



# 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,  
Lent this year begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. At First Church we will begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm. Yes, I know it is Valentines Day, but we will still gather for a service that reminds us to keep a holy Lent and have a sign of the cross placed on our foreheads with ashes. This service will also be shown live on Facebook.

For our Lenten Study this year we will be using the book *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, by Rev. Adam Hamilton. "Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, we will explore some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. We will delve into questions like: "Does God exist? How can I know?" "Is the Bible true?" "Why do prayers go unanswered?"

Rev. Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this book will lead

you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers." (Cokesbury)

Each Sunday we will explore provocative questions about our faith and on Wednesday's, beginning on Feb. 21 7:00pm we will meet on Zoom to discuss each chapter of the book. Below are the subjects we will cover: 2/21 -Is there a God? 2/28 - The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible. 3/6 – Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell? 3/13 – Is Heaven Real? 3/20 – When Prayers Go Unanswered. 3/27 – Why Do the Innocent Suffer? I encourage you to purchase the book for the weekly study, or to use it as a resource for the Sermon Series.

You will find on page 4 of this Beacon a list of your Lay Leadership and a summary of the 2024 Budget. In all ways the Leadership of First Church aims to use the resources given us to further the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Should you have any questions about the budget please feel free to contact me.

As Lent begins may you find ways to enrich your faith and serve our Lord.

Shalom,

## February 2024

**In-Person & Virtual Worship Sundays**  
9:30am

### E-mail Prayer Chain

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

### Tea Time Tuesdays

Tuesdays @ 3:00pm Zoom. Contact Pastor Tia if you'd like to attend.  
pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org.

### Men's Study "Creed"

Wednesday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

### Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday's @ 7:30am @ Blackboard Bistro on PCH.

### Miracle Prayer Group

Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540. Third Sat. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:15am.

### Mission Ministry Fellowship

First Thurs. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00am.

### Music Ministry

Anjanette Navarro (714) 305-2313.  
Chancel choir rehearsal Sundays @ 8:30 & 11:00am. Beach Bells Tuesdays @ 5:45pm.

### United Women in Faith

Mon. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am  
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,  
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540



Administrative Council Minutes — January 20, 2024

by Kathy Fellers

**Present:** Pastor Tia Wildermuth, Johnny Scott, Carolyn Nicks, Barbara Arnold, Beth Barinek, Dan and Charlotta Butler, Greg and Kathy Fellers.

Greg Fellers opened our in-person meeting at 9:10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Barbara Arnold led us in prayer.

**Minutes:** Carolyn Nicks moved that the December 9, 2023 minutes be approved as published. Dan Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of December 31, 2023: Checking = \$20,263.84. Interfaith-payroll direct deposits = \$3,090.52. He noted that we have \$16,697.49 in Available Operating Funds. Please see page 6 for the Treasurers Report. It was noted that we have paid 85.46% of our Apportionments, during the pandemic years and until 2024, the Conference allowed 85% of Apportionments as being fully paid. We have been paying 100% but after discussion we voted unanimously in December to pay 85% for 2023.

**Endowment and Investment Committee:**

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of January 20, 2024

	Earned YTD	
1. Endowments: ...	\$86,636	.97%
2. Memorial & Bequests:	\$130,250	.10%
3. Jubilee Investments:	\$653,336	.88%

4. Total investments: \$870,321 .91%

**2024 Budget Workshop:**

Our Budget Workshop involved discussion and discernment of all income and expense line items projected for 2024 resulting in a General Budget of \$296,780. The budget was balanced through the necessary utilization of investment funds of \$141,706. Barbara Arnold moved to adopt the 2024 Budget as proposed. Dan Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:**

**Trustees:** As the new Trustee’s representative, Dan Butler reminded us of the transition they have started: the legally responsible representative (Dan) and other members will be divided up into property zones as of now: Sanctuary - Dan Butler, Parsonage - Lynn Adkins, Fellowship Hall upstairs - Richard Irving, Fellowship Hall downstairs - Garry Chapman, Offices & restrooms- Harlene Goodrich Church Gardens-Greg Fellers. Concerns, etc. can go straight to the appropriate Trustee. That person will evaluate the need and make a recommendation to the Administrative Council. Decisions about hiring vendors, etc. will be made by the Administrative Council. We are moving toward a “One Board Governance.” This should help to streamline decisions and make opportunities move efficiently. For further reference to leadership the Lay Leadership for 2024 see Page 4.

