



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

April 2024

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

Well, we made it through Easter, what a blessing. For this message I wanted to tell you about our new family members. As some of you may know our beloved Peanut, who was 14 ½ years old passed away in November and Maisie, who was 15 ½ years old, passed away in February. It has been a sad household for a while. But God is good, and we found two wonderful pups at the Seal Beach Animal Care Center. Tilly is a rat terrier mix and Charlie is a chiweenie.

I didn't think I could handle two new young dogs in the house, Holy Week and Easter all at the same time, so I have been visiting them over the last two weeks and April 1st is the day we pick them up, no fooling! There are pictures below, and after they are adjusted, I will bring them to the office to meet folks.

When you get new dogs you want to have a chance to hang out and bond. The timing was perfect because I will be starting my staycation soon. It appears that we have been busy at the church, and I haven't been away for any length of time this past conference year (July 1st-June 30th). Which means I will be out of the office from April 8th - May 7th.

Now just because I'm not here doesn't mean you can't be here. There is still lots to do and I have lined up wonderful pastors to share the Word with you on Sundays. Anjanette is also planning an amazing Musical Sunday Worship on April 28th.

Now that we are in the season of Eastertide it is time to "Spring into Faith." This will be our theme for Eastertide ending on Pentecost May 19th.

Traditionally in the Church, Eastertide is the time that Jesus, after the resurrection, appeared to the disciples. It was a time to encourage them to be faithful to the call to spread the Good News. In these fifty days may we all be inspired by the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we not just hear the story but live out the call to love God and love our neighbors.

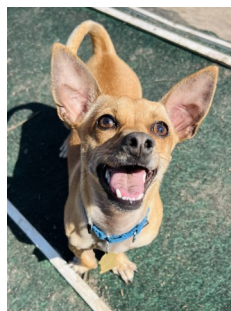
I look forward to seeing you all for Mother's Day but until then I will be playing with the dogs.

"May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

Shalom,



Tilly



Charlie

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. April 20th @ 10:00am.

Mission Ministry Fellowship

First Thurs. April 4th & May 2nd @ 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. April 8th @ 10:30am

Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,

Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

Lunch Bunch

Mon. April. 15th @ 11:30am

@ Blackboard Bistro on PCH.



Abbreviated Administrative Council Minutes — March 9, 2024

by Kathy Fellers

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

Greg Fellers opened our hybrid meeting at 9:08 am. Charlotta Butler led us in prayer.

Minutes: Kathy Fellers moved that the February 10, 2024 approved as published. Carolyn Nicks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of February 29, 2024: YTD Checking = \$13,162.28, Interfaith = \$5,077.46. He noted our Financial Status: Actual YTD Income as \$49,858. Actual YTD Expenses at \$44,128 are under budget by \$5,340. Pledged & Non-pledged giving YTD total \$30,590.80. Budgeted YTD total \$24,852.00.

Endowment and Investment

Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals from March 8th

- 1. Jubilee Investments: \$659,901
2.4% up YTD (withdrew \$15,000 last month)
- 2. Memorial & Bequests: \$134,618
2.2% up YTD
- 3. Endowments: \$89,525
2.33% up YTD
Total investment: \$884,044
2.37% up YTD

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: Dan Butler, Trustee President, started his repair list with the Serenity Room leaking near the win-

dows. Pastor Tia suggested that the awnings also be sealed. The Serenity Room carpet also needs to be replaced due to the leaking. A contractor from GM Roofing evaluated the leaking roof above the stage area. The insurance adjustor cannot give an estimate until April at the earliest. Harlene Goodrich is working on purchasing a rug for the Narthex. Greg Curd is available to help with any remediation concerns, from the flooding. Pastor Tia will be contacting New Systems for a Termite check of the Parsonage.

Worship:

Charlotta will be polishing the cross, Beth & family will decorate with butterflies, Fellers and others will bring palm fronds, also bring the food and signage to the beach. Pastor Tia will be asking others for help.

