



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

December 2024

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

So, the big Holiday Season begins, and yes I have already started listening to Christmas music. This season always seems to come up before you know it and then it's over just as fast. I like to start early, Christmas music right after Halloween, that way I have my fill by the Twelfth Night. Life is busy for most of us during this season and the church is no exception. Below I have highlighted many of the activities here at First Church for the Advent and Christmas Season. I hope you will join us as we prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

Sunday Morning Worship - Our Advent sermon series is "Experincing Christmas - Christ In the Sights and Sounds of Advent."

Sunday Dec. 1 - Is The First Sunday of Advent when we light the candle of Hope. The sermon title is "Do You See What I See?" As the Advent season begins, we will celebrate Holy Communion.

Sunday Dec. 8 - Is The Second Sunday of Advent when we light the candle of Joy. The sermon title is "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Sunday Dec. 15 - Is The Third Sunday of Advent when we light the candle of Love. The sermon title is "Do You Taste What I Taste?"

Sunday Dec. 22 - Is The Fourth Sunday of Advent when we light the candle of Peace. The sermon title is "Do You Feel What I Feel?"

Tuesday Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm - At this special service we will do a modern take on the reading of the lessons and singing carols. The Scriptures and Hymns will be familiar but will be presented in a different way. The homily will be "Do You Know What I Know?" We will also celebrate Holy Communion and end our service with the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent Night."

Sunday Dec. 29 - On this First Sunday of Christmastide the theme of the worship will be "Do You Sing What I Sing?" One this Sunday I will read a lovely Christmas story and we will have a hymn sing where you will decide what Christmas hymn we will sing.

Some of our other activities for the season are as follows:

Christmas Parade Float decoration, Friday Dec 6, 3:00pm in the church parking lot.

United Women in Faith Christmas lunch Monday Dec. 9 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch Bunch, Christmas lunch 11:30am - Bistro St. Germain, call Jeanne for more info.

This season of Advent/Christmas can be a busy and sometimes lonely time. But if we just adjust our focus a bit we can see, hear, taste, feel, and know the blessings of the this most Holy Season.

Shalom,

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
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. Dec. 5th @ 9:00am. First Thurs. of the month.

United Women in Faith
Mon. Dec. 9th Christmas Luncheon @ Noon.
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

Ad Council
Sat, Dec. 14th 9:00am Hybrid

Lunch Bunch
Mon. Dec. 16th @ 11:30am
Christmas Luncheon Bistro St. Germaine
Third Mon. of the month.

Miracle Prayer Group
Sat. Dec. 21st @ Zoom 10:00am. Third Sat. of the month. Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540.



Administrative Council November 9, 2024

by Kathy Fellers

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

Greg Fellers opened our hybrid meeting at 9:02 am. Carolyn Nicks led us in prayer.

Minutes: Dan Butler moved that the minutes of September 14, 2024 be approved as published. Barbara Arnold seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of October 31, 2024: YTD Checking = \$14,762.07, Interfaith-payroll direct deposits = \$5,098.79. He noted that we have \$8,207.07 in Available Operating Funds. Financial Status Report: Actual YTD Income as \$283,806 with Budgeted Income as \$247,610 with a difference of \$63,196. Actual YTD Expenses at \$277,688 are over budget by \$30,348. Pledged & Non-pledged giving YTD Balance = \$138,539.26. Budgeted YTD total = \$124,260.00.

Johnny addressed the over budget expenses by referring to Account #5.30.140 Facility Maintenance & Repairs where the Insurance refund of \$20,000 partially offset the expenses. Johnny has been looking into websites to meet our need for a better computer in the financial office. However, due to the prospect of a newly donated computer, we may have that concern solved. A concern was noted that only 32.80% of our apportionments have been paid to date.

It was decided to make a payment now and review our apportionment obligation options at our December meeting when Pastor Tia will give us a detailed list of what makes up the total of our apportionments.

