



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

September 2024

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

As we enter the fall season I always remember my back to school day's. It was a time to move beyond the lazy days of summer and buckle down for lessons and homework. It was a time to get serious about my education. Well things haven't changed that much since I finished my school days.

Since I began my ministry, oh so many years ago, the Fall continues to be a time to get back to the basics. This Fall's sermon series is designed to do just that. "Faith Hacks" is an eight week sermon series that focuses on the spiritual disciplines of : Prayer - Presence - Gifts, Service, and Witness, which are our membership vows. The series finishes with John Wesley's three simple rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay In Love With God.

Often we wonder how to grow our faith? Other's seem so connected to God. In the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," the reporter who is interviewing Mr. Rogers is speaking with Mr. Rogers wife, Joanne. He asks her what it's like being married to a living saint. Her answer is very interesting: "I don't like to think about him as being a saint, then his way of being is unattainable. He works at it all the time. It's a practice."


Being a athlete in my youth I understand practice. It's necessary but not always exciting. It's doing drills so that you get to the point your body knows how to move. It's called muscle memory. Practice, practice, practice, until you know it so well that when the

game comes you are ready.

Spiritual disciplines are the same way. They can be repetitive and sometimes a bit boring but without them when life throws us a curveball we are not ready to respond.

Praying, being present in worship whether it be the live-stream or in-person, giving our gifts to support the ministry of the church, serving the church community and beyond, and being confident enough to share your faith in whatever form that may take. These are all the foundational disciplines we need to practice.

When we are intentional in our practice of these spiritual disciplines they become Part of our everyday. And when they become part of our everyday. Then our lives reflect the 3 Simple Rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God.

My hope and prayer is that we all will take these practices seriously. Use them in our spiritual lives and in our everyday lives. I hope you will join me during this time, whether it be participating on l  on. Shalom,

On a side note Christian N. has gotten our live-stream working in the Hall for overflow and anyone wanting to watch from the Hall rather than in the Sanctuary. This is especially needed for special services, i.e. memorials, weddings, etc. Christian has a day job and is not always available outside of Sunday worship. If you would like to try your hand at producing the live-stream please see Christian and he will help

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. Sept. 21st @ 10:00am.

Mission Ministry Fellowship

First Thurs. Sept. 5th @ 10:00am.

Music Ministry

Anjanette Navarro (714) 305-2313. Choir rehearsals Sundays @ 8:30am & 11:00am. Beach Bells rehearsal Wednesday 6:00pm.

United Women in Faith

Mon. Sept. 9th @ Hybrid 10:30am
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

Lunch Bunch

Mon. Sept. 16th @ 11:30am
@ Blackboard Bistro.



Administrative Council - August 10,2024

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 hybrid meeting at 9:02 am. Barbara Arnold led us in prayer.

Minutes: Dan Butler corrected the May 18th, 2024 Trustee's report to eliminate "if we should be "snaking" the pipes periodically" Dan then moved that the June minutes be approved as corrected. Barbara Arnold 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously. Greg Fellers moved that the June 10, 2024 minutes be approved as published. Kathy Fellers 2nd the motion and the minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of July 31, 2024: YTD Checking = \$3,733.67. Interfaith-payroll direct deposits = \$4,803.73. Johnny noted our Financial Status: Actual YTD Income as \$212,241. Actual YTD Expenses at \$216,106 are over budget by \$42,968. Pledged & non-pledged giving YTD total \$98,355.26. Budgeted YTD total \$86,982.00.

Endowment and Investment Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals from August 8, 2024

- 1. Endowments \$90,151 down for the quarter 1.1% up for the year 3.05%
2. Memorial & Bequests: \$130,876 down for the quarter .92% up for the year 3.06%

- 3. Jubilee Investments: \$581,175 down for the quarter 1.09% up for the year 3.36% Total investment: \$802,201

A meeting was set up between the Investment Committee and our Charles Schwab representative, Matt Kuhn. We received \$20,584.83 from insurance toward the entire cost of \$58,000. It was mentioned that insurance will probably be going up. It was our consensus that Coastline had done a good job, including their work on the Serenity Room carpet.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: Dan Butler reported that the repair work is done except the storage room needs to be painted and supplies returned. Painting was done on August 28th.

The Serenity Room work is complete except for part of one wall. There is some consideration for a hard-scape flooring too. We need to be vigilant in regard to termites and might consider hiring New Systems to come out on a monthly basis. Dan will talk with Garry Chapman about checking into a new contract with them. Dan accurately voiced that older facilities keep us busy. Darrel was applauded for fixing the Fellowship coffee pot.

Worship: Charlotta Butler shared that it will be solos in worship until choir starts again on September 8th. An Alto audition will be held on September 1st as our King J. alto has left us to pursue a master's in music in Boston. Choir held a celebration for her on August 18th, her final day with us. Charlotta & Pastor Tia praised

Anjanette for finding music to accompany the recent Sermon Movie Theme. She was even able to incorporate a Disney song.