April 8th-May 7th: Pastor will be on Vacation, in the pulpit:

April 14th - Rev. Nicole Reilley

April 21st - Rev. Lee Carlile

April 28th - Music Sunday

May 5th - Rev. Dr. Catie Coots

May 10th Arlene Rees's Memorial service @ 1:00pm.

May 11th Mothers & Others Tea 1:00-3:00pm.

Missions: Carolyn noted that they are working on a date for another Rise Against Hunger event. As a group we narrowed the date down to Sunday, September 15th or 22nd.

Pastor Tia read a kind thank you letter from Carol Williams of Interval House regarding to our Souper Bowl funds donation.

SPPRC: Beth Barinek reported that they were reviewing our Music Ministry staff employee system.

UWF: Kathy noted that Christian Navarro helped us to honor Virginia Haley's birthday: this year is 107th! On Sunday March 24th he filmed a post-worship group singing the birthday song along with holding a banner. UWF had a sheet cake in her honor and a few folks took her slices of cake, flowers & the video on Monday March 25th, her birthday. Charlotta Butler and Kathy Fellers attended the 2024 District Leadership Training zoom to get useful ideas for meeting programs.

We started planning for our Mothers & Others Tea and are aiming to hold the event on May 11th from 1:00-3:00 pm. We choose "We Care of Los Alamitos" as our mission to fund from the Tea proceeds.

In our next meeting we will start reviewing the missions that we have been honoring to see if they are still in need and how we may even help them in other ways. Our next UWF meeting will be **hybrid** on April 8th at 10:30am.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia shared several dates of future events: March/April: Easter banners "Spring into Faith"

June 12th-15th: Annual Conference in Burbank

New Business:

Next meeting: Administrative Council Hybrid: May 18, 2024 at 9:00am

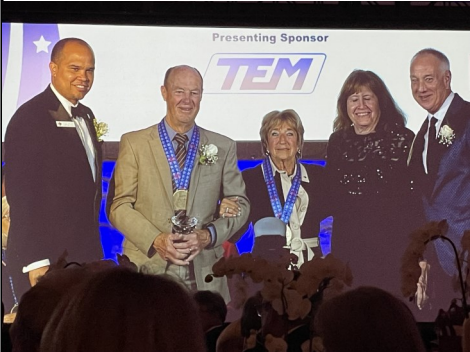








Opening Prayer: Barbara Arnold

Closing Prayer: Kathy Fellers

Charlotta led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:45 am



<p align="center">Trustees <i>by Dan Butler</i></p>	<p align="center">Americana Awards</p>	<p align="center">Events</p>
<p>During our recent rains the Fellowship Hall, the upstairs storage room and the wall next to the lower stairway suffered water damage in three locations.</p> <p>In the Serenity Room, where the 12-step groups meet, the sealing around the windows failed. There was significant damage to the wall board below the windows. We have a bid from a contractor to remove and replace the sealing around those windows and the window at the top of the stairs.</p> <p>The other locations are in the southwest corner of the building. Evidence of the damage can be seen as blistered paint on the wall above the stage in the Fellowship Hall. The upstairs storage room & the wall along the lower stairway also are damaged. The location of the leak is still under investigation. Once it is determined, a plan of action will be formulated.</p> <p>In all of these cases, we are consulting with our insurance carrier.</p> <p>Dan Butler, President, Sanctuary Richard Irving, upstairs Fellowship Hall Harlene Goodrich, downstairs offices & bathrooms Lynn Adkins, Parsonage Greg Fellers, Church Landscaping Garry Chapman, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</p>	<p align="center">Congratulations Greg & Kathy!</p>  <p>Several Church members were at the Americana Awards where Kathy & Greg Fellers won the Citizens of the Year from Seal Beach at Cypress College on March 16th.</p>	 <p>In-Person & Virtual Worship Sundays 9:30am.</p>  <p>Tuesdays Tea Time 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>Men's Breakfast Group Thursdays 7:30am Men's fellowship group meets for breakfast every Thursday at Blackboard Bistro on PCH.</p>  <p>Mission Ministry Fellowship Thurs. Apr. 4th @ 10:00am</p>  <p>Lunch Bunch Mon. Apr. 15th @ 11:30am @ Blackboard Bistro on PCH Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.</p>
	 <p align="center">Arlene Rees Memorial Service Friday May 10th @ 1:00pm Reception following in Fellowship Hall</p>	 <p>UWF Mon. Apr. 18th @ 10:30am</p> <p>May Beacon DEADLINE Mon. Apr. 22nd @ 11:00am</p> <p>Men's Spring Study "The Life You've Always Wanted" Starts Wed. May 8th Ends Wed. June 19th</p>  <p>Ad Council Hybrid Meeting Sat. May 18th @ 9:00am</p>



