



The Beacon

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in Love with God

April 2026

From Pastor Tia

Greeting Friends:

As I write this note we are quickly approaching Holy Week. This is the most sacred week on the Christian calendar that begins with Palm/Passion Sunday and concludes with the most holy of days Easter, the day of resurrection.

It is probably also the busiest week of the year at the church. We have several worship services planned to celebrate this holy time. So I hope you will consider attending some if not all of these times of celebration. I also hope that you will take some time alone with God and center yourself as we all complete our Lenten journeys.

Below are the services that will be offered during this holy week. May God bless you and keep you during this coming holy week and the season of Easter.

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, March 29th, 9:30am, in-person and live-streamed on Facebook. This special service begins with the waving of palms, in celebration and remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The scripture and music will reflect more of Christ passion on the cross, as we complete our study of "Why Jesus had to Die, The Meaning of the Crucifixion" by Adam Hamilton.

Maundy Thursday Gathering, April 2nd, 12:00pm, in-person only in the Fellowship Hall. Maundy Thursday is the day Jesus gathered with his disciples for the last supper. It is the day he gave us holy communion. And so you are invited to something a little bit different. We will be having a simple soup lunch at noon and after lunch, we will celebrate holy communion together. My hope is that this will be a meaningful time of remembrance and celebration.

Good Friday Worship, April 3rd, 7:00pm, in-person and live-streamed on Facebook.

In the evening on Good Friday, we will gather, worship, and remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. The service is a Tenebrae service, a service of darkness. First Church Music Ministry will lead us through music and word as we are reminded of the crucifixion. Reminded of the sacrifice that Christ died for each one of us.

Easter Sunday worship, April 5th, 7:00am at the Beach, 9:30am in the sanctuary. Both services will be in-person and live-streamed. On Easter morning at 7:00am we will be in our traditional spot on the beach just west of the pier off of the Eighth Street parking lot. This is a more casual service with singing, scripture, communion, and the celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are invited to bring a blanket or a chair if you wish. At our traditional service at 9:30am in the sanctuary we will also be celebrating with singing, scripture, and holy communion. Between the services, we will have a simple meal and that fellowship time will continue after the second service for all who attend. I hope to see you at one of these special services. But of course, if you are not able to make it, you can always watch it on our Facebook page.

Easter blessings to you and yours.

Shalom,



Maundy Thursday April 2nd

Simple Lunch & Communion in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm.



**Good Friday,
April 3rd @ 7:00pm**

This is the day of the crucifixion. On this day we are to remember the sacrifice that was given for each one of us. The term Good is used to remind us that it is the day we are forgiven.



Easter April 5th

Sonrise service @ 7:00am on the beach west side of the pier.
Traditional service @ 9:30am

In-Person & Virtual Worship Sundays 9:30am

E-mail Prayer Chain -

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Admin. Council – Saturday April 11th Hybrid @ 9:30am (note new start time). Meets on the second Saturday of the month.

Beacon Article Deadline – Monday April 20th @ 11:00am

Lenten Study – Wednesday April 1st @ 7:00pm
Zoom

Pastor Tia sends out the Zoom invite each week. Please contact Pastor Tia if you'd like to join.
pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Lunch Bunch - Wed. April 22nd @ 11:30am @ Fortune Cookies, 12235 Seal Beach Blvd. Get together the 4th Wed of the month. All are welcome. Notify Jeanne if you'd like to join us.

Men's Breakfast Group - Men's Fellowship group meets for breakfast every Thursday @ 7:30am @ Blackboard Bistro on PCH

Mission Ministry Fellowship - Thurs. April 2nd @ 9:00am. Meets on the first Thurs. of the month.

Music Ministry - Anjanette Navarro - anjanette880@gmail.com.

Trio & Choir rehearsal times vary; 8:30 & 11:00am. Beach Bells Tues. @ 5:45pm.

Teatime Tuesdays – Zoom @ 3:00pm. This is a time to join together to chat and catch up.

Pastor Tia sends out the Zoom invite each week. Please contact Pastor Tia if you'd like to join.
pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Women's Group - Mon. April 6th @ 11:00am. Meetings held as needed. Currently preparing for Mothers & Others Tea May



Administrative Council Minutes - March 14, 2026

by Greg Fellers

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

Greg opened the meeting at 9:05 am. Greg led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 17th meeting were reviewed. Charlotta moved approval, Jay seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The February 28th financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was \$41,068, with YTD expenses at \$56,440. Showing deficit of \$15,371.

It was noted that there were some larger than normal expenses in that we made an apportionment payment of over \$7,000, Insurance cost was high because of workers comp, and advertisement expense was high. The cost of banners has gone up and this may have also included the cost of city permits for the Easter banner across main street and use of the beach. Pastor Tia requested that Johnny give her a print-out of the advertising expense details.

Johnny also reported that our 2026 budget worksheet had some addition errors and we are about \$9000 short of a balanced budget. Dan moved that we add \$3000 to each of the 3 investment funds to be drawn out over the year as needed. Carolyn seconded, and the motion passed.

Endowment and Investment Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of March 12, 2026:

		1/15/2026
Endowments:	\$74,895	
down .83% for quarter		\$76,447
Memorials & Bequests:	\$113,591	
down .42%. "		\$115,651

Jubilee Fund:	\$477,483	
down .35%. "		\$507,616
Total Investment:	\$667,969	
down .42%. "		\$699,715

It was noted that \$20,000 had been withdrawn from the Jubilee fund.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: Beth reported that the mounts and poles for the flags on the street side of the Sanctuary are in bad shape. She proposed that she and Greg replace the 2 on either end but not the one in the middle obscured by the tall shrub. Cost would be about \$100. The large banner on the back wall of the office was torn down by the high winds again. The men will look at the mounts for it to see if it can be improved.

