



# 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

January 2025

## From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

Happy New Year! Honestly, because of the busy schedule here at the church I am writing this article with Christmas just a week away. So, to say Happy New Year seems a bit premature.

Although the reality is it's just two weeks away. I'd love to say that gives me plenty of time to plan a strategy to implement my New Years resolution. But I can't say anything close to that.

My new year's resolutions don't resemble anything that are resolute. Honestly, I should call them new year's I might get around to it by summer. Not sure if that is true for any of you, but I imagine I'm not the only one who feels that way.

So, this year I am going to try something different, and you are invited to join the journey. The sermon series for January and February is entitled "New Beginnings – Lessons from the Early Church." The scripture focus will be from the Book of Acts.

Of course we will begin the year with Epiphany Sunday: the day we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to the baby Jesus. The second Sunday in January is traditionally "Baptism of the Lord." This Sunday will be the beginning of our dive into Acts. I can't think of a better way to celebrate "New Beginnings" than by recommitting ourselves to Jesus with the Renewal of Baptism.

The book of Acts is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke. It picks up after the Resurrection and right before the Ascension. As Jesus ascends, he promises to be with us always and calls us to make disciples of all nations.

And so, the Christian Church begins on that first day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit inspires the Apostles to preach the "Good News." We learn about Peter as the leader of the Church and how Paul was called to preach the "Good News" to the gentiles. We learn about the new beginnings of this new church, this new group of people called to be a community. We learn about the growing pains that always happen with new beginnings. We learn how some traditions need to be left behind and new traditions celebrated.

I'm hoping the two months before Lent will give us a time to not only learn about the early church but also give us some time to reflect on our walk with Jesus. Perhaps challenging us to start fresh in our discipleship. The journey that Jesus calls us to can be difficult but is always fulfilling.

Whether you make resolutions or are more like me, we all can start a new year with a new beginning in our faith journey. I hope you will join me for this challenge.

Shalom,

Bible Study  
The Book of Acts  
Zoom Wed. 7:00pm  
Beginning Jan. 8th.

**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. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am. First Thurs. of the month.

**United Women in Faith**  
Mon. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Hybrid @ 10:30am;  
Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889,  
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

**Ad Council**  
Sat, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Hybrid

**Lunch Bunch**  
Wed. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am @ Bistro St. Germaine. A new day will be discussed.

**Miracle Prayer Group**  
Sat. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> @ Zoom 10:00am. Third Sat. of the month. Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540.



Administrative Council December 14, 2024

by Kathy Fellers

**Present:** Pastor Tia Wildermuth, Johnny Scott, Barbara Arnold, Joyce Strawn, Dan & Charlotta Butler, Greg & Kathy Fellers.

Greg Fellers opened our hybrid meeting at 9:06am. Charlotta Butler led us in prayer.

**Minutes:** Charlotta Butler moved that the minutes of Nov. 9, 2024 be approved as published. Dan Butler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Johnny Scott reported our Bank Account Analysis as of Nov. 30, 2024; YTD Checking = \$23,644.96, Interfaith-payroll direct deposits = \$5,070.51. He noted that we have \$17,337.53 in Available Operating Funds. Financial Status Report: Actual YTD Income as \$322,316 with Budgeted Income as \$272,371 with a difference of \$49,945. Actual YTD Expenses at \$305,437 are over budget by \$33,363. Pledged & Non-pledged giving YTD Balance = \$156,119 Budgeted YTD total = \$136,686.

A concern was brought up about apportionments since it was noted that only 56.32% has been paid. We reviewed our apportionment obligations and decided we will pay 100% of non-conference obligations and 75% of the Conference apportionment at this time. Pastor will email us an accounting of our obligations this week, and we will decide on whether we pay 100% by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Endowment and Investment Committee:**

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of Dec. 12, 2024.

- 1. Endowments: \$87,291  
up .94% for quarter  
up 11.43% YTD
  - 2. Memorial & Bequests: \$131,000  
up .82% for quarter  
up 11.19% YTD
  - 3. Jubilee Investments: \$602,944  
up .22% for quarter  
up 11.63% YTD
- Total Investment: \$821,235  
up .87% for quarter  
up 11.63% YTD

We are fortunate that our investments are doing so well.