UWF

by Kathy Fellers

UWFaith: Continuing Our Mission Journey

After many successful events to support our UWFaith purpose of expanding concepts of mission through participation in both local and global ministries of the church, we decided to evaluate each of our present mission choices. Are they still successfully supporting their own valued purposes and reaching those in most need? We started our evaluation process with the local mission: **We Care Los Alamitos** (see attached article). Hopefully this process will spur us to be more informed about the needs around us and what skills we can use to fill those needs. At our April 8th meeting, Charlotta Butler will be sharing her research on Sierra Service Project.

Our lovely Virginia Haley continues to give us the opportunity to celebrate her life and longevity. Her March 25th birthday was honored in Worship with birthday banners, enthusiastic birthday singing, beautiful altar flowers and delicious chocolate marble cake. Christian Navarro videoed our production for Virginia and her family. On Monday several ladies took the video link, banners, cake, and flowers to Virginia's home along with a card filled with encouraging greetings.



Virginia Haley, Barbara Arnold, Kathy Fellers, Charlotta Butler



Merry Carol Rudnick, Greg Fellers, Juanthena Plender, Joyce Strawn,



Carolyn Nicks, Joyce Strawn, Charlotta Butler



Debbie Hitchings, , Joyce Strawn, Charlotta Butler

Starting the Mothers & Others Tea planning was the main March meeting objective. Due to Arlene Rees's Memorial Service on Friday, May 10th, we will start setting up later than usual, around 3:30-4:00pm. Tea tickets will be \$20 with proceeds going to We Care Los Alamitos. You may start reserving your tickets now by calling Jeanne at the church office (562-431-0494) or Kathy Fellers (916-342-0488). We discussed the possibility of 3 Opportunity Gift Baskets, perhaps themed for example: Gourmet Basket, Taste of Main Street. and a Spa Basket. We hope that parishioners may want to donate items and gift cards to fill the baskets. At our April meeting we will have a calling list of our church families so we can ask how you would like to help.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and share our event date with family and friends: **Mothers & Others Tea ~ May 11th, 1:00 to 3:00pm.**

Any women, any age, are invited to join us for our next hybrid meeting on Monday, April 8th and help us promote Faith, Hope, Love in Action!



There is a box in the kitchen by the freezer for recycled mason jars. Thank You.