Greg reported that the \$1,881 rebate check arrived from the OC Municipal Water District. The remaining negative

balance shown in restricted funds will be zeroed out.

The need for a new computer in the Finance Office was discussed. Dan Butler moved that we use Memorial funds for a computer recommended by our Treasurer, Johnny Scott, and contingent on knowing the price. The final price being approved by the Ad Council via email. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn Nicks and passed unanimously.











**Worship:** Charlotta Butler noted that the worship colors have changed to green for the Sunday’s after Epiphany season. The new worship music schedule gives the choir more time to practice: the Trio and Bells perform once a month and the Chancel choir twice a month.

**Missions:** Carolyn Nicks reminded us that Super Bowl is February 11<sup>th</sup> and our Fellowship time is Souper Bowl. She has folks making soups and some-one baking homemade bread for the occasion.



**SPPRC:** Beth Barinek – No Report

**UWF:** Kathy Fellers shared the accomplishments of their December meeting. They elected their 2024 officers. There is still a vacancy for a recording secretary, Jeanne Mignacca is presently filling that position. If anyone is interested in the secretary position, please contact Kathy Fellers. The group voted to keep their yearly West District pledge at \$1,000 paid quarterly. The Serenity Soap vendor from the Boutique donated 2 boxes of lovely hand-made soaps. We donated them to the Long Beach



<b>Administrative Council Minutes</b> <i>Cont. from page 2</i>	<b>Prayer Chain</b>	<b>Events</b>
<p>Rescue Mission. Pam Cross presented the program about Thank Offering. We collected \$130 to support that project. The meeting was completed with a Fortune Cookie Buffet luncheon. UWF next meeting will be in person on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am.</p> <p><b>Lay Leader:</b> Barbara Arnold noted that there is still information is on Facebook on how to donate to the Lahaina cause.</p> <p><b>Pastor's Report:</b> Pastor Tia shared that the parsonage palm has been moved and needs a reviving period, she will need palm fronds for Palm Sunday decorations. Look around!</p>	<p>Barbara's friend, Peggy W. is fighting Colon Cancer.</p> <p>Jack D. fell and is recovering in a wheelchair.</p> <p>Debbie's friend Brenda is having surgery on Wednesday for a detached retina. Debbie's friends Ken and Karla are recovering.</p> <p><b>Joys</b> Barbara donated her Clavinova to Culver City High School.</p> <p>Leslie is back in the Choir.</p>	<p> <b>In-Person &amp; Virtual Worship</b> Sundays 9:30am. </p> <p><b>Tuesdays Tea Time</b> 3:00pm Zoom Tuesday is a time to join together to chat and catch up. Pastor Tia will send out the Zoom invite each week, please contact Pastor Tia if you would like to join.</p> <p> <b>Men's Breakfast Group</b> Thursdays 7:30am Men's fellowship group meets for breakfast every Thursday at Blackboard Bistro on PCH.</p> <p><b>Mission Ministry Fellowship</b>  Thurs. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00am</p> <p><b>Men's Study - "Creed"</b> Wed. Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>Moving forward: The goal to move the nursery into the Fellowship Hall could be early this year. The projector and camera system may need some repair.</p> <p><b>Next meeting: Administrative Council ZOOM: 2/10 at 9:00 am</b> <b>Opening Prayer: Charlotta Butler</b> <b>Closing Prayer: Dan Butler</b></p> <p>Carolyn Nicks led us in the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned: 11:30am Kathy Fellers, Secretary</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p><b>Ash Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 day season of Lent—a season of preparation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. Counting back 40 days from Easter - excluding Sundays which are days of celebration and feasting—we arrive at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter.</p>	<p> <b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b> Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Hall</p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b>  Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm</p> <p> <b>Lunch Bunch</b> Mon. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am Marni's. 620 Pacific Coast Highway, Seal Beach. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.</p> <p> <b>Ad Council Zoom</b> Sat. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am</p> <p><b>UWF</b>  Mon. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am</p> <p><b>March Beacon</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">DEADLINE</span> Fri. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am</p> <p><b>Lenten Study</b> "Wrestling With Doubt" Wednesday's Zoom @ 7:00pm Starts Wed. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Ends March 27<sup>th</sup></p>



