



# 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

November 2024

## From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

The other day I was listening to KUSC, the local classical listener-supported radio station. I'm mentioning that they are listener-supported because it happened to be a pledge week. Now, I don't know how often they have these pledge drives, but I suppose they have as many as they need to pay the bills. What's most interesting about these pledge drives is the swag you can get depending on how much you give. By swag I mean t-shirts, hats, albums, mugs, you get the idea. To get people to give and maybe give a little more since they offer gifts. I enjoy the station especially on Sunday mornings when they play sacred music, a program they call "A Joyful Noise." But I will admit that often my pledge to them is more of a response to the gift rather than their need for support.

How we respond is important, but more important is why do we respond? As you may have guessed November is our traditional stewardship season. The time when we ask what your estimate of giving will be for the following year. Our hope is that everyone will respond, even though we don't have any cool swag to hand out. But I'd like you to think about why we respond.

Sharing our gifts is not just one of our membership vows, but it's Biblical. The Old Testament often speaks of tithing, which is 10% off the top. These gifts were gifts to God. Jesus says, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21) Giving to the church is a spiritual discipline. Unlike the pledge drives of public radio or

public TV, where you give money to get a gift or to continue to watch your favorite program. That type of giving, although very helpful, is transactional. Jesus calls us to something different in our giving.

Giving our gifts to God should be a response. A response to all the good things and blessings that God has bestowed upon us. When we are grounded in gratitude, giving becomes our natural response. When we place our treasures where our hearts are, and our hearts are for Jesus, it becomes a spiritual discipline.

In November, I will be preaching on our new sermon series, "Grounded In Gratitude." Each Sunday we will explore a new facet of our giving and our gratitude. The themes for each Sunday will be; "Divine Gifts," "Gratefulness," "Entitled or Thankful," and "Relying on God."

Our tradition is to conclude our stewardship season with our Thanksgiving potluck lunch, which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving day. I hope you will join us for this series and especially for the Thanksgiving potluck. Please prayerfully consider what your estimate of giving will be for 2025.

Shalom,

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

### E-mail Prayer Chain

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

### Fall Bible Study "The World-Shattering Ministry of Jesus"

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays @ 7:00pm Zoom.

### Tea Time Tuesdays

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

### Men's Breakfast Group

Thursdays @ 7:30am @ Blackboard Bistro on PCH.

### Music Ministry

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

### Mission Ministry Fellowship

Thurs. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am. First Thurs. of the month.

### United Women in Faith

Mon. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> @ Hybrid 10:30am  
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,  
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540







### Miracle Prayer Group

Sat. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> @ Zoom 10:00am. Third Sat. of the month. Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540.





### Lunch Bunch

Mon. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am @ Beale's Texas BBQ  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. of the month.



<p align="center"><b>Board of Trustees</b> <i>by Dan Butler</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Missions</b> <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Lay Leader</b> <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p>
<p>The recovery from the water damage done during and after last winter's storms is complete. The last event was the move back into the upstairs storage room. During that process we were able to dispose of some unneeded items. Everything looks good!</p>  <p>Thanks to a volunteer group led by Pastor Tia, the parking lot has been re-striped. Check it out!</p>  <p>Richard, Joyce, Robert</p>	<p>Would you like to help in making lunches and peanut butter sandwiches for the hungry? Just give a call to Jeanne if you are interested. We are averaging 3 people a day coming to the church needing something to eat. We need your help keeping the packing ahead of the demand. Think about volunteering.</p> <p>Again, thank you for your help to feed the hungry.</p> <p>In the past month we have given out 46 lunches and 46 sandwiches.</p>	<p>November is one of my favorite months. We are reminded to be thankful for all God has given us. My challenge to you - think of 3 things each day that you are thankful for.</p> <p>Praise God!</p> <p>Just a reminder, as Lay Leader I am the one responsible to pass on any comments (positive or negative) from the congregation to church administration. These might be complaints, concerns, compliments, suggestions, recommendations and/or anything of interest in the event you prefer not to go directly to administration. I promise complete confidentiality if so requested. Blessings, Barbara Arnold</p>
<p>Future projects include repair of the access ramp to the sanctuary and improvements to the Serenity Room. As I have urged before, if you see a problem please say something.</p> <p>Dan Butler President, Board of Trustees</p> <p>Please contact the Trustee in charge of the area that needs repairs.</p> <p>Dan Butler, President, Sanctuary Richard Irving, upstairs Fellowship Hall Harlene Goodrich, downstairs offices &amp; bathrooms Lynn Adkins, Parsonage Greg Fellers, Church Landscaping Garry Chapman, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</p> 	 <p align="center"><b>Volunteers Needed</b></p> <p>We need volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. Please contact Pastor Tia if you're able to help decorate for Christmas. We'll notify you of the date/time.</p>	  <p align="center"><b>Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - Seal Beach Christmas Parade</b></p> <p>We will once again participate in the Christmas Parade. Pastor Tia would like help decorating her cart and have riders for the parade. Please contact Pastor Tia if you will be able to help.</p>



