



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

March 2024

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

I trust you enjoyed the extra day you had in February. As the old saying goes "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." Not only is this fitting for the weather we have been having but it is also appropriate since the last day of March is Easter. "Jesus is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world." The last week of March is Holy Week and with that comes a time of celebration, prayer, contemplation and exultation. I hope you will consider joining us for some of or all of our Holy Week opportunities.

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship - March 24th, 9:30am – With the waving of palms we begin the service welcoming the One who has brought salvation to our lives. As we move through the service we symbolically move from Jesus' triumphant entry to the Passion and Christ's death on the cross. We will be completing our Lenten Study, "Wrestling with Doubt – Finding Faith." Sunday's sermon will be "Why Do the Innocent Suffer?"

Lenten Study - Wednesday March 27th, 7:00pm Zoom – On Wednesday evening we will meet to discuss the last chapter and postscript in the book "Wrestling with Doubt – Finding Faith." This class will conclude our six-week study. You are welcome to join the study anytime, no book is necessary. The study is every Wednesday of Lent.

Maundy Thursday - open Sanctuary March 28th, 12:00 – 2:00 and 6:00-8:00pm. Maundy Thursday is the day we remember the Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion. You are invited to come to the Sanctuary for a self-guided time of meditation and an opportunity to take Communion. I will be there if you wish to have a time of prayer or a little chat.

Good Friday – March 29th, Tenebrae Service 7:00pm. On this solemn day we will gather for in-person and virtual worship in the evening for a new expression of the Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae is a Latin term that is literally translated as shadows or darkness. This year you will hear from many of the people who were there.

Easter Worship, Sunday March 31st: Beach Service 7:00am. Once again we will meet on the beach just west of the Pier for our Sunrise Easter Service. Many of the community attend this meaningful service that celebrates Christ's resurrection on that first Easter morning. The Scripture reading will be John 20:1-18 and the message title is "He Calls You By Name." We will sing hymns and share Holy Communion together. Bring your own chair or a blanket to sit on. There will be hot beverages and snacks for all to enjoy.

Sanctuary Traditional Worship 9:30am – If 7:00am is a bit too early for you consider joining us for our traditional service in-person or virtually in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.

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

Miracle Prayer Group
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540. Third Sat. March 23rd @ 10:00am.


Mission Ministry Fellowship
First Thurs. March 7th @ 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. March 11th @ 10:30am
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