Lay Leadership 2024	2024 Budget	UWF <i>by Kathy Fellers</i>
<p>Chair Administrative Council - Greg Fellers</p> <p>Lay Leader - Barbara Arnold</p> <p>Secretary - Kathy Fellers</p> <p>Financial Secretary - Joyce Strawn Tellers: Carolyn Nicks Head Teller Lynn Adkins, Garry Chapman, Dean Hill, Debbie Hitchings, Pam Cross, Sara Anderson</p> <p>Treasurer - Johnny Scott</p> <p>SPPRC - Beth Barinek Chair Team; Pam Cross, Mike Strawn Christian Sonne, Barbara Arnold</p> <p>Trustees</p> <p>President - Dan Butler, Sanctuary Richard Irving, Fellowship Hall Upstairs Harlene Goodrich, Offices &amp; Restrooms Garry Chapman, Fellowship Hall Downstairs Lynn Adkins, Parsonage Greg Fellers, Church Gardens</p> <p>Lay Leader to Annual Conference - Christian Sonne</p>	<p>Pledges &amp; Tithes           \$149,012</p> <p>Other Income                 \$5,962</p> <p>Investment Income         \$142,057</p> <p>    Total Income             \$297,131</p> <p>Pastoral Compensation \$119,996.43</p> <p>Staff Compensation       \$91,689.86</p> <p>Operating Expenses       \$27,210.00</p> <p>Facility Operations       \$12,550.00</p> <p>General Administration   \$16,570.00</p> <p>Ministry Team Operations \$3,050.00</p> <p>Apportionments           \$25,513.60</p> <p>Other Expenses             \$200.00</p> <p>    Total Expenses         \$296,779.89.</p> <p>If you'd like a more detailed budget please contact the office.</p>	<p><b>OUR UWF FOCUS:</b> Answering the Call</p> <p>Starting in 2024, United Women in Faith will be focusing on learning more soul-care strategies as well as embodied practices to put our faith into action and connect with ourselves and others. Recognizing and nurturing our spiritual, physical and mental needs is important to understand our wholeness and beloved-ness. This progress allows us to better reflect God's love into the world.</p> <p>In January our officers received leadership training through Cal-Pac virtual sessions. In our February meeting they will share their reflections on our progress toward our employment of our gifts and service and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.</p> <p>We will be looking at dates for our <b>Mothers and Others Tea</b> and creative ideas for celebrating Virginia Haley's 107th Birthday! We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.</p>
<p>Worship Task Force Leader - Charlotta Butler Team: Jaime Lopez, Anjanette Navarro, Wendy Johnson</p> <p>Missions Fellowship Team - Leader - Carolyn Nicks Team: Harlene Goodrich, Renate Carnegie, Vivien Irving, Debbie Hitchings</p> <p>UWF President - Kathy Fellers Vice President - Charlotta Butler Treasurer - Pam Cross Recording Secretary - Jeanne Mignacca, Correspondence Secretary - Vivien Irving</p>	<p><b>Lay Leader Report</b> <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p> <p>We are in fantastic February. This is a time we can read and think about loving our neighbor and applying 1 Corinthians 13. The Bible says: "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." May these words be a part of your lives this month.</p> <p>May God bless you bunches. Barbara Arnold</p>	<p><b>All Are Welcome!</b></p>   <p>There is a box in the kitchen by the freezer for recycled mason jars. Thank You.</p>



