



The Beacon

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's life-giving love.

First United Methodist Church
of Seal Beach

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends;

At the end of one year and the beginning of a new one we often take time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. The reflection may be a time of repentance, a time of celebration, and a time to remember those we hold dear. For the new year ahead, we may make a few resolutions or at least think about it. We may plan for a time away or a time with family and friends. We may even consider how we will serve Christ and follow His call in our lives.

In the Wesley Covenant Service, which we will celebrate a shorten version of on Sunday, December 31st, John Wesley suggests five ways to honor your covenant with God. Below you will find the suggestions, I hope you will consider one or all as part of your looking forward and planning your new year.

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall, or bow, down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord. (Book of Worship of the UMC).

As far as looking back, be reminded that if you have truly and earnestly asked for forgiveness, God has forgiven you, so its ok to forgive yourself. Move forward in grace knowing you are called to greater things.

Happy New Year!

Shalom,

JAN. 2018

Fantastic Folders

☎ (562) 431-0494. Jeanne Mignacca Fri. @ 11:00am.

Lunch Bunch

☎ Dolores Wildermuth. (562) 594-6858. Jan. 25th @ 11:30am @ Beach Burgers & Brew.

Men's Breakfast Group

☎ Greg Fellers (562) 296-5889. Every Thurs. @ 7:00am @ Denny's on Westminster.

Miracle Prayer Group

☎ Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540 Sunday after service & on second Sat. @ 10:00am for Study.

Mission Ministry Fellowship

☎ (562) 431-0494. First Thur. @ 10:00am.

Music Ministry

☎ Anjanette Navarro (714) 305-2313. Children's singing @ YEBs. Choir rehearsals Sun. 8:30 & 11:30am. Bell choir Wed. 6:00pm.

Prayer Chain Covenant

☎ Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540 Or call office for information. prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Children's Ministry

☎ Jaime Lopez (562) 431-6340 & Beth Barinek (562) 596-8038, Renate Carnegie (562) 596-0202.

United Methodist Women

☎ Call Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889, Vivien Irving (714) 840-2825. 2nd Mon. @ 10:00am.

Young Explorers of the Bible (YEBs) Kindergarten - 6th grade.

1st & 3rd Mon. @ 4:30pm Jan. 15th.

Youth Group Middle School & High School

☎ Sue Dunbar (562) 260-1418 or email sldunbar@roadrunner.com for information.



Holly Charge Conference Minutes - December 9, 2017
by Kathy Fellers

Mission Ministry Fellowship
by Renate Carnegie

Call to Order: D.S. Rev. Nakagawa called the Charge Conference to order and led us in prayer at 10:55 am. He explained the background of the Conference's title "Charge." John Wesley initially gave a "charge" to preachers to travel and spread the Methodist movement.

Election of Secretary: Kathy Fellers was elected secretary for the Charge Conference.

Celebration of our Ministries: Lay Leader, Greg Feller's report addressed Rev. Nakagawa's question: What do we celebrate at this time in the life of our congregation? Greg brought forth multiple examples of the shared use of our facilities, outreach ministries, congregation support in our faith journey, sharing the good news outside our walls, stewardship of our financial blessings and our staff's dedication. The Council added comments with regard to Leadership Institute, Miracle Prayer group, diversity of our donations and our social media presence.

Rev. Nakagawa shared the Bishop's theme for 2017-18: "How are we moving forward in ministry to get from "here to there." We discussed Sunday morning attendance concerns, especially in regard to lack of community affected by factors such as mainstream media and Sunday sports. All are pleased with the new Messy Church program. Rev. Nakagawa acknowledged Pastor Tia Wildermuth's "State of the Church" report and presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation and thank you from Bishop Grant Hagija.

Membership Report: The packet contains lists of constituents, one baptism, one member received by transfer, two inactive, two professing members removed. The Council unanimously voted to accept Form #9.1. The Council voted unanimously to approve the amended Lay Leadership Report 2018.

Parsonage Report Form #11: We discussed and approved the one-year parsonage remodel goal of being "Permit Ready" with architectural plans into the City of Seal Beach.

Rev. Nakagawa referenced reports from the Finance Committee (Form #12 & #13). Compliance to Safe Gatherings (Form #14) was acknowledged.

Clergy Salary & Benefits (Form #1): It was moved, seconded and supported to approve the published 2018 Pastoral Benefits and Salary package (Form #1). The inclusion of Pastor Tia Wildermuth's parsonage expense allowance of \$3,000 was moved, seconded and supported.