We discussed celebrating our church's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. We proposed a Legacy giving event for July of 2025.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORT:**

**Trustees:**

Greg Fellers reported on the deterioration of the roof over the exterior stairwell. A group consisting of Pastor Tia, Greg Curd, Darrel Stoskopf & Greg Fellers met with Tim O'Keefe to discuss possible options for repair. Those options are:

- 1) Remove the existing roof and rebuild a new one - \$27,450.
  - 2) Remove the existing roof and build a new roof over the landing only - \$22,150.
  - 3) Remove the existing roof - \$19,975
- All the existing posts would also be replaced.

After discussion, it was decided to go for option 3 but with the addition of awnings similar to the ones on the 10<sup>th</sup> street side. It was also discussed that there might be a possibility of not replacing all the posts. The possibility of getting a competitive bid was discussed and it was decided to give Tim the bid.

Construction will take 12-15 days. Starting date not known at this time.

**Worship:** Charlotta Butler complemented Anjanette Navarro on the worship's musical presentations. The addition of micing the section leaders and congregation has enhanced the worship even more. The Beach Bells are especially enjoying presenting their skills. We value our social media and Christian has done well trying to balance microphone and camera work for our worship streaming.

**Missions:** Pastor Tia reminded us that the lunch program is going well and she thanked our food donors. Sue Dunbar's Girl Scout troop food collection has been helpful. Carolyn can always use more helpers to make peanut butter sandwiches and pack lunches.

**SPPRC:** Pastor Tia complimented John Rogers on his playing as he substitutes for Eric Anderson.

**UWF:** Kathy Fellers reported that UWF met on Mon. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> for a short meeting to finalize the disbursement of funds that they raised during the year. They voted to send \$220 to each of the 10 causes that they had researched throughout the summer and fall. Wanting to have some funds in the treasury for emergency needs such as weather-caused disasters they lowered their UWF pledge to the District. The end-of-year agenda accomplished, they adjourned to a delicious luncheon from Polly's Pies Pick Up.



**Administrative Council Minutes**

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**Lay Leader:** Barbara Arnold has received even more positive comments on the music program: especially having the choir move out of their loft and face the congregation and the energy of the Beach Bells presentations. She reminded us of the Invitation Cards that we can carry in case we meet someone we would like to introduce to our church.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tia summarized our Pledge Drive which seems to have a similar income as last year. Our Social Media contract with Nicole Reilley will end Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. We agreed that her Social Media program is money well-spent and unanimously voted to renew the 1<sup>st</sup> installment (6 months) of her contract for 2025. Pastor Tia shared her ideas for January and February 2025 starting with Epiphany Sunday followed by a Sermon Series entitled the Acts of the Apostles. She suggested that we continue to think of ideas for a 110<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. She also reminded us that CalPac is providing a series of Webinar Labs that Council members are encouraged to attend.

**Unfinished Business:** Concerning the safety issue of needing a spotlight & camera at the door by the mailbox, Pastor Tia found an economical Ring Camera for the "front door" (near the mailbox). Darrel will do the installing. It was discussed that there needs to be new lighting over the door at the top of the stairs when the old roof is removed.

**New Business:** Greg brought forward the idea of the need for a new Church Directory. Pastor Tia will ask Jeanne to put a notice in the Beacon for folks to update their information then Jeanne can better update the Directory.

**Next meeting: Administrative Council Hybrid meeting: January 18<sup>th</sup> (Third Saturday) ay 9:00am**

**Opening Prayer: Barbara Arnold**  
**Closing Prayer: Greg Fellers**

Kathy Fellers led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 am  
Kathy Fellers, Secretary

**Lay Leader**  
*by Barbara Arnold*

Love each brand new year!  
So many chances to restart.  
Let's ask Jesus what He wants us to do with our lives this year.  
Bet He's got good ideas if we just listen for His guidance.

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.

Happy New Year!  
Barbara

**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**  
Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00am



**Admin. Council**  
Sat. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Hybrid @ 9:00am

**Lunch Bunch**



Wed. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am @ Bistro St. Germaine. We will discuss changing the day of the month. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