Worship: Charlotta reported that sanctuary colors were changed to purple, to remain until Easter, then will be changed to white until Pentecost. The brunch to be served between the beach service and the regular worship service will be smaller this year with the Missions committee and Charlotta doing the planning for that. The oven needs to be lit for a Maundy Thursday lunch. Anjanette, the section leaders and choir are finding a way to make worship music happen smoothly, even with spotty attendance.

Missions: Carolyn requested a date be set for Rise Against Hunger, and October 18th was selected. She suggested we seek support for the event by sharing the cost of each meal and how many would a donor like to "purchase"?

The lunch program continues to be active every week, so there is a continued need for help with food items. Carolyn will put up a sign-up board in the fellowship hall for volunteers to help with the Easter brunch.

SPPRC: None



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Women’s Group: The next hybrid meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6th at 11:00am. The Mothers & Others Tea is set for May 9th. They will select 3 organizations to support with that event. Charlotta and Debbie will be co-chairing.

Lay Leader Report: Barbara reported that she received positive feedback on the variety of music we have been providing in worship.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Tia shared that Easter is April 5th. She will need help with set up at the beach. The men will bring down needed items from upstairs storage. Additional communion cups need to be ordered.

Maundy Thursday is April 2nd, and she is trying something new this year with a simple soup and bread lunch at noon.

All the preachers have been arranged for her renewal leave May 1st – June 30th.

Pastor Tia led a discussion around trying to create a nursery school setting, requiring some hiring of additional staff and support, vs encouraging all kids to come to worship with parents and congregants feeling OK if they get noisy on occasion. It was agreed that we would pursue this alternative and see how it works. She and Beth will work to put together buckets with items to help the kids stay “entertained”.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Publisher is no longer being supported, so Jeanne will have to produce the Beacon using Word. An example of what the new Beacon looks like was passed around.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be April 11th (hybrid). **The starting time will be 9:30.**

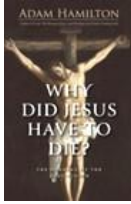
Opening Prayer: Jay

Closing Prayer: Charlotta

Carolyn led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:25 am

Lenten Study
Wed. April 1st Zoom @ 7:00pm
 We will be using Adam Hamilton's book “Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion.”



March/April 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.



Prayer Chain

Joyce is in the hospital with Blood Pressure issues, pray for her & Mike.

Bud & Carolyn are sick with colds, pray for their speedy recovery.

Debbie's friend, Rachel is having problems with a pregnancy, pray for her & her family.

Anjanette has Kidney Stones, pray that it will soon be resolved.

Robert has an important hearing this week, pray for a positive outcome.

Missions

by Carolyn Nicks

The lunch program is doing well due to the generous donations from the congregation. Cans with pull tops, nuts, granola bars, fruit are welcome. No glass please. Thank you all for sharing your bounty. We've given out 34 lunches since the last Beacon.

The Pantry is running low on food for the homeless, especially main meals.

Missions has started preparing for Rise Against Hunger on Oct. 18th.

Easter Brunch Sunday April 5th after Sunrise Service

Sign-up Sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Food needs to be at the church by 8:00am on Sunday.

The Categories are:

Protein (i.e. egg dish, ham, sausage etc.)

Side Dishes (i.e. fruit, potatoes etc.)

Sweets (i.e. danish, muffins, cinnamon rolls etc.)

Mothers & Others Tea

You are invited to our annual Mothers & Others Tea on Saturday May 9th from 1:00-3:00pm. Donations towards the event will be \$20 and goes entirely toward supporting three organizations.

Gather your family and friends for a delightful afternoon of delicacies & fellowship! You'll be able to make reservations during Fellowship as the date gets closer.

There is a box in the kitchen by the freezer for recycled mason jars. We only need the medium size jars for jam.

Thank You

Eastertide

The Great Fifty Days – This is the time between Easter and Pentecost. During this season we are reminded of the resurrection story and its glories for us.



Finance Report as of March 17, 2026			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	3/1/26-3/17/26	1/1/26-3/17/26	1/1/26-3/17/26
Income Totals	6,383.00	47,451.44	77,418.00
Expense Totals	16,099.84	32,249.39	77,406.00
Difference	-9,716.84	15,202.05	12.00



April Altar Flowers

April 26th —Charlotta Butler in honor of Dan’s Birthday 5/2

If you’d like to provide flowers on April 5th, 12th or 19th 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.



April Birthdays

- Kyle Everson
- Ruth Jordan
- Kirk Wildermuth
- Jan Dow
- Kathy Fellers
- Cindy Hooper
- Russ Cross
- Hunter Everson
- Leonard Jordan



April 2026 Worship Schedule

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

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

April 2nd

Maundy Thursday
Light Lunch & Communion
in the Fellowship Hall

April 3rd

Good Friday
7:00pm, Tenebrae Service

April 5th

Easter, Communion
7:00am Sunrise Service
9:30am Traditional Service

John 20:1-18
“He is Risen!”

April 12th

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
“Spread the Word”

April 19th

Acts 2-14a, 36-41
“All Are Welcome”

April 26th

Acts 2:42-47
“Community”

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April 2026

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

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May 2026 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE 11:00am Mon. April 20th

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Rev. Tia Wildermuth

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**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.