The Charge Conference packet was accepted as the official document of First Church Seal Beach.

Rev. Mark Nakagawa adjourned the Charge Conference with prayer encouraging us to continue to be "illuminated by Baby Jesus as we move our ministry from here to there."

Kathy Fellers, Secretary

Next meeting: Admin Council
January 13, 2017 at 8:00 am

Food for the Hungry
Sunday Jan. 7th is food donation for ready-to-eat food for the homeless. Suggestions are pop-top cans of fish, chicken, fruit, etc., small juice boxes & water. Health items like toothbrushes, soap, small bottles of shampoo/conditioner and lotion are also appreciated.

Please no glass containers, they break.

THE PANTRY NEEDS RESTOCKING

Since the last Beacon we have given out 26 lunches & 28 peanut butter sandwiches. We have also have a new family we are assisting with food.

For Christmas the Church gave out gift bags and the and Youth Group made gift up gift boxes for our homeless

Habitat for Humanity Build
Jan. 18th – 8:00am-3:00pm

For 27 years, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat LA) has brought faith communities together to provide decent, sustainable and affordable homes in partnership with low-income families and individuals. Please join the Habitat LA Greater Long Beach Faith Coalition to help build new Habitat homes in Long Beach.

Check out the website for information & Registration forms.
firstchurchsealbeach.org



Lay Leader

by Greg Fellers - Dec. 22, 2017



Having just returned from our build day at the Habitat site in Long Beach, I thought I would describe a "typical" day in more detail. First, for review, our church became a Covenant Partner with the Greater Long Beach Area Faith Coalition and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles early this year. We broke ground on a 4-home building site at 1950 Henderson Ave. (near Magnolia and PCH) in July.

That was the first step in a pledge to build some 50 homes over at least the next 5 years. Our church committed to send a build team on the 3rd Thursday of each month, and our first build day was in September.

Today, we had a crew of 7 great volunteers. They were Dan Butler, Dan Carnegie, Greg Fellers, Kathy Fellers, Christian Sonne, Benjamin Sonne and Mike Strawn.



Greg Fellers, Mike Strawn, Dan Butler, Dan Carnegie

To start the day, we gathered at Denny's on Westminster for a fellowship breakfast so we'd be nourished and ready to go to work. It's about a 1/2 hour carpool trip to the site. We each have paper work that we turn in when we get there and register (I provide the forms each month). Then we usually get a welcome by the senior construction management person on site that day. He/she gives a short safety orientation and a thank you for our presence and service.

We were then transferred to Steph, who is the construction supervisor for house number 2. They are in the process of trying to get the exterior finished and weather-proofed for the rainy season. The roofing has been completed and exterior doors and windows are all in. "Blueboard" (4x8 rigid foam boards) sub-siding is all completed as well as all trim. The finish exterior siding has just barely been started. Our job was to get everything paint ready, so we started with spackling all screw and nail holes on all window, door and corner trim boards. We also taped off all the windows. After sanding our spackled spots, we painted every bit of exposed raw wood with primer. This means many of us were up and down 2-stories of scaffolding as we went over every bit of the exterior walls from eaves to the ground.



Christian & Benjamin Sonne, Greg Fellers & Dan Carnegie

We broke for lunch at 11:30am for about a 45-minute time of relaxation and conversation. We each packed our own lunches, but some of the construction crew and some other volunteers went off site to grab a quick bite. Our "mission" in the afternoon was to get ALL the trim painted with the first color coat. This included corner trim from the eaves to the ground, the foot-wide belly board around the circumference of the house, all window and door trim, and posts and beams over the porch covering.

We completed our work just at quittin' time, 2:30pm. We got all the brushes and rollers cleaned up and said our goodbyes. Steph and all the crew were very appreciative of our contribution to the project and invited us back "anytime." We said we would see them January 18th next year.

Our team contributed about 35 person hours of work in one day. We left the house looking much closer to complete. Physically, it was relatively easy work but we worked hard at it, every one of us. It feels good to be a part of the incremental progress that is made and to watch, over the months, the transformation of a vacant lot into 4 homes for 4 deserving families.

So come join us. There is work available for any skill level. You can chose to climb a ladder or some scaffolding, or not. All who wish to serve and be the hands that Christ calls us to be in this world are welcome.