<p align="center"><b>Missions</b> <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Palm Fronds NEEDED!</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Men's Study "Creed"</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Food for the Hungry</b></p> <p>First Sunday of the month is food donation Sunday for ready-to-eat food for the homeless. We are currently in need of water.</p> <p>Suggestions are pop-top cans of fish, chicken, meals, chicken &amp; tuna with crackers. Small juice boxes &amp; water. Other needs crackers w/cheese or peanut butter, nuts, chips. Peanut butter, jelly and bread for sandwiches. <i>Please no glass containers, they break.</i></p>	<p>Since the parsonage palm has been moved and needs a reviving period, we need palm fronds for Palm Sunday decorations. If you have any please notify the church office.</p> <div align="center" data-bbox="656 663 894 831"></div>	<p>Wednesday evening Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Interested? Please contact Jay Bullock (562-760-6051, <a href="mailto:jay.bullock@mac.com">jay.bullock@mac.com</a>). Jay can either provide you a copy of the book, or you can order it yourself on-line (new or used, hard-cover, paperback, or kindle).</p>
<div align="center" data-bbox="245 1079 407 1220"></div> <p align="center"><b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b></p> <p>"SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" Mark Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. It's "Souper Bowl Sunday" at First Church. Come and enjoy homemade soup and other delicacies. We will be collecting free will offerings for a needy group again this year. Also there will be some jarred soups and breads for sale. So come after church on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and join us for a cup of soup and fellowship.</p>	<p align="center"><b>February Birthdays</b></p> <p>Mia Lopez Joyce Strawn Daniel Carnegie Donna Carnegie Joy Rosen Robert Rosen Kristen Butler Ava Lopez Judy Peterson</p> <div align="center" data-bbox="841 1205 954 1318"></div> <div align="center" data-bbox="824 1476 915 1535"></div> <p align="center"><b>February Anniversaries</b></p> <p>Feb. 9 — Darrel &amp; Linda Stoskopf</p>	<p align="center"><b>Jan./Feb. Upper Room Available</b></p> <p>The daily devotional Upper Room is available. They do enrich your life. If you would like one mailed to you please contact the office.</p>





Life at First Church

Finance Report as of Jan. 16, 2024

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	12/13/23-1/16/24	12/13/23-1/16/24	12/13/23-1/16/24
Income Totals	22,388.00	22,388.00	22,536.00
Expense Totals	8,439.97	-490.16	23,101.00
Difference	13,948.03	22,878.16	-575

February 2024 Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 9:30am  
Streaming live on Facebook

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

February 4<sup>th</sup>

Communion

John 15:4-5, 8-10

“The Church as a Community of  
Inclusive Love and Grace”

February 11<sup>th</sup>

Transfiguration Sunday

1John 4:19-21

“Discovering Love Again for the  
First Time”

February 14<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Service

Psalm 51:1-17

“Repentance and Forgiveness”

February 18<sup>th</sup>

First Sunday of Lent

Psalm 19:1-2

“Is There A God?”

February 25<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday of Lent

Timothy 3:16-17

“The Good Book? Wrestling with the  
Bible”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor



February Altar Flowers

The 2024 flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Feb. 4 - Open

Feb. 11 - Dan & Charlotta in honor of  
Kristen Butler’s birthday

Feb. 18 - Open

Feb. 25 - Open

If you’d like to provide flowers to honor someone or an event, or in memory of someone please call or email; office@firstchurchsealbeach.org and state it’s in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion.

Your gift of flowers for the altar on Sunday morning really adds beauty and meaning to our services.

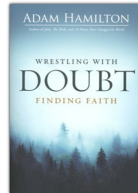
Lenten Bible Study

“Wrestling With DOUBT”

by Adam Hamilton

Zoom Wednesday’s at 7:00pm  
starting Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

Every Wed. starting Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> & ending Wed. March 27<sup>th</sup>. If you’re not on the email invite and you’d like to join the class please contact Pastor Tia for email invite.



2024 Directories

The 2024 directories are ready in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact the office if you’d like one mailed to you. office@firstchurchsealbeach.org or call 562-431-0494 Mon.-Fri. 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Jeanne



Office Closed

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>

**First United Methodist  
Church Seal Beach**

148 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421  
First United Methodist

**February 2024**

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

Web site: [www.firstchurchsealbeach.org](http://www.firstchurchsealbeach.org)

Email: [Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org](mailto:Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org)

March 2024 Beacon Deadline

**DEADLINE** 11:00am, Fri. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>

Beacon Editor: Jeanne Mignacca

Rev. Tia Wildermuth

[pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org](mailto:pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org)

Mobile 562-234-0641

**In-Person and  
Streaming Live**

First Church Sunday worship service is streaming live on Facebook. You can find us @ [facebook.com/firstsealbeach/](https://facebook.com/firstsealbeach/). Or go to our website, scroll to the bottom right & click on 

Space is available for comments.