**Feb. Beacon**

**DEADLINE**


Mon. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am



**UWF**

Mon. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am



<b>Outgoing Trustee President Report</b> <i>by Dan Butler</i>	<b>Missions</b> <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i>	<b>A Christmas Prayer</b> <i>by Robert Louis Stevenson</i>
<p>As I reported last month, the roof over the outside stairway is in danger of collapsing. Tim O'Keefe, the contractor who did the reconstruction of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen has temporarily shored up the roof.</p> <p>After consulting with O'Keefe regarding various options, the Administrative Council has decided to pursue the option of completely removing the roof and associated structure and placing an awning over the landing outside the upstairs door. The awning will be similar to the ones on the 10th St. side of the building.</p> <p>Dan Butler</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>Thank you for your help to feed the hungry. In the past month we have given out 37 lunches and 37 sandwiches; Two Target gift cards &amp; three Subway gift cards.</p>	<p>Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men.</p> <p>Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.</p> <p>Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.</p> <p>Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.</p> <p>May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2025 Directories</b></p> <p>I'll be preparing new 2025 directories soon. Please let me know if you have any changes made to your entry by the end of January.</p> <p>If you'd like to be added to the directory please send me name, children's names, phone number, address, e-mail, if texts are OK. You can include as much or as little information as you'd like.</p> <p>office@firstchurchsealbeach.org  or call 562-431-0494 Mon.-Fri.  10:00am - 2:00pm.</p> <p>Thank you  Jeanne</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Chain</b></p> <p>Barbara's friends Nancy &amp; Mary are having health issues.</p> <p>Pam &amp; Russ's Great Grandson Oskar is hospitalized in Stockholm awaiting test results. Pray for Oskar &amp; his family.</p> <p>Lucy asks for relief of anxiety &amp; worry. Pray for her in this time of difficulty. Her friend Cris has non-stop Migraines. Her friend Teresa has impending surgery.</p> <p>Pray for healing for Debbie's sister Mary as she continues treatments. Debbie's friend Patty continues with different therapies they're using to try and help her.</p>	



**UWF**

by Kathy Fellers

**United Women in Faith  
Welcome 2025!**

The United Women in Faith were blessed to wrap up 2024 with voting, giving and luncheoning! We confirmed our UWM 2025 Board:

President: Kathy Fellers (as needed)

Vice-President: Charlotta Butler

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Mignacca

Corresponding Secretary: Vivien Irving

Treasurer: Pam Cross

With our final vote we confirmed our Mission giving and were able to support each of the causes below with \$220:

- 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)

Voting continued with a pledge to District UWF of \$900! After all that hard work we were refreshed by our Takeout lunch from Polly's Pies along with Debbie's' sparkling cranberry beverage and an elaborate "vintage" chocolate cake.



Pam, Dolores, Pastor Tia, Joyce, Debbie, Jeanne, Charlott, Merry Carol

UWF will not be gathering in January. Our next hybrid meeting will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall.

UWF "Do You Taste What I Taste" fellowship on Dec. 15



JJ G. , John R., Barbara A., Charlotta B.



Garry C., Kathy F., Debbie H. Charlotta B., Joyce S..

**Seal Beach Christmas Parade**

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**



Joyce , Mike, Greg, Pastor Tia



Pastor Tia, Joyce , Mike, Kathy, Greg,



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



Life at First Church

Finance Report as of December 19, 2024

January 2025 Worship Schedule

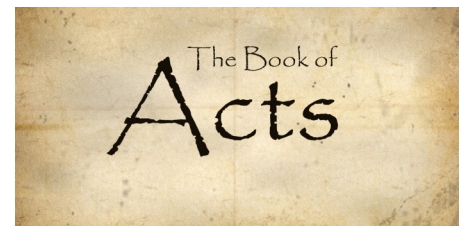
In-Person Worship 9:30am  
Streaming live on Facebook

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Epiphany Sunday  
Communion  
Matthew 2-11

New Sermon Series starts January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Baptism of the Lord

"New Beginnings – Lessons from the  
Early Church." The scripture focus will  
be from the Book of Acts.



Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	11/17/24–12/19/24	12/13/23-12/19/24	12/13/23-12/17/24
Income Totals	19,200.25	341,516.31	297,131.00
Expense Totals	21,294.74	316,398.64	296,781.00
Difference	-2,094.49	25,117.67	350.00



January Altar Flowers

- Jan. 5 - OPEN
- Jan. 12 - OPEN
- Jan. 19 - OPEN
- Jan. 26 - OPEN

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

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.

January Birthdays

- Darrel Stoskopf
- Renate Carnegie
- Jeanne Mignacca
- Chad Strawn
- Vic Peterson



Office Closures

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>



Mon. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>



January/February

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

**January 2025**

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

Web site: [www.firstchurchsealbeach.org](http://www.firstchurchsealbeach.org)

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

**February 2025 Beacon Deadline**

**DEADLINE** 11:00am Mon. Jan. 27<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://www.facebook.com/firstsealbeach/). Or go to our website, scroll to the bottom right & click on 

Space is available for comments.