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<p>Pastor Tia's Article <i>Cont. from page 1</i></p>	<p>Administrative Council Minutes — February 10, 2024 <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p>																
<p>The Scripture and message will be the same as the Beach Service. For Holy Communion we will use the singing version which I always find very moving. Between the services and after the 9:30 service there will be an enhanced fellowship time with a bit of a brunch feel.</p> <p>May this time of Lent be one that helps you center your heart to God. So that you may be spiritually prepared to celebrate the glories of Easter.</p> 	<p>\$12,064.31. Interfaith-payroll direct deposits = \$4,791.92. He noted that we have \$7,522.93 in Available Operating Funds. Financial Status Report: Actual YTD Income as \$24,006.00 with Budgeted Income as \$24,761.00 with a difference of \$755.00 under budget. Actual YTD Expenses at \$19,527.00; with Budgeted YTD as \$24,734.00 under budget by \$5,207.00. Johnny highlighted the Parsonage project funds are zeroed out. Funds were not pulled from Schwab accounts. Johnny is continuing to investigate purchase of a new computer for the Finance Office.</p>	<p>Pastor's Office. Richard, Greg and Darrel will follow up on this. Also, check the awning outside the Pastor's office window. Dan plans to have the roof checked and evaluated as it has not been replaced since before Pastor Tia came. Check with Gary Maiolfi. The Parsonage and Sanctuary are due for a Termite checkup.</p> <p>Worship: Charlotta Butler Anjanette has given the musicians a music schedule from now through Lent. The Beach Bells will be playing along with solos by our Trio. We will have some substitute soloists as Mike's work schedule has changed and Jennifer has gone back east for an audition. It is wonderful to have Leslie Hill singing in the choir once again. Beth is ready for childcare if Melanie fills in for Jennifer.</p>															
<p>Administrative Council Minutes — February 10, 2024 <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p> <p>Present: Pastor Tia Wildermuth, Johnny Scott, Barbara Arnold, Beth Barinek, Dan and Charlotta Butler, Carolyn Nicks, Joyce Strawn, and Greg Fellers.</p> <p>Greg Fellers opened our meeting at 9:05 am on Zoom. Charlotta Butler led us in prayer.</p> <p>Minutes: Dan Butler moved that the January 20, 2024 minutes be approved as published. Carolyn Nicks 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously. Secretary for February 10th meeting - Barbara Arnold.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report: Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of January 31, 2024: Checking =</p>	<p>Endowment and Investment Committee:</p> <p>Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of January 31, 2024</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="574 1157 1036 1633"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Earned YTD</th> <th>Capital Gains</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Endowments:</td> <td>\$88,042.00 up 64%</td> <td>\$1,400.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Memorial & Bequests:</td> <td>\$132,365.00 up .69%</td> <td>\$2,015.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Jubilee Investments:</td> <td>\$663,650.00 up .68%</td> <td>\$10,315.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total investment:</td> <td>\$884,057.00 up .65%</td> <td>\$13,736.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:</p> <p>Trustees: Dan Butler Rug in Narthex needs to be replaced. Dan will research a new carpet and will ask Harlene for her opinion. Following the heavy rains, leaks were found in the Serenity Room and</p>		Earned YTD	Capital Gains	1. Endowments:	\$88,042.00 up 64%	\$1,400.00	2. Memorial & Bequests:	\$132,365.00 up .69%	\$2,015.00	3. Jubilee Investments:	\$663,650.00 up .68%	\$10,315.00	Total investment:	\$884,057.00 up .65%	\$13,736.00	<p>Missions: Carolyn Nicks On February 11th We celebrated football's Super Bowl and our Fellowship time Souper Bowl. Folks made soups and Renate baked homemade bread for the occasion. Funds were raised for an Interval House family. Tom Future plans will include another date for Rise Against Hunger.</p> <p>SPPRC: Beth Barinek – No Report</p> <p>UWF: Charlotta Butler for Kathy Fellers There was no meeting in January as the leadership group went to training sessions.</p> <p>At their next meeting, they will set up the date for Mothers' and Others' Tea plus, Virginia Haley's 107th Birthday celebration in March. Next meeting is March 11th.</p>
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Administrative Council Minutes

Cont. from page 2

Lay Leader: Barbara Arnold
The Pastor's "Love" theme for sermons has been a big success.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia
Pastor will finish the 5-letter word for "Love" sermon series this week.

The Lenten program uses Doubt by Adam Hamilton as the reference book for the Lenten class which will meet on Wednesday evenings.

Old Business:
Moving forward:
The goal to move the nursery into the Fellowship Hall.

Men's group Bible Study has been completed and was well received.

New Business:
Carolyn requested that Fellowship groups do not leave food in the refrigerator.

Next meeting: Administrative Council in person: 3/9/24 at 9:00 am
Opening Prayer: Kathy Fellers
Closing Prayer: Charlotta Butler

Dan Butler led us in the closing prayer.
Meeting adjourned: 9:57am
Barbara Arnold, Secretary

Prayer Chain

Cynthia C.'s brother, Clinton fell down the stairs and has bleeding on his brain, it's under control.

Russ & Pam on the passing of their granddaughter Tori. Please pray for Russ & Pam and their family and for Tori's fiancé during this difficult time.

Arlene R. passed away Tues. Feb. 20th. Please keep her daughters Lydia & Julia, and Arlene's extended family and friends in your prayers.

2024 Directories

The 2024 directories are ready in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact the office if you'd like one mailed to you.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th. Remember to set your clocks ahead an hour Sat. March 9th.

Events

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

Tuesdays Tea Time
3:00pm Zoom Tuesday is a time to join together to chat and catch up.