Greg Fellers,
Lay Leader



UMW By Kathy Fellers

NEW YEAR with UMW
 UMW wrapped up 2017 with a heart-warming Christmas Event; thank you to all who joined us! We shared in our Candle of Commitment and Remembrance honoring Tom Blackman, lifted up past loved ones and “Brought in the Light” with a moving Special Olympics story. We had the pleasure of voting on our 2017 Mission Giving recipients who will receive a total of **\$3,155**, largely due to **YOUR** generosity at our Fall Boutique. Other business included electing the following officers for 2018: President Kathy Fellers, Vice-president Vivien Irving, Secretary Renate Carnegie and Treasurer Charlotta Butler. Pam Cross and Vivien Irving will continue as our Sunshine Card coordinators. Our Festive Soup and Salad Bar meal was wonderfully enhanced by our Wesleyan waiters, Dan Butler and Greg Fellers. We were surprised by a delightful dessert of gorgeous Blue Velvet cake. Renate Carnegie presented our educational program: “Incarnation: The Sacred Space of God With Us/In Us” from our new program book, **Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor.**



In our January meeting, we will be checking on dates for our Mothers & Others Tea in the spring. Our first educational program for 2018, “The Sacred Space of Call” will explore God’s call during Biblical times and in our lives and to understand how United Methodist deaconesses and home missionaries are responding to God’s call today. Our meetings will continue being held on the second Monday of the month: January 8th at 10:00 am.

UMW thanks you yet again for making 2017 our highest funded and best give away year in over a decade! We look forward to your marvelous support again in 2018.



California Fires Benefit Concert



On Sunday, January 21st at 3:00pm, Shin Adachi & Anjanette Navarro will be presenting a concert in order to raise money to benefit the victims of the fires. Performances will include sacred, classical, and some original works. Please come and support this effort to help those who have been affected by the fires.



**Youth Group
Middle School & High School**

The Youth Group meets once a month for social activities, work related projects, community service and religious studies. The group is open to all middle school and high school students regardless if they are a church member or not.

January Birthdays

- Cort Crosby
- Carol Wylie
- Polly Gerwig
- Darrel Stoskopf
- Phylis Crosby
- Renate Carnegie
- Jeanne Mignacca
- Chad Strawn
- Deanne Butler
- Vic Peterson
- Shelby Harvey
- Haley Johnson
- Bill Chapin



The 2018 Altar Flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to commemorate a special person or event. Your gift of flowers for the altar on Sunday morning really adds beauty and meaning to our services. The month of January is wide open for flowers. If you'd like to provide flowers for any of the above dates and state it's in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. You can sign up on the flower calendar in the Fellowship Hall, call the office or send an email: office@firstchurchsealbeach.org Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity, my Christmas bonus is very much appreciated. Other's dropped off gifts for my mother and I, those too are appreciated, thank you. I feel blessed to continue to serve such a wonderful congregation.

Rev. TIA

**Trustees
by Mike Strawn**

The Trustees have been working on several repair issues and pending projects during November & December.

Russ Cross has completed work on the outside entrance door repairs. Thanks, Russ.

Greg Fellers and Darrel Stoskopf are continuing to work on the furnace.

Nick Morgan is planning to work with his advisor on our upstairs bathrooms for his Eagle Scout Project early next year.

Our new Trustees for 2018 are Rev. Mary Walton and Garry Chapman. We thank Daniel Carnegie for his service.

As always, please notify one of the Trustees if a repair is needed.

Mike Strawn
President, Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees:
Lynn Adkins
Dan Carnegie
Garry Chapman
Richard Irving
Rev. Mary Walton



**Office closed
Monday Jan. 1st & 15th.**



Small Groups @ First Church



Men's Breakfast Group
Thursdays @ 7:00am

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at Denny's on Westminster. For more information please contact Greg Fellers @ (562) 296-5889.



Mission Ministry Fellowship
Thursday, Jan. 4th
@ 10:00am

Your Mission Ministry Fellowship is tasked with supporting local, national and international missions for First Church. They meet for discussion and fellowship on the first Thursday @ 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. They also sponsor some events throughout the year such as Souper Bowl Sunday, food drives and fundraisers. Everyone is welcome at our Thursday meetings!



Miracle Prayer Ministry
Sundays after Service

The Miracle Prayer Ministry Group is available every Sunday in the Sanctuary after the service for your prayer needs. They also meet on the second Saturday @ 10:00am for study. They pray for your special concerns. If you are interested in being a part of this team or have need of prayer, please see the prayer team after a Sunday service.



