



Brunch Church | August 16, 2026
Theme: Our Hospitality

Order of Gathering

Welcome

Opening Communion

– “We Are Guests Before We Are Hosts”

Remembering that before we welcome others,
we have first been welcomed by Christ.

Brunch and Fellowship

- **Conversation: Our Experiences of Hospitality**
Sharing stories of places where we have felt welcomed, included, or like an outsider.
- **Conversation: Hospitality at Girdwood Chapel**
Reflecting together on how newcomers, neighbors, and community members experience our church.
- **From Conversation to Practice**
Naming what we already do well, what we can strengthen, and what we might try together.
- **(Sharing with the Whole Group)**

Prayers and Celebrations

Sharing our prayer requests, joys, and concerns.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Closing Blessing

Girdwood Chapel’s Vision

**At Girdwood Chapel, we envision a community of
grace where every person belongs.**

**Rooted in Christ and grounded in prayer,
we embody dignity and neighborliness through
listening, service, hospitality, and shared life.**

**We gather around real bread and real stories,
uniting across differences in worship, study, and
daily living.**

**Together, we lift one another in joy and in grief,
cultivating hope when the world feels unhopeful.**

**Our vision is to be a heartbeat of Girdwood
connected in love and committed to Christ,
with faith that makes room for grace
and honors differences.**

Many people may enter our church building through community activities before they ever come for worship. **What could their experience here communicate about who we are?**

6. FROM WELCOME TO PRACTICE

What is already helping people feel welcome?

Where could we make more room?

What is one hospitality practice we would like to try?

OUR FINAL QUESTION (depending on the time)
If Christ is the host and we are all guests at Christ’s table, what kind of church does that call us to become?

We are guests before we are hosts.



BRUNCH CHURCH: OUR HOSPITALITY
Communion: “We Are Guests Before We Are Hosts”
Before we welcome, we have been welcomed.
Before we make room, God has made room for us.
Before this is our table, it is Christ’s table.

As we share Communion, brunch, stories, and conversation today, let us listen for what genuine hospitality looks and feels like—and imagine together how we might embody Christ’s welcome at Girdwood Chapel.

1. WHEN HAVE YOU FELT WELCOMED?

Think of a place where you felt genuinely welcomed. It might have been another religious community, someone’s home, a community gathering, a restaurant, a workplace, somewhere you traveled, or any other place.

What made you feel welcomed?

What did someone actually do?

2. WHEN HAVE YOU FELT LIKE AN OUTSIDER?

Think of a time you entered an unfamiliar place.

What made it difficult to feel that you belonged?

What could someone have done differently?

3. GREETED OR WELCOMED?

What is the difference between being greeted and actually being welcomed?

What helps a person move from being a visitor toward experiencing belonging?

4. SEEING GIRDWOOD CHAPEL WITH NEW EYES

Imagine:

I have never been to Girdwood Chapel before. I may never have attended a church before.

Before I enter... Can I tell where to go?

What does the building communicate?

When I enter... Does someone notice me?

Can I figure out where things are?

During worship... Can I understand what is happening?

Do I know that I am invited to participate?

During fellowship... Is there room for me at the table?

Does someone help me enter the conversation?

When I leave... What might make me think: **“I would like to come back”? What encourages me to return?**

And what might unintentionally communicate:

“This place is really for people who already belong”?

5. OUR CHURCH

What would it take for someone who has never been part of a church to feel that Girdwood Chapel is also a place for them?