Missions: Carolyn Nicks reported on the progress of Rise Against Hunger, Sunday, September 22nd at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. It is important to register for the event on the website https://www.riseagainsthunger.org. She has papers available to register with a QR Code. The cost of hosting Rise Against Hunger will be covered by donations.

Carolyn also announced that Missions is doing well in food donations for men, women and families who are hungry and homeless, and they are trying to spread the word that our pantry is open 11:00am to 12:30pm on weekdays again. The distribution of lunches fluctuates but they have been giving out approximately 10 lunches weekly.

SPPRC: Beth Barinek shared that there was a cake and donations for Jennifer King honoring her "graduation" into a Music master's program. On September 1st the committee will start interviewing for a new Alto Section Leader.

UWF: The meeting was Monday August 12th. It will be a hybrid gathering in the Fellowship Hall. They will be making improvements on Fall Boutique plans for November 2nd.

In the church kitchen, they are collecting Mason Jars to fill with holiday goodies. All are welcome to the UWFaith meetings.



| Administrative Council cont. from Page 2 | Prayer Chain | Missions <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i> |
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| <p>Lay Leader: Barbara Arnold noted that she has been receiving positive comments from the congregation about Pastor Tia's Spring and Summer Sermon Series: The Gospels According to Dr. Seuss and "At the Movies." If folks have historical donations for the church they can contact our church Historian Russ Cross.</p> <p>Pastor's Report: The next Sermon Series will be "Faith Hacks." Stay tuned! Christian Navarro made progress on getting sound and visual streamed into the Fellowship Hall for a recent memorial service. Pastor Tia gave thanks for the new, refrigerator in the parsonage. As we begin to prepare for children's attendance, we need to have a few "Kid's Bags" for their entertainment during worship.</p> <p>Next meeting: Administrative Council hybrid meeting: Sept. 14, 2024 at 9:00am</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Greg Fellers Closing Prayer: Charlotta Butler</p> <p>Kathy Fellers led us in the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned: 10:50 am Kathy Fellers, Secretary</p> <p>Debbie's sister Mary is facing some issues. Continue to pray for Debbie's friend Patty</p> <p>Joyce & Mike's friend Stephen's surgery was postponed. Pray that they can move forward with it. Joyce's cousin Lewis is battling cancer.</p> | <p>Garry is having surgery Aug. 28th.</p> <p>Pat H. is home from rehab, please pray for continued healing.</p> <p>Dolores's friends Barbara & Joy are struggling with different issues. Barbara is in a lot of pain due to back problems.</p> <p>Leslie H. asks for prayers for her friend Ellen and her family.</p> <p>Anjanette's brother-in-law is a teacher at an elementary school where a child had a seizure and died. Pray for the parents of the child and for the entire school.</p> <p>Several people were killed and injured in a knife attack in Germany.</p> <p>JOYS</p> <p>Pastor thanked the members who helped with the issue last week. Especially Greg F. for stepping up and taking care of the graffiti on the sidewalk, he's always there when needed.</p> <p>Jackie P. has her first grandniece.</p> | <p>A big thank you to those supporting the lunch program at First Church. The folks in need have really enjoyed the variety they are receiving. Also the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are a big hit. The need of food donations continues as the number of lunches given grows. In the past month we have given out 67 lunches and 67 sandwiches. So, if you are grocery shopping and you see pop-top cans of meat, soup etc. on sale put a few cans in your cart and bring to church for lunches for those in need. Remember, God has asked us to feed the hungry.</p> <div data-bbox="1063 970 1144 1050"></div> <div data-bbox="1198 970 1318 1050"></div> <div data-bbox="1328 961 1461 1058"></div> <p>Speaking of feeding the hungry we will be packing 10,000 meals on September 22, 2024. Hope you are able to attend. You need to register to participate. Sign up flyers are in Fellowship Hall.</p> <div data-bbox="1166 1318 1377 1428"> </div> |



Board of Trustees
by Dan Butler

In a recent Beacon article, I asked that if someone sees a problem with our facilities, please report it. The Navarro couple took that to heart. Chris discovered a problem with the backdoor frame. Anjanette noticed evidence of termite activity in the Sanctuary. Thanks to Darrell Stoskopf the door frame is now solid. Our termite contractor treated the termite problem. Go through and do likewise.

In other news, the water damage repair is complete. The only thing left is to move back into the upstairs storage room.

Dan Butler
President, Board of Trustees

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



Choir

by Anjanette Navarro

The choir sent King J. off in style on Sunday, August 18th as she goes to continue her musical education on the East Coast. While King J. will be greatly missed, we are all so blessed to have gotten to know her over the past two years and we are excited for the many adventures that await her in this new chapter in her life. And of course, she will always have a home here at First Church anytime she's in town and wants to visit. God's Blessings Upon You, King J.! ~Much love from your Church Family




Front Row; Kathy, Joyce, King J., Anjanette, JJ, Eric, Pastor Tia, Christian
Back Row; Greg, Dan B., Barbara, Charlotta



Barbara & King J. Our Alto Section Leader

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. Pastor Tia will send out the Zoom invite each week, please contact Pastor Tia if you would like to join.