<p align="center">UWF (cont.) <i>by Kathy Fellers</i></p>		<p align="center">Missions <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i></p>
<p>We hope that it is helpful for you to learn a little more each year about the missions that we have chosen to support. This month we are sharing our response from We Care. We concentrate our donations (YOUR donations) on our local area through contact with We Care of Los Alamitos.</p>	<p>strategies they must implement to achieve this vision, and a system for measuring their progress. They are a busy and productive mission in need of our support.</p>	<p>Sunday April 7th is food for pantry day We are taking clothing donations. Since the last Beacon we gave out 34 lunches & 31 sandwiches. Busiest month since the pandemic.</p>
<div data-bbox="164 655 440 814" data-label="Image"></div> <p>WE CARE of Los Alamitos is a family support center sponsored by local churches, community groups, corporations and concerned citizens. They serve families residing in the areas of Northwest Orange County including the cities of Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Rossmoor, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Cypress and Stanton.</p> <p>It is a non-profit organization that pools the resources of the community to meet the emergency needs of families and individuals such as rental assistance, utility assistance, DMV fees, food, personal care items, clothes and more.</p>	<p align="center">Lay Leader <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p> <p>Spring is "Springing in!" Flowers are showing up and rain is helping everything look green.</p> <p>Easter with its message of love, hope and new life has come. Our walk with God continues with some ups and downs. We have learned that Jesus is with us through all parts of our lives. So we can smile and slide into spring!</p> <p>God Bless you bunches! Barbara Arnold</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> <div data-bbox="1187 1045 1365 1163" data-label="Image"></div> <p align="center">Sunday May 12th</p>
<p>WE CARE's Mission is to do our best to keep families within our community safely housed, by providing a comprehensive, seamless range of services that begin by preventing homelessness whenever possible.</p> <p>WE CARE's Vision is to identify and understand how to properly administer the basic services needed to prevent homelessness. They provide the under privileged and the poorest members of society with the financial support they need to prevent them from losing their home. Their fight to help prevent homelessness requires a clear vision of what they are trying to achieve, the specific</p>	<div data-bbox="578 1457 789 1562" data-label="Image"></div> <p align="center">Music Celebration Sunday, April 28th 9:30am Worship</p> <p>We will be inspired through sacred music shared in a variety of ways.</p>	<div data-bbox="1081 1314 1187 1430" data-label="Image"></div> <p align="center">May 19th</p> <p>Pentecost Sunday is the birthday of the church, remember to wear red to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.</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>



April 2024 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

April 7th
Communion
Acts 4:32-35
"Community of Faith"

April 14th
TBD

Guest Preacher - Rev. Nicole Reilly

April 21st
Psalm 23
John 11-18
"Good Shepherding"

Guest Preacher - Rev. Lee Carlile

April 28th
Music Sunday
TBD

May 5th
Communion
TBD

Guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Catie Coots

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

Life at First Church

Finance Report as of March 20, 2024

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	2/13/24-3/20/24	12/13/23-3/20/24	12/13/23-3/20/24
Income Totals	20,185.00	70,042.82	74,283.00
Expense Totals	23,366.61	51,653.85	74,202.00
Difference	-3,181.61	18,653.85	81.00



April Altar Flowers

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

April 7 - Open

April 14 - Open

April. 21 - Open

April. 28 - Charlotta Butler in honor of Dan's birthday

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.

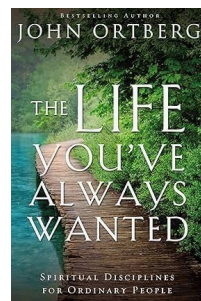
Men's Spring Study

"The Life You've Always Wanted:
Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People"

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm - May 8th through June 19th - Fellowship Hall
Facilitator Jay Bullock

Have you ever been frustrated with your life, and wondered if it were possible to change for the better? If so, this book and this group might be for you. The heart of Christianity is about transformation, but sometimes change seems too hard or too far out of reach for those of us who live on Main Street and not in a monastery.

Join us as we read and discuss author John Ortberg's book "The Life You've Always Wanted". He offers poignant and often humorous modern perspectives on ancient spiritual disciplines that encourage a life filled with joy, peace, and a faith that is vital and growing.



April Birthdays

Kyle Everson

Ruth Jordan

Kirk Wildermuth

Juathena Plender

Jan Dow

Kathy Fellers

Russ Cross

Cindy Hooper

Hunter Everson

Leonard Jordan



**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

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

April 2024

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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Web site: www.firstchurchsealbeach.org

Email: Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

May 2024 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am, Mon. April 22nd

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.

Save the Date

*Mothers and
Others Tea*

*Saturday,
May 11th*

1:00 to 3:00