United Methodist Women
Monday, Jan. 8th @ 10:00am

The UMW is a group of First Church women who serve their church and its missions through study and fellowship. During their meetings they study God's call for good works and pray for those in need. For more information, call the office @ (562) 431-0494 or Kathy Fellers @ (562) 296-5889, Renate Carnegie (562) 881-5918.



Lunch Bunch
Thursday, Jan. 25th @ 11:30am
@ Beach Burgers & Brew
136 Main St., Seal Beach

This is a group of restaurant goers who meet once a month, usually on the last Thursday to give support to each other and encourage each other in their Christian walk. We meet for devotion and fellowship. Please call Dolores Wildermuth @ (562) 594-6858 to make your reservation.



Music Ministry

Children's singing @ YEBs. Choir rehearsals Sunday @ 8:30 & 11:30am. Bell Choir Wed. @ 6:00pm.

Friday Folders @ 11:00am

On most Fridays some wonderful people come to fold your bulletins and Beacon. The Feb. Beacon will be folded on, Fri., Jan. 26th. Please call the office @ (562) 431-0494 for information.



Prayer Needs

Continued prayers for Jeanie Barnett, Jane Barrett, George Thompson, Virginia Haley and their caregivers and others in our church family in need of healing.

Morgan Johnson, Gary & Wendy Johnson's daughter, had her brain tumor successfully removed but the results will not be known until early January. Please keep Morgan & her family in your prayers.

Continued prayers for Ele, Debbie Hitchings sister, who is still in a lot of pain.

Continue to pray for Linda Smith as she improves from her stroke and prepares for transition to rehab. Please continue to pray for her daughter.

Anjanette Navarro had surgery this week, please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Mary Walton asks for prayers for Elizabeth Lambert who is one of the original Interval House board members. She has prolonged pneumonia and is struggling.

Prayers for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

We continue to pray for our military, the homeless (especially children) and our leadership of the country.

We continue our prayers for world peace so that all can work together with God for the common good and our leadership of the country.

Thank you for the prayers. I'm doing better . I also want to thank the Church Members who jumped in and helped Pastor Tia to get everything done for Dec. 24th. Jeanne Mignacca



Life at First Church

Finance Report as of December 25, 2017

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	11/16 - 12/25/17	1/1- 12/25/17	1/1-12/25/17
Income Totals	16,815.35	308,777.02	218,337.00
Expense Totals	19,026.04	306,405.79	218,299.00
Difference	(2,210.69)	3,371.23	38.00

Administrative Council & Team Meetings
Saturday, Feb. 13th @ 8:00am - (Optional Breakfast @ 7:30am)

For Church Officers, Team Leaders & Team Members

All Team Members except the Lay Leadership Team are asked to attend.

Epiphany Sunday
Jan. 7th.

Epiphany Sunday is the end of Christmastide as we once again observe the visit of the Magi to the Christ child.




Messy Church
Sunday, Jan., 28th
4:30-6:30pm - Fellowship Hall

Messy Church is a multi-generational gathering which will be the last Sunday of every month. There will be activities, worship and dinner. Consider inviting your neighbors, families and friends.

Saturday, Feb. 3rd - 8:00am-2:00pm
West District Training Conference

This the conference is your opportunity to learn and grow in faith and knowledge alongside your United Methodist friends and colleagues. Register @ www.westdistricttraining.com before Jan. 17th for early bird price of \$10, goes up to \$25 Jan. 18th. See flyer in Fellowship Hall.

Remember to pick up your Poinsettias 

January/February Upper Rooms Available

The daily devotional *Upper Room* is available in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall. They do enrich your life.



Jan./Feb. Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

Jan. 14th
 Baptism of the Lord
 Reaffirmation of Baptism
 Mark 1:4-11
 "Pleased"

Jan. 21st
 Mark 1:14-20
 "Casting Nets"

Jan. 28th
 Psalm 11
 Psalter UMW 832
 "To Be in Awe"

Feb. 4th
 Rev. Richard Irving

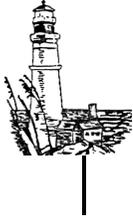
Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor



"Young Explorers of the Bible" for Children Kindergarten to 6th Grade
 1st & 3rd Monday @ 4:30-6:00pm
 Jan. 15th

Food, Games, Singing and Bible Study

The **YEBs** meet to explore the Bible and join together in Christian community. There are also games, singing and dinner. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends.



**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

148 10th Street

Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

JANUARY 2018

Phone: (562) 431-0494

Office Hours: 10:00am-2:00pm, M-F

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February Beacon deadline:

11:00am Mon., Jan. 22nd

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