November Birthdays	Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch After Church Sunday Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain
<p>Tommy Jordan DJ Carnegie Toom Curd Harlene Goodrich Janice West Mike Strawn Emily Curd Leslie Hill Nicolette Dunbar Lauren Everson Jeff Lopez Charlotta Butler Richard Irving Mathis Seguin</p>   <p><b>November Anniversaries</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Devin &amp; Sue Dunbar 7<sup>th</sup> Russ &amp; Pam Cross</p>	<p>Please join us for Worship and a meal. We all share in supporting the meal and sign-up sheets for various needed dishes will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please let us know what you can share.</p> <p>The Categories are: Turkey (cooked &amp; sliced) Salads Vegetables Cranberry Sauce Sweet Potatoes Dressing/Stuffing Desserts Other Set-up</p> <p>Everyone Cleans Up</p> <p>We hope to see you at our Thanksgiving Celebration. Thank you Carolyn &amp; Charlotta for volunteering to host the dinner.</p>	<p>Garry C. had surgery Wed. Oct. 16 he's doing better.</p> <p>Christian'N's nephew Anthony's daughter has Leukemia.</p> <p>Pam &amp; Russ's great-nephew Blake is awaiting test results regarding his brain tumor.</p> <p>Nancy, Barbara's friend is still healing from her surgery.</p> <p>Mike's friend Dave, from Leisure World, is in hospice care. Pray for Dave &amp; his family.</p> <p>Joyce's cousin Debra is going in for surgery this week.</p> <p>Harlene's sister Charlene is fighting cancer.</p> <p>Pray for healing for Anjanette's colleague Robin &amp; her husband.</p>
 <p><b>Thurs. &amp; Fri. Nov. 28th &amp; 29th Office Closed</b></p>	 <p><b>Poinsettias</b></p> <p>For Christmas, our beautiful sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettia plants. If you want to sponsor a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend please send an email to <a href="mailto:office@firstchurchsealbeach.org">office@firstchurchsealbeach.org</a> by Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Please state who it's in memory or in honor of. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per plant. You may pick up your flowers, in the breezeway, after Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>Debbie's sister Mary continues to heal.</p> <p>Debbie's friend Patty has cancer.</p> <p>Pray for people affected by the hurricane's; some still have no power or water. Pray for those who have lost their homes and for those grieving the loss of loved ones.</p> <p><b>JOYS</b> Jesse &amp; Jennifer have a new baby sister for Mathus, her name is Olivia.</p> <p>John is our new substitute accompanist who will play when Eric's not available.</p> <p>Pastor Tia thanks Richard, Robert, Joy, Mike &amp; Joyce for their help in repainting the shiny new lines in the parking lot.</p>
<p><b>Boutique Time</b> is "Fill the Mason Jars" time!</p> <p>Please recycle your empty jar donations in the box by the kitchen freezer.</p>		