Endowment and Investment Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of November 7, 2024.

- 1. Endowments: \$96,481
down .10% for quarter,
up 10.28% YTD
- 2. Memorial & Bequests: \$139,706
down .24% for quarter,
up 10.01% YTD
- 3. Jubilee Investments: \$596,401
down .22% for quarter
up 10.53% YTD

Total investment: \$832,588
down .21% for quarter,
up 10.42% YTD

We are fortunate that our investments held quite strong even though we need substantial repairs from water damage.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORT:

Trustees: Dan Butler noted that what was termed "useful items" were placed back into the newly painted storage room on October 8th. Shelf and floor space is available now.

The concern over the safety and compliance codes for our deteriorating outside ramp were solved by the work of Darrell, Russ and Greg. The new ramp is "glide-on-easy, sturdy and weatherized.

GM Roofing's Torch down roofing (see detailed description in Secretary's book). was completed. And there is no gravel near the pipe in the corner. Greg checked out the work and observed a job well done.

Follow up needed: Pastor Tia noted the safety issue of needing a spotlight & camera at the door by the mailbox. She and Darrel will research the subject.

New parking lot striping was done in one day by the Strawn's, the Rosen's and Richard Irving. It has improved the parking area both functionally and aesthetically.

Worship: Charlotta Butler complimented Anjanette Navarro on the worship's musical schedule. The Beach Bells play once a month. The Trio rotates with the Chancel Choir to make a nice variety. There will be the 3rd wedding of the year on 11/16. She shared the planned holiday schedule: 11/24 Thanksgiving Dinner at Fellowship time then take down and put away Fall decorations. Our newest pianist John Rogers has been invited to join us. On Tuesday, 11/26 at 9:00am, Advent decorations will be put up. 12/24th Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm.

Missions: Carolyn Nicks reminded us that the lunch program is going well and she thanked our food donors. Sue Dunbar & Girl Scouts food collection has been a helpful group. Rise Against Hunger was again successful and completed the meal preparation in less than 2 hours!



Administrative Council Minutes

Cont. from page 2

The meals were designated for the Philippines; So. East Asia is the area that our conference covers. RAH has proved to be a superb outreach program!

SPPRC: Beth Barinek reported that they have met and prepared for the Church Charge Conference to be held on 11/14/2024. The appropriate forms have been signed and submitted. They unanimously proposed a 2 1/2 % salary increase for Pastor Tia and all Staff members (the present cost of living being 2.5%). The Council concurred with this recommendation. Beth will present this at the Conference.

UWF: Kathy Fellers reported that UWF met on Monday, October 7th and continued to make decisions on their Fall Boutique being held Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00am- 2:00pm. They finalized the missions that we will be supported with their profits so they can be posted at the event. They appreciate the many hands making baked goods, donating financial support and volunteering to enjoy the day at the Boutique.

Lay Leader: Barbara Arnold has received even more positive comments on the music program, especially the Beach Bells presentations. Our West District Lay Leader Ana Goar Johnson has extended invitations to attend Laity events.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia thanked Carolyn and Charlotta for their leadership in providing our Thanksgiving Fellowship brunch on November 24th. She noted the bright, new striping in the parking lot done in time for the Fall Boutique. She is continuing the Bible series entitled: "The World-Shattering Ministry of Jesus" on into November.

CalPac is providing a Lab webinar entitled "Ministry Safe" with Jan Hanson as speaker. It will provide "Ministry Safe" guidelines and employee training. This is one of a series of labs Council members are encouraged to attend.

She invited us all to attend the annual Church Charge Conference Thursday, Nov. 14th on Zoom at 7:00pm.

The "Grounded in Gratitude" Sermon series and Stewardship drive continues with a letter to be mailed Monday, Nov. 18th and will culminate on Thanksgiving Sunday.

