



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 2026

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

Epiphany Sunday is the first Sunday of the New Year and we will be celebrating Holy Communion. I will also be starting a new sermon series called "Everyday Epiphanies, Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life." I think you will enjoy the series. It begins with a story of the Magi coming to see baby Jesus, and moves through some pivotal moments in Jesus's life. This is a seven week series that will end right before Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of Lent. One of the changes you'll see this year, because of this sermon series, will be that we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on January 25th rather than January 11th.

On Wednesday, January 14th, 7 PM on Zoom, I will begin a short Bible study, which will be a focus on Jesus and prayer. This will be a five week study and all are welcome to join. I usually send out a Zoom invite that includes questions and scripture passages for you to take a look at the day before through email.

Easter is early this year so Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. I wanted to give you a heads up about our Lenten Sermon Series since it's coming up pretty quick. This year we will be going through Adam Hamilton's book "Why Did Jesus Have to Die - The Meaning of the Crucifixion." Not only will this be the sermon series but I will also teach a class in the evenings on Zoom. If you want to participate in this study, you may want to pick up a

copy of this book before the first class which will be on Wednesday, February 25th. I believe you can order it from Cokesbury or Amazon.

A new year can sometimes bring resolutions, new goals, and sometimes it just means making it through the next day. Wherever you're at in life at this time, God is with you. As I mentioned above, we will be studying about Jesus and Prayer. But whether you're looking forward or just making it through each day, perhaps the one thing you can continue to do or bring back into your life is a time of prayer. God is always with us, it is a promise that we receive through Jesus Christ, but it doesn't mean we don't have to reach out and share our lives with God. It is quite possibly the most important relationship we have. May this new year bring you peace, joy, and happiness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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
Trio & Choir rehearsal times vary. 8:30 -11:30am. Beach Bells Tues. @ 5:45pm .
Anjanette Navarro
anjanette880@gmail.com.

Ad Council
Sat. Jan. 17th @ 9:00am Hybrid

Lunch Bunch
Wed. Jan. 21st @ 11:30am
@ Burrows & Fries.
4th Wed of the month. All are welcome.
Notify Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

Mission Ministry Fellowship
Thurs. Feb. 5th @ 9:00am. First Thurs. of the month.

Women's Group
Mon. Feb. 9th @ 10:30am
Meetings held as needed.

Miracle Prayer Group
Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540

Men's Breakfast Group
Thursdays @ 7:30am @ Blackboard Bistro



Administrative Council Minutes - December 13, 2025
by Kathy Fellers

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

Greg opened the meeting at 9:02 am. Barbara led us in prayer.

Minutes: Kathy shared the minutes of the November 8th meeting. Carolyn moved to approve, Barbara seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The November 30th financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was \$316,921, with YTD expenses at #319,278. Leaving at deficit of \$2,357 YTD. Under designated funds, the sound system donations will be moved to the Music Ministry fund. An additional \$500 for the music ministry was donated in December. The financial report shows income from pledges and tithes well ahead of budget, thanks to some good end of year giving. Facilities usage fees are under budget. Pastor will ask Jeanne about number of usage groups. To date, we have drawn less than budgeted from our investments but will have to pull an additional \$25,000 to pay apportionments and end of year expenses. Under expenses, the advertising expense amount appears over budget because the end of last year's expenses was paid this year. Equip. leases & rental expense is up because of a new copier lease. Outside services were increased to pay for the new computer set up. Johnny will do a

print-out of 5.40.110 to determine why Gen. Taxes, Fees and Permits are twice budget. It was agreed by consensus that we would pay the remaining \$7,600 of our apportionments to meet the 100% goal.

Endowment and Investment Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of December 8, 2025:

	1/16/25
Endowments:	\$80,296
up 10.12% YTD	\$84,743
Memorials & Bequests:	\$113,738
up 10.12% YTD	\$127,844
Jubilee Fund:	
\$518,817 up 10.31% YTD	\$588,367
Total Investment:	\$712,851
up 10.25% YTD	\$801,415

Pastor Tia has reviewed pledges for 2026 that have been received. They are down slightly over last year but have a few new pledges and several increased their pledges.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: The parsonage dishwasher has stopped draining properly and is no longer working. Chris Wildermuth did some research and found the best deal at Lowe's on a GE model for \$439.20. Installation and removal will be extra. Jay moved, and Charlotta seconded, that Chris go ahead and purchase the dish washer and the Church will reim-

burse him. The motion passed unanimously.

