
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: Wendy, Tech Helper: Kevin, Liturgist: Barb,
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.
- **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.
- **Free Piano Concert on Sep 11**, Friday, 6p.m. in the Chapel.



August 9, 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: When the journey is too much for us,

All: God meets us with bread, rest, and grace.

One: When the winds rise and fear surrounds us,

All: Christ reaches out and says, “Take heart; do not be afraid.”

One: When we believe we are standing alone,

All: God reminds us that we belong to a faithful people.

One: Let us listen for God—not only in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.

All: We come to be fed, renewed, and sent together.

One: Let us worship God.

All: We worship God together.

*Opening Hymn “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” (*verses 1 and 4*)
lyrics on the screen UMH #500

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

God of quiet strength,

you meet us when we are weary, frightened, and uncertain.

When the journey becomes too much, feed us with your grace.

When the winds rise around us, reach out and hold us.

When we believe we are alone, open our eyes to the faithful people walking beside us.

Quiet the noise within us, that we may hear what you are speaking.

**Renew your church, not for heroic work carried by a few,
but for the shared mission entrusted to your whole people.**

Give us courage to proclaim your good news

and faithfulness to serve you in the ordinary places of life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 19:1–18 (NRSVue)

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also,

if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.”
 3 Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.
 4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” 5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.”
 6 He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again.
 7 The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.”
 8 He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.
 9 At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”
 11 He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
 14 He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” 15 Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.
 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill.

18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

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

Message “Yet I Will Leave Seven Thousand”

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: Gracious God, everything we have comes from your sustaining grace.

Receive these gifts and receive our lives.

Use them to feed the weary, strengthen our community, and carry the good news through faithful words and actions.

Teach us to share the work, trust one another, and serve together in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

lyrics on the screen

UMH #584

*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 9

– THE GOD WHO GOES AHEAD

One of the most disorienting and liberating convictions in the Christian tradition is this: the Spirit of God is not waiting for the church to show up. The Spirit is already there, already working, already preparing the ground. Our job is to pay attention and follow.

I find this genuinely surprising every time I sit with it. Most of the mental models for mission that I grew up with imagined the church as the carrier of something the world lacks. We have the gospel; they do not. We bring God to places where God is absent. The movement is from us to them, from inside to outside, from the church to the unchurched.

But the New Testament tells a different story. Peter goes to Cornelius not because the church had strategically identified Caesarea as a mission target. He goes because God sends him there—to a man who is already praying, already attentive, already being prepared by the Spirit for what is about to happen. Peter walks into a scene the Spirit has been staging for some time.

This is not an isolated incident. Philip is sent by the Spirit to a specific road where a specific person is sitting in a chariot reading Isaiah and wondering what it means. The Spirit is doing something in that chariot. Philip's job is to join it.

What this means practically is that when we go into Girdwood as a community of faith, we are not entering territory where God is absent. We are entering territory where God is already working—in the longing people feel but cannot name, in the beauty that breaks through the mountains and moves people without their knowing why, in the care people already show each other in hard seasons, in the questions people ask late at night that they would not ask in a church building.

The posture this calls for is not proclamation first. It is attentiveness first. What is the Spirit already doing in this person, this community, this situation? How can I join that rather than replace it with my own agenda?

This is also, I think, one of the things that makes genuinely good mission different from mere church recruitment. Good mission pays attention to the person in front of it. It asks about their life, their longings, their questions. It is curious about what God has been doing in them before the church arrived. And then it offers what it has to offer—the specific good news of the kingdom, the community of those who are trying to follow Jesus—not as the first word, but as a word that belongs in the conversation that the Spirit has already begun.

Where is the Spirit already at work in Girdwood? I would love to sit down with you and wonder about that together.

Pastor Hyunghee Kim
Girdwood Chapel
girdwoodchapel@gmail.com

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