Men's Breakfast Group
Thursdays 7:30am
Men's fellowship group meets for breakfast every Thursday at Blackboard Bistro on PCH.

Mission Ministry Fellowship
Thurs. Mar. 7th @ 10:00am

Lunch Bunch
Mon. Mar. 18th @ 11:30am
@ Bistro St. Germain, 302 Main St. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

Ad Council Hybrid Meeting
Sat. Mar. 9th @ 9:00am

UWF
Mon. Mar. 11th @ 10:30am

April Beacon DEADLINE
Mon. Mar. 25th @ 11:00am

Lenten Study
"Wrestling With Doubt"
Wednesday's Zoom @ 7:00pm
Starts Wed. Feb. 21st
Ends March 27th

Office closes @ Noon on Good Friday March 29th.



<p align="center">Trustees Report <i>by Dan Butler</i></p>	<p align="center">UWF <i>by Kathy Fellers</i></p>
<p>As Pastor Tia reported in a previous Beacon article, the organization of the Board of Trustees has changed. Rather than the Trustees deciding as a group on recommendations to be presented to the Administrative Council, individual Trustees will be responsible for specific "zones". They will investigate issues and propose actions relative to their zone directly to the Council for action. This will include obtaining recommendations and estimates of cost from vendors and contractors. If you have a concern or issue regarding a specific zone, please contact the appropriate Trustee. Following is list of Trustees with their zone of responsibility and contact information:</p>	<p>Issues that the Trustees are dealing with now include water leaks around windows in the Serenity Room and the Pastor's office. Also in the Serenity Room there has been a continuing issue with coffee stains on the carpet. The solution under consideration is to replace the carpet with flooring that is easier to maintain. Finally there are plans to replace the rug in the Narthex.</p> <p>Dan Butler, President, Trustees</p>
<p>Dan Butler, Sanctuary 562-431-8540 dncbutler1@gmail.com</p> <p>Richard Irving, Fellowship Hall Upstairs 714-840-2829 rivek2012@gmail.com</p> <p>Harlene Goodrich, Offices and Downstairs Restrooms 562-431-7322 jacman5@aol.com</p> <p>Lynn Adkins, Parsonage 626-993-5674 lynns40@earthlink.net</p> <p>Greg Fellers Church Gardens 562-296-5889 gregnkathy220@gmail.com</p>	<div data-bbox="581 982 1036 1591" data-label="Image"></div>
<p>Garry Chapman Fellowship Hall Downstairs 562-822-4404 grry_chpmn@yahoo.com</p>	<div data-bbox="597 1843 685 1936" data-label="Image"></div> <p>There is a box in the kitchen by the freezer for recycled mason jars. Thank You.</p>

UWF Marches On In February, our United Women in Faith gathered at our traditional 2nd Monday meeting at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall. We began our planning for our **Mothers & Others Tea**. After much discussion we choose **May 11th**, the day before Mother's Day for our 2024 Tea.






At our March 11th meeting we will confirm our theme and the mission we feel is important to support with our Tea proceeds. We will also begin a process of confirming the needs of missions that we have been supporting over the past few years. This year we were pleased to have enough funds to additionally aid the UMC in Lahaina, Maui.

We also hope you will join us and help celebrate Virginia Haley's Birthday. She will arrive at 107 years of age on March 25th so on Sunday, March 24th we would like to have the altar flowers in her honor. In addition, we propose to prepare a video of the congregation holding Happy Birthday banners and singing the traditional birthday song. Virginia and her family would be able to enjoy the video any time they please. We hope that you can all be part of this special surprise on March 24th.