Greg reported that the termite service was out this week and treated 3 spots around the front doors to the sanctuary.

Pastor Tia reported that she suspects rats or mice are living under the Tough shed at the parsonage. She will contact New Systems Exterminating.

Worship: Charlotta reported that worship music through the end of the year will be covered by the Beach Bells, 1st Church Trio and the Chancel Choir. Anjanette planned the music well ahead so the choir has had the chance to practice everything. The Christmas Eve service is at 7:00pm with traditional lessons and carols and communion. Pastor Tia will share a story when we are all in the fellowship hall before singing Silent Night. The Trio will have microphones so that the online worshipers will hear the singing.

The sanctuary greens come down after the Jan. 4th Sunday service.

Missions: Carolyn shared that they plan to hand out socks as Christmas presents to all the folks who come in to get lunches. They will also be invited to attend worship and Christmas Eve.

SPPRC: Beth shared that they vetted some 40 applications and interviewed several. After narrowing it down to the final 2 applicants, it turned out that neither was quite the



Admin Council Minutes

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UWF

by Kathy Fellers

right fit. After talking with Jeanne and her retirement plans and hopes, a reduced work schedule for her to continue was agreed upon. She will be in the office 11:00am-2:00pm four days a week, and work from home on Tuesdays. This turns out to be a blessing for all involved and will save about \$5,000 on the church budget. We're still going to celebrate Jeanne's birthday on Jan. 18th!

UWF: Kathy Fellers reported that their next meeting will be Monday, December 15th at 1030 in Fellowship Hall. They will be making decisions about leadership plans for 2026.

Lay Leader Report: Barbara reported that she had nothing new to report other than her involvement with the very busy SPPRC.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia shared that we still have some vacant spots on our Lay Leadership Report. We are looking for an Ad. Council Secretary and also 2 positions open for the Lay Representative to Annual Conference.

The current sermon series will end with the Wesley Covenant Service on the last Sunday of the year.

She will start a new Bible study after the first of the year and is open to suggestions on a Book of the Bible to study. It will be for 8 weeks, before the start of the Lenten study.

Unfinished Business: Church audit: the person Jay knew of who might perform the audit declined.

Pastor Tia knows of a retired pastor

who can do the GCFA audit required by the Conference. She will contact him early next year.

Parsonage watering system: Manny has not yet replaced the plant that died. Chris might be able to perform the seasonal changes to the watering program to promote efficient use of water.

New Business: Beth reported that small water bottles were purchased and labels for our Church were put on them. They were handed out to passers-by in front of our church on the night of the Christmas parade by Beth and Greg and Mike and Joyce. Beth contacted the Lions Club and arranged to donate the remaining bottles to Breakfast with Santa at the Marine Community Center. This might be an outreach we want to continue.

Next meeting: Will be delayed to January 17th at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall. This will give Pastor Tia and Johnny time to finalize the 2025 financials and 2026 pledges in order to be prepared for the 2026 budget workshop.

Opening Prayer: Jay

Closing Prayer: Charlotta

Carolyn led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30am

Kathy Fellers, Secretary

Dec. 15th we had our meeting & our Christmas Brunch. Brunch was Quich Lorraine, Potatoes, Fruit & Muffins from Polly's Pies. Everyone enjoyed the food & visiting with each other.

We discussed how UWF will be organized going forward starting in Jan. 2026.