**UWF**

by Kathy Fellers

**BOUTIQUE GALORE in '24**

Our October gathering centered on Boutique planning and how we can make the event the best yet. So, we started with our goals and research for which missions we hope to support. We had looked at the finances of most of our choices to make sure they were still worthwhile, attaining their goals and remaining in need of financial support. After considerable sharing, we chose the following missions:



**For 2024**

- Interval House
- Sierra Service Project
- Habitat for Humanity
- We Care of Los Alamitos
- Long Beach Rescue Mission
- David & Margaret Youth Services
- Toberman Neighborhood Center
- Tumaini International Ministries
- Orangewood Children & Family Center
- UMCOR (Hurricane Relief)

As a reminder, our **Fall Boutique** will be held on **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:00am-2:00pm. The vendors will again be INSIDE the Fellowship Hall with room for the Bake-No Bake Sale to be located on the stage. In front of the stage will be offering a variety of Silent Auction treasures. After receiving so many enthusiastic compliments on last year's Tri-tip and Portabella Mushroom sandwiches accompanied with two salads, we all voted to serve them again. A "Boxed Lunch to Go" will be available from 11:30am to 1:00pm for \$15 and can be taken

home or enjoyed on the premises in our Café area. Lunch reservations can be made by calling the church at 562-431-0494.



Note our popular "Card Ladies" in the center of the shoppers



Come and enjoy our variety of vendors and a gourmet lunch while they last



Come and enjoy our Angelic creations! Charlotta, Joyce, Pam, Debbie

Our next UWFaith meeting will be Hybrid and on Monday, November 11th 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 presence.

We have made it our goal to include and contact all our Seal Beach United Methodist women to help contribute in celebrating our Fall event.

ALL are WELCOME!

**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.

**All Saints Sunday**

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:30am



**Mission Ministry Fellowship**

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Admin. Council**

Sat. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Hybrid @ 9:00am



**UWF**



Mon. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> @ Hybrid 10:30am



**Annual Charge Conference**

Thurs. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom @ 7:00pm

**Lunch Bunch**

Mon. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am  
@ Beale's Texas BBQ, 16900 PCH,  
Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.



**Dec. Beacon**

**DEADLINE**

Mon. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am





Life at First Church

Finance Report as of October 15, 2024

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	9/18/24-10/15/24	12/13/23-10/15/24	12/13/23-10/15/24
Income Totals	12,832.00	267,355.79	247,610.00
Expense Totals	19,204.92	254,609.00	247,340.00
Difference	-6,372.92	12,746.79	270.00

November 2024 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
All Saints Sunday  
Genesis 1:26-27

“Grounded in Gratitude - Divine Gifts”

November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Colossians 4:2-4

“Grounded in Gratitude - Gratitude”

November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Luke 17:17-18

“Grounded in Gratitude - Entitled or Thankful”

November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Stewardship Sunday  
Luke 12:13-21

“Grounded in Gratitude - Relying on God”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor



Nov. Altar Flowers

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

Nov. 3 - Jeanne in memory of Jim Westerdahl

Nov. 10 - OPEN

Nov. 17 - OPEN

Nov. 24 - Dan in honor of Charlotta’s birthday today.

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.

Fall Adult Study  
“The World-Shattering Ministry of Jesus”

October 2 – November 13, 2024  
Wednesdays Zoom @ 7:00pm

This seven week study focuses on Jesus as a revolutionary figure and change agent, both in his own context and in ours and will help adults understand the radical nature of Jesus’ ministry for and among all people, including the “outcast,” and how Jesus models for us a ministry that challenges and pushes the limits.

November/December

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.



Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> we will celebrate All Saints Sunday in worship. This is a time to remember all whom have joined the great cloud of witnesses.



Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember to turn your clocks back an hour Sat., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**First United Methodist  
Church Seal Beach**

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

**November 2024**

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

December 2024 Beacon Deadline

**DEADLINE** 11:00am Mon. Nov. 18<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.