For Advent, we will be "Experiencing Christmas" and "The Story of the Other Wisemen." Pastor Tia and the Council are continuing to look into "One Board Governance" with a Leadership Council. As we evolve committees, we will look into ways to evolve Fellowship time also.

Next meeting: Administrative Council Hybrid meeting: 12/14/24 at 9:00am

**Opening Prayer: Charlotta Butler
Closing Prayer: Kathy Fellers**

Barbara Arnold led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:40 am
Kathy Fellers, Secretary



Office Closures

Dec. 6th & 13th
Dec. 24th Close @ noon
Dec. 25th - 27th Closed
Jan. 1st - Jan. 3rd Closed

You can connect Pastor Tia by phone or email.

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

No Thanksgiving Breakfast

Men's fellowship group meets for breakfast every Thursday at Blackboard Bistro on PCH.

Mission Ministry Fellows



Dec. 5th @ 9:00am



UWF

Mon. Dec. 9th Christmas Luncheon @ 12:00pm

Admin. Council



Sat. Dec. 14th Hybrid @ 9:00am



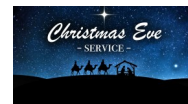
Lunch Bunch

Mon. Dec. 16th @ 11:30am @ Bistro St. Germaine, 302 Main St. Seal Beach. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

Jan. Beacon



Mon. Dec. 16th @ 11:00am




Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24th @ 7:00pm

We will celebrate with Holy Communion and the singing of "Silent Night."



<p>Lay Leader <i>by Barbara Arnold</i></p>	<p>Board of Trustees <i>by Dan Butler</i></p>	<p>Prayer Chain</p>
<p>Delightful December is here. It is wonderful, yet sometimes discouraging. To help you enjoy this holiday time, remember the saying “Jesus is the reason for the season”. Keep your focus on Him and pray for God to guide you through this holiday time. God is good – look for the good in people and the good happening everyday all around you. Be grateful ! Merry Christmas !</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Blessings, Barbara Arnold</p>	<p>Thanks to Greg, Darrel and Russ, the repairs to the ramp leading to the side entrance to the sanctuary have been done. The ramp is probably good for another generation.</p> <p>The roof over the outside stairway is in danger of collapsing. We are consulting with the contractor that did the fellowship hall and kitchen remodel about ten years ago on what to do. In the meantime, do not use that stairway.</p> <p>As I have urged before, if you see a problem please say something.</p> <p>Dan Butler President, Board of Trustees</p> <p>Richard Irving, Harlene Goodrich, Lynn Adkins, Garry Chapman.</p>	<p>Pam & Russ’ great-nephew, Blake, who’s starting more radiation treatments, pray for healing.</p> <p>Barbara A. as families gather, we pray for safe travels.</p> <p>Sometimes this can be a season of joy & also a season of sadness. For those who may have a Blue Thanksgiving or Christmas we pray for them.</p> <p>Anjanette’s colleague Robin, her husband has blood cancer and some other infections, pray for healing.</p> <p>Pray for Tanya’s family & friends and for her entire country of Ukraine. We pray for Ukraine that the war will end in a peaceful and fair manner and that the people of Ukraine will be safe.</p> <p>Continue to pray for Joyce she’s coming along but its going to take awhile for her arm to heal.</p>
 <p>We’re collecting Christmas Gift Cards for our “Guests” who stop by. For example; Pavilions, Target, Subway etc. If you’d like to donate one you can put in the Sunday offering plate, give to Pastor Tia or Jeanne. Thank you</p>	<p>Missions <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i></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 38 lunches and 38 sandwiches.</p>	<p>Pray for healing for Debbie’s sister Mary that her treatments work & there’s not too many side effects. Debbie’s friend Patty as she continues treatment.</p> <p>JOYS</p> <p>We had a wedding Sat. Nov. 16. We celebrate with Sara & Elroy & for their life together.</p> <p>Jen’s friend & colleague Collette went through treatment and she’s all clear.</p>



UWF

by Kathy Fellers

Pam Cross shows her new rainbow pin after being chosen by our United Women in Faith as their 2024 Special Mission Recognition Honoree. Presenting Pam's pin and certificate: Charlotta Butler and Kathy Fellers.