The Women's Group meeting will be on Feb. 9th Hybrid @10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Please recycle your empty Jam jars in the kitchen's Mason Jar box.
Thank You





 JOYS & CONCERNS Dec. 28, 2025	Missions <i>by Carolyn Nicks</i>	Events
<p>Greeting Friends, please keep the people and families mentioned during Sunday worship in your prayers.</p> <p>Friends of Gary, Wendy & Taylor J., their 5yr old son, Chase C. broke his arm while visiting England and has complications. He is unable to fly home, please pray for him & his family.</p> <p>Jeanne's great-great-niece, Kolby has double ear infections. Please pray for her & her parents.</p> <p>Harlene's High School friend, Judy passed away Dec. 28. Keep her family, friends and who loved her in your prayers.</p> <p>Continue to pray for Anjanette's parents as they live through the transitions of life.</p>	<p>2025 brought many opportunities for First Church to help the needy. With generous donations Missions sponsored Rise Against Hunger which packed over 10,000 meals being sent to Southeast Asia. The sack lunch program has been a source of nutrition for the hungry. A peanut butter sandwich is also provided with each lunch.</p> <p>Each day opportunities are provided by God for each one of us to help spread love and make this a better world.</p> <p>Since Nov. 25th we have given out 25 lunches and sandwiches and 7 Christmas Gifts.</p> <p>Thank you to all those who donate food for the hungry.</p> <p>Merry Christmas and God Bless us all.</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>Bible Study Jesus & Prayer Wed. Jan. 14th</p> <p>Admin. Council  Sat. Jan. 17th @ 9:00am</p> <p> Lunch Bunch Wed. Jan. 21st @ 11:30am @ Burrows & Fries 12429 Sea Beach Blvd, Seal Beach All are welcome. Contact Jeanne if you'd like to join us.</p>
	<p>Office Closures Wed. Dec. 31st Thurs. & Fri. Jan. 1st & 2nd Mon. Jan. 19th</p>	<p>February Beacon DEADLINE Mon. Jan. 26th @ 11:00am</p> <p> Mission Ministry Fellowship Thurs. Feb. 5th @ 9:00am</p> <p>Women's Group  Mon. Feb. 9th @ 10:30am</p>



Life at First Church

Finance Report as of December 12, 2025

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	11/18/25-12/12/25	1/25/25-12/12/25	1/25/25-12/12/25
Income Totals	4,728.00	321,648.81	312,823.00
Expense Totals	8,390.25	307,081.91	312,741.00
Difference	3,888.75	14,566.09	82.00

January Sermon Series

“Everyday Epiphanies, Meeting Christ in the Ordinary Moments of Life.”

January 2026 Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 9:30am

Streaming live on Facebook

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

January 4th

Communion, Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12

“Everyday Epiphanies -Catch Light on the Run”

January 11th

Luke 2:22-28

“Everyday Epiphanies – Old Eyes & New Visions”

January 18th

Matthew 2:16-23

“Everyday Epiphanies – Meeting Christ in Dark Places”

January 25th

Baptism of the Lord,

Baptism Renewal Service

Matthew 3:1-17

“Everyday Epiphanies – Remember Who You Are”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

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.

January Birthdays

Darrel Stoskopf
Renate Carnegie
Jeanne Mignacca
Chad Strawn
Deanne Butler
Vic Peterson



UWF Restructure

As long as first church has been a church, the women have organized themselves into a group that has been focused on mission, supporting each other and learning. The name has changed several times, but the goal has always been the same. To support women and children locally and globally. Over the 20 years I’ve been here. The women’s group has raised tens of thousands of dollars for missions all around the globe.

With the changes of leadership and the issues they are facing the Women’s Group has decided to restructure. no longer will they meet for business meetings, but rather as a small group gathering. The focus will be on learning and supporting each other through life’s difficulties. They will continue to host the Mothers and Others Tea, but the fall boutique has already had its last hurrah.

Once we have more information about our gatherings we will get that out to all the women so if they wish to attend, they may.

Should you have any questions about this new structure, please contact Pastor Tia.

January Altar Flowers

Jan. 4th — None
Jan. 11th — Eric & Jim
Jan. 18th — None
Jan. 25th — None



If you’d like to provide flowers on Jan. 4th, 18th or 25th to honor someone or an event, or in memory of someone please sign-up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You can also 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.

The 2026 Flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

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First United Methodist

January 2026

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

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February 2026 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am Mon. Jan. 26th

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.