ALL are welcome to attend our UWF meetings! Our next gathering is Monday, March 11th at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall



<p align="center">Missions <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i></p>	<p align="center"> Palm Fronds NEEDED!</p>	<p align="center">Holy Week</p>
<p>Missions group had a very successful Souper Bowl Sunday this year. Due to the generous free will offerings, we were able to give a check for \$1500.00 to Interval House for a family in need.</p> <p>We hope you all enjoyed the soups offered along with the homemade sourdough bread. Until next year keep the love of Christ in your heart. We are taking clothing donations. In February we gave out 12 lunches & 11 sandwiches, 1 McDonalds gift card.</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>	<p align="center"> Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday March 28th Sanctuary Open 12:00-2:00pm & 4:00-6:00pm</p>
<p align="center">Lay Leader Report <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p> <p>I had several people tell me how wonderful this sermon series has been. They are looking forward to Lent and Easter. Hope you all have a marvelous March! Barbara</p>	<p align="center">Palm/Passion Sunday  March 24th @ 9:30am</p> <p>Palm/Passion Sunday is the Sunday that celebrates the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. We begin Holy Week with shouts of Hosanna. By the end of the service we will enter into the Passion of Jesus as he walks towards his crucifixion. The service will end on a somber note as we enter into Holy Week, making our way toward Easter.</p>	<p align="center"> Good Friday, March 29th@ 7:00pm This is the day of the crucifixion. On this day we are to remember the sacrifice that was given for each one of us. The term Good is used to remind us that it is the day we are forgiven.</p>
<p align="center">Easter Love</p> <p>On Easter we celebrate love, love coming down from heaven, love blanketing the earth in a transforming embrace; unique and infinite love, giving more than we can imagine for us, to cleanse our sin, a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God, the walking, talking Word. He is teacher, role model, friend, this God in human form, dying, then rising from the dead, proving all who believe will also rise to have eternal life, with Him, Lord of all. Oh, Happy, Happy Easter! <i>By Joanna Fuchs</i></p>	<p align="center">Eastertide</p> <p>The Great Fifty Days – This is the time between Easter and Pentecost. During this season we are reminded of the resurrection story and its glories for us.</p>	<p align="center"> Easter March 31st Sonrise service @ 7:00am on the beach west side of the pier. Traditional service @ 9:30am</p>
	<p align="center">March/April Upper Room Available</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>	



March 2024 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

March 3rd
Communion

Third Sunday of Lent
1 Timothy 2:3-6a

"Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?"

March 10th

Fourth Sunday of Lent
John 14:1-3, Isaiah 25:6-8
"Is Heaven Real?"

March 17th

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Philippians 4:6-7
"When Prayers Go Unanswered"

March 24th

Palm Passion Sunday
Genesis 1:26-28
"Why Do the Innocent Suffer?"

March 29th

Good Friday 7:00pm
Passions Scriptures

March 31st

Easter Sunday, Communion
7:00am Beach Service
9:30am Traditional
John 20:1-18
"He Calls You By Name!"

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

Life at First Church

Finance Report as of Feb. 13, 2024

Table with 4 columns: Category, Monthly, Year to Date, Budget Year to Date. Rows include Income Totals, Expense Totals, and Difference.



March Altar Flowers

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

- Mar. 3 - Open
Mar. 10 - Open
Mar. 17 - Open
Mar. 24 - UWF in honor of Virginia's Birthday
Mar. 31 - Open

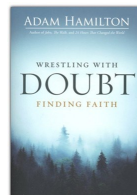
If you'd like to provide flowers to honor someone or an event, or in memory of someone please call or email; office@firstchurchsealbeach.org and state it's in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion.

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. 21st

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



UMCOR Sunday March 10th

When disaster strikes around the globe so many feel helpless. As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. Will you continue to meet the needs of children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster by giving on UMCOR Sunday?

March Birthdays

- Beth Barinek
Chris Wildermuth
Kathleen Dunbar
Clay Peterson
John Arnold
Virginia Haley
Taylor McCallum



**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

148 10th Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421
First United Methodist

March 2024

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

Web site: www.firstchurchsealbeach.org

Email: Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

April 2024 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am, Mon. March 25th

Beacon Editor: Jeanne Mignacca

Rev. Tia Wildermuth

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://www.facebook.com/firstsealbeach/). Or go to our website, scroll to the bottom right & click on 

Space is available for comments.