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

 **Mission Ministry Fellowship**
Sept. 5th @ 10:00am

 **UWF**
Mon. Sept. 9th @ Hybrid 10:30am

 **Admin. Council**
Sat. Sept. 14th Hybrid @ 9:00am

Lunch Bunch 
Mon. Sept. 16th @ 11:30am
@ Blackboard Bistro. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

Oct. Beacon **DEADLINE**
Mon. Sept. 23rd @ 11:00am

 **Office Closed**
Sept. 2nd



UWF

by Kathy Fellers

**United Women in Faith:
Continuing Our Mission Journey**

We began our August gathering in our newly repaired Fellowship Hall: plastic all taken down and the sun shining in. For our Devotion, Charlotta Butler shared from Guidepost's "Walking in Grace" Daily Devotion Book. Charlotta also handled our minutes since Jeanne was on vacation.

Our CalPac Conference "Pacific Waves" newsletter reminded us of our October Conference being held October 18. So we can be thinking of who we will choose to honor with this year's Candle of Commitment.

Our meeting continued with Boutique decision-making. The **Fall Boutique** is scheduled for Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00am-2:00pm. We decided to continue to put our efforts into Vendors and the Bake/No Bake Sale so there will be no Granny's Attic. This will leave more room for the vendor portion which will be set up inside. The stage will be available for the Bake/No Bake Sale. Some of this decision was due to the predictions of wet fall weather. We will be offering a "Box To Go" Lunch for \$15 that can be taken home but also hope we will have some *Café* room for dining on the premises. We have not decided upon selling lunch tickets or making reservations but would appreciate your input on your choice. In fact, we would enjoy having any input to help make the event even better than last year. Please feel free to call the church or Kathy Fellers, 916-342-0488 with your ideas!

Our next UWFaith meeting will be Monday, September 9 hybrid UWFm meeting at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Fellers will be providing the Devotion. At that gathering, we will continue improving the presentation of our Fall Boutique and appreciate any assistance with your insight and your presence. ALL are WELCOME!

Moving forward, we hope to help this collaboration flourish for generations to come with the Faith, Hope, Love in Action of UWF.



UWF Mission Research

As mentioned in previous Beacons, we are each choosing one of the missions that we have been supporting for several years and bringing it up to date with their value and need for our donation support. For our August meeting, Debbie Hitchings chose to explore our local David and Margaret Youth and Family Services. According to Charity Navigator D & M receives a 4**** rating on Accountability and Finance which puts them in the 96% of worthy causes.

Debbie found numerous pages of literature enumerating their many worthwhile projects, education and impact on children's transition to successful adulthood. Coincidentally D & M's history has a historic link with us: "based on faith and trust, along with the compassion of caring for the welfare of children and youth, in 1910 there emerged a joint vision between D & M and the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as United Women in Faith)!"

**Mark Your Calendars With Our
Fall Boutique Date:
November 2, 2024**

If You or a friend or relative would like to share your talents in our Boutique this year, please contact Kathy Fellers at 916-342-0488 to be added to our list of vendors.





September 2024 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

September 1st

Communion

Ephesians 4:1-7

Follow Your Call First Church at the Movies The Lego Movie

September 8th

Grandparents Day

Luke 6:12-13

Faith Hacks - Prayer

September 15th

Blessing of the Animals

Luke 2:41-52

Faith Hacks - Showing Up

September 22nd

Rise Against Hunger

Matthew 25:34-40

Faith Hacks - For Others

September 29th

Matthew 6:1-4

Faith Hacks - Gifts to Share

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

Life at First Church

Finance Report as of August 13, 2024

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

Sept. Altar Flowers
The 2024 flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
Sept. 1 - Open
Sept. 8 - Dan & Charlotta
Sept. 15 - Open
Sept. 22 - Open
Sept. 29 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.

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, Sept. 15th @ 9:30am
We will celebrate with our four legged, feathered, aquatic, or whatever friends. Toward the end of the service owners will be invited to bring their pets forward for a time of blessing. Invite your friends, invite your neighbors - we will have a very interesting time.

Boutique Time is Fill the Mason Jars time!
Please recycle your empty jar donations in the box by the kitchen freezer.

September Birthdays
Belva Jettie
Rev. Dr. Mary Walton
Carolyn Nicks
Rita Rudloff
Delayne Wildermuth
Lynn Adkins
Eric Anderson
Sophia Hill
Greg Fellers
September Anniversaries
9th - Dan & Charlotta Butler
20th - Christian & Anjanette Navarro
29th - Dave & Lauren Everson

September/October
Upper Room Available
The daily devotional Upper Room is available. They do enrich your life. If you would like one mailed to you please contact the office.

**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

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

September

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

Web site: www.firstchurchsealbeach.org

Email: Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

October 2024 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am Mon. Sept. 23rd

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.

