed naturally from it: holiness formed in community does not stay inside the community. It reaches outward, toward the neighbor, the stranger, even the person you would rather avoid. That is why the Methodists built schools and clinics alongside their class meetings — not as an extra credit assignment, but as what love of God actually looks like once it is real.

So I keep returning to the trail conversations, the work crews, the chainsaw and the truck and the dish of food — the true parts of the story, when they are actually true. None of that looks like a class meeting. There is no room, no set hour, no list of twelve names, no explicit question about the soul. And yet I wonder whether something like Wesley's holiness is already present in Girdwood, on the weeks when the story is true, in a form suited to how this town actually lives, outdoors and informally, at the pace of trails and seasons rather than the pace of scheduled meetings.

I want to be careful here, though, in more ways than one. I do not want to answer this too quickly by simply renaming what is comfortable, or what we merely wish were true of us, and calling it formation. Wesley's class meetings had real friction in them — real accountability, real confession, real challenge.

Neighborliness, even the real kind, is not automatically the same thing as that. A good trail conversation might be the beginning of something like holiness, or it might just be a good conversation. I genuinely do not know yet which one it is, or whether it needs something more from us — more honesty, more regularity, more

willingness to ask the harder question — to become the deeper thing Wesley was pointing toward.

But I find myself hoping our task this season is not to import a room and twelve chairs from eighteenth-century England. I think our task might be to notice what is already real and true in the story we tell about ourselves, and what is only wishful — and then to ask, honestly, whether we are willing to grow the true parts a little deeper. Small, honest, accountable, committed. Leaning inward, into real formation. And leaning outward, into the actual community around us, at the same time.

That might be the most evangelistic thing we could do this year. And it might already be closer to us, on our better days, than we think — not something to build from scratch, but something to tell the truth about, and then, carefully, to deepen.

Pastor Hyunghee Kim
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Pastoral Letter

Dear Girdwood Chapel,

When you move to a new place — a new State, a new part of the country — you often have to learn everything from scratch: the culture, the history, the land, the people, your neighbors, the rhythms of daily life, even the local stores. This July marks the start of my third year here in Girdwood, and I have been learning this community the whole time.

After a year, I thought I was finally getting to know this place. Then my family arrived, and I began to see it differently. After two years, I thought I understood this community better — then my baby arrived, and once again I saw Girdwood in a new light. The truth is, this community keeps changing, just as the world keeps changing around us. Even when I visit my hometown in Korea, I find that everything there has changed too.

That's a long way of saying: today I want to share something I'm only now beginning to understand — how grateful I am for summer in this community, and how deeply you all treasure this season. It took two winters before I understood what summer means here. I hope you enjoy every single day of it.

And yet, even in the middle of summer, some of you still hold fast to Girdwood Chapel's Sunday worship — a service of less than an hour that welcomes visitors from around Alaska, tourists passing through who want to worship, family and friends who come to observe, and others who simply feel called here, seeking God's guidance and the Spirit's leading. Our building is large; our congregation is small. But we sit at the heart of this community, and our vision is to be the heartbeat of Girdwood.

This summer, we've been listening to messages on evangelism and mission in our own context. Along the way, one question

keeps returning: What does hospitality look like for us? How do we welcome people well? What might keep someone from staying — right at the start of worship, or in those last few minutes before it ends? How do we make room for people to feel truly welcomed in our worship space?

Some of you have already taken this seriously — drafting a greeter instruction, and our greeters have done a wonderful job each week. Still, I want us to be honest: hospitality isn't only the greeters' work. It belongs to our whole congregation, our whole community. We have plenty of resources and hands — people with the time, the energy, and even the passion for this.

So I'd like us to talk about it together, as a larger group — not because I think something is wrong, or because we need to change things, or do them differently, or even because it's time for a different pastor! I simply want us to arrive at a shared sense of what hospitality looks like for us, together — with no pressure that you need to be back in these pews every single Sunday afterward. I invite all of you — whether or not you usually attend — to Brunch Church on Sunday, August 16th. It will be our regular Brunch Church: we share the dishes we bring, we talk, we share our lives and our faith. This time, though, our focus will be hospitality. Bring a dish if you'd like, or simply come to the table. Share your experiences of hospitality in other communities of faith, and let's think together about how to reshape those practices for our own context — in words and ways that are truly ours, not simply borrowed from somewhere else.

And if you can't make it to this late-summer Brunch Church but still want to share something on this topic, please send your thoughts to us beforehand by email. We'll share them with everyone on that day.

— Pastor Hyunghee