UWF



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 and Family Center

UMCOR (Hurricane Relief)

Boutique Pictures



Our Bake-no-Bake Sale Beauties, Leslie, Debbie, Joyce & Cynthia among a bevy of tasty treats



Our Kitchen Queen's Luncheon assembly line: Linda, Beth, Lori & Pam



Alicia & Donna, our jewelry ladies have been vendors with us over 5 years.



Diane & Susan from our Tumaini International mission, shared their Kenya creations.

A Big Thank You

to our Boutique Boys!

UWF had tremendous help with set up & clean up!

We so appreciate:

- Dan Butler
- Russ Cross
- Greg Fellers
- Dean Hill
- Richard Irving
- Darrel Stoskopf
- Mike Strawn



Poinsettias

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; there will be order forms attached to the Sunday programs until Sunday Dec. 15th. Or you can send an email to office@firstchurchsealbeach.org by Monday, Dec. 16th. Please state who it's in memory or in honor of. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per plant. You may pick up your flowers after Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24th.



Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. Please contact Pastor Tia if you're able to help decorate for Christmas. We'll let you know when.



HELP

Dec. 20th I'll have Christmas Eve & Dec. 29th programs & the Jan. Beacon to fold & mail. If you can help please let me know.

I'm also looking for volunteers to help in the office for a couple of hours a day when I am out. Basically you would answer the phone, check the mail & distribute sack lunches. Please call the office or email me at office@firstchurchsealbeach.org if you'd like to be added to the volunteer list.
Thank you, Jeanne



Friday, Dec. 6th

Seal Beach Christmas Parade

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.



UWF Re- Structuring

UWF is re-structuring. We're looking for new avenues of leadership and special events. If you have any ideas on a way we can re-structure please contact the office.

We'll be looking for short-term chair persons for the special events.

562-431-0494

office@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Thank you



Do you have a warm smile and a friendly handshake? Would you like to share it with your friends at First Church?

Are you willing to give a few minutes on Sunday to be a part of the Welcoming Ministry of First Church and serve during the Sunday morning Worship Service?

Please talk to Pastor Tia if you'd like to be a Usher or Greeter on Sundays.



Life at First Church

Finance Report as of November 17, 2024

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	10/15/24-11/17/24	12/13/23-11/17/24	12/13/23-11/17/24
Income Totals	4,808.00	288,613.93	272,371.00
Expense Totals	13,651.43	281,017.19	272,074.00
Difference	-8,843.43	7,596.74	297

December 2024 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

December 1st
First Sunday of Advent
Communion
Luke 2:1

“Do You See What I See?”

December 8th
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 42:10

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

December 15th
Third Sunday of Advent
Psalm 34:8

“Do You Taste What I Taste?”

December 22nd
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 2:11

“Do You Feel What I Feel?”

December 24th
Tuesday 7:00pm
Christmas Eve
Luke 2:1-20

December 29th
Mathew 2:1-2
“The Story of the Other Wise Man”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor



December Altar Flowers

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

Dec. 1 - OPEN

Dec. 8 - OPEN

Dec. 15 - Dan & Charlotta in honor of Josh's birthday Dec. 17th

Dec. 22 - OPEN

Dec. 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.

The 2025 Flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

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

December Birthdays

Jenna Bastain
David Stoskopf
Kyle Sage
Josh Butler
Rev. Kathy Wilborn
Fabiola Hill
Vivien Irving
Merry Carol Rudnick



December Anniversaries

4th Justin & Bonnie McCarthy

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.

**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

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First United Methodist

December 2024

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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January 2025 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am Mon. Dec. 16th

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/. Or go to our website, scroll to the bottom right & click on 

Space is available for comments.