



# The Beacon

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in Love with God

May 2026

*From Pastor Tia*

Greeting Friends:

As many of you may already know I will be taking Spiritual Renewal Leave beginning May 1 and I will return to the office on July 1. Spiritual Renewal Leave is something that is offered to full-time clergy from our Book of Discipline.

The Book of Discipline (BoD) serves as the official guide for church governance and organization. Outlines the beliefs, practices, and policies of the United Methodist Church. It includes sections on church structure, clergy responsibilities, and membership. It addresses social principles and the church's stance on various issues. It provides procedures for church administration and decision-making. And it is regularly updated to reflect changes in theology and practice.

Under Paragraph 351.3 of the BoD, 2020/2024, “a clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church.” Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. A Renewal Leave shall be made with the approval of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Church Council/Board, and the District Superintendent.

Spiritual renewal leave is designed to provide clergy with time for rest and rejuvenation. It aims to enhance spiritual growth and personal well-being. The leave is intended for prayer, study, and reflection away from regular duties. It emphasizes the importance of self-care in sustaining effective ministry.

With all that said, I requested Renewal Leave from our Staff Parish, Administrative Council and the District Superintendent and all gave their permission. The church event that I will attend is the “Mothers and Others” Tea on May 9<sup>th</sup>. But I will be available in case of an emergency.

I have lined up some wonderful preachers to share the Word with you while I am away. I hope you will take this opportunity to be at church to hear someone new and to greet those who may be worshipping with us for the first time or are relatively new to First Church.

I will hold you all in prayer while I am away and I hope you will pray that my spirit is renewed as I look forward to serving you for another year.

Shalom,



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

**E-mail Prayer Chain -**

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

**Admin. Council** – Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> Hybrid @ 9:30am. Meets on the second Saturday of the month.

**Beacon Article Deadline** – Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00am

**Lunch Bunch** - Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am @ Hof’s Hut, 12489 Seal Beach Blvd. Lunch Bunch gets together on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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.

**Women's Group** - Mon. May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am. Meetings held as needed. Currently preparing for Mothers & Others Tea May 9th.

**Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Office Closed



**Easter tide**

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.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pentecost Sunday is the birthday of the church, remember to wear red to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.



**May/June 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.



Administrative Council Minutes - April 11, 2026

by Greg Fellers

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

Greg opened the meeting at 9:35 am. Jay led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 14th meeting were reviewed. Jay moved approval, Charlotta seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The March 31st financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was \$68,620, with YTD expenses at \$74,484. Showing deficit of \$5,864.

It was noted that the congregation's giving YTD is about \$8300 below the budgeted YTD estimate. The advertising expenses were reviewed again as they remain more than twice budget YTD. The first 6 months of media is paid at the beginning of the year. Easter was expensive as the banner across Main Street cost about \$1200 and banners have increased in cost about \$60 each. We can try to save some of this year's banners and just change dates for next year.

Endowment and Investment Committee:

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of April 9, 2026:

		1/15/2026
Endowments:	\$75,546	
up .03% YTD		
	\$76,447	
Memorials & Bequests:	\$93,825	
up .58% "		\$115,651
Jubilee Fund:	\$484,107	
up .61% "		\$507,616
Total Investment:	\$653,478	
up .54 % "		\$699,715

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

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: Greg reported that he has contacted Griff's Electric to look at 2 external fixtures, the lighted cross is out and one of the sidewalk spotlights on the sanctuary is out. There is also a loose overhead fixture in the sanctuary that keeps flickering/going out.

Worship: Charlotta reported that Easter week was busy and successful. There was nice attendance at Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Sunrise service on the beach, and the 9:30am service in the sanctuary. The brunch between services was a great success with a feast of options available and plenty left over for fellowship after the service as well. The white colors will remain in the Sanctuary until Pentecost. There will be flowers for the women on Mother's Day and cookies for the men on Father's Day.

Missions: The team, along with volunteers, did a great job with the Easter brunch. Lots of choices and plenty for everyone. Rise Against Hunger will be 10/18 and the cost to sponsor the event is \$4100. There is presently \$1492 in the Missions fund. Will try to raise funds from the congregation by suggesting how many meals could be purchased (at 40 cents each) instead of that cup of mocha at Starbucks, for instance. A blurb could be put in each Beacon suggesting different ways the meals could be paid for. Carolyn will use the Lighthouse fund-raising thermometer to track our progress later this summer.

SPPRC: Ruth Dunlop is leaving; her last day and celebration will be Sunday May 24th. Shay Wilson has been hired as choir section leader to replace Ruth. Shay will start May 17th, which will be music Sunday, so they will have some overlap.



**Admin Minutes – Cont. from Page 3**

**Women’s Group:** They met this past Monday to work on plans for the Mothers and Others Tea on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Charlotta and Debbie will co-chair the event. Vivien is producing the invites, the posters and the program. Jeanne will send them out. There will be one more meeting, Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to complete last-minute plans.

**Lay Leader Report:** Barbara reported that she received positive feedback from a guest on the Easter bulletins at the beach and at the sanctuary services.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Tia shared that the Maundy Thursday meal went well with 12 attending. The Good Friday service with lots of music with the Trio was also good. We had over 80 at the beach service and the sanctuary was comfortably full for the 9:30am service. It was a very busy but fulfilling week. She thanked all the people that volunteered all week, helping with all the different activities going on. There were new folks at the 9:30am service as well.

Spring Into Faith is the sermon series that will continue until July. Each of the Sundays will have a guest pastor during Pastor Tia’s Spiritual Renewal Leave. Anjanette and Barbara will serve as the “liturgists“ for the services to help with the worship duties. May 17<sup>th</sup> will be an all-music service planned by Anjanette.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Next meeting: The next meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup> (hybrid).

**Opening Prayer:** Barbara

**Closing Prayer:** Carolyn

Charlotta led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:40am



Glasses found at the Easter Beach Service. Jeanne has them in the office. Office Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri. 11:00am-2:00pm



## Mothers & Others Tea

You are invited to our annual Mothers & Others Tea on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm. Reservations for the Tea are required; a suggested \$20 donation is appreciated. All donations go entirely toward supporting three missions: Interval House, We Care Los Alamitos & Precious Lamb Day Care.

Gather your family and friends for a delightful afternoon of delicacies and heart-warming fellowship! If you are unable to make your Tea reservations during Fellowship Time on Sundays April 26<sup>th</sup> or May 3<sup>rd</sup>, please reserve them by calling Jeanne Mignacca in the church office (562) 431-0494.

## 2025 Mothers & Others Tea



## 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 25 lunches since the last Beacon.

Missions has started preparing for Rise Against Hunger on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.



## Prayer Chain

Bud's been under the weather and having some tests, continue to pray for his health. His sister-in-law Joyce Ann has pancreatic cancer; please keep her, her husband & her family in your prayers.

### Joy

Greg G.s' daughter Courtney traveled to Italy; we pray that she has a good trip.



<b>Finance Report as of April 14, 2026</b>			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	4/1/26-4/14/26	1/1/26-4/14/26	1/1/26-4/14/26
Income Totals	10,953.00	79,572.56	103,224.00
Expense Totals	22,445.80	56,296.02	103,208.00
Difference	-11,492.80	23,276.54	16.00



### May Altar Flowers

May 10<sup>th</sup> — Dan & Charlotta Butler in honor of Chris & Deanna’s Anniversary 5/15

If you’d like to provide flowers on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> 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.



### May Birthdays

- Dan Butler
- Linda Stoskopf
- Bonnie McCarthy
- Jerri Chapin
- Jeanie Barnett
- Barbara Arnold



### May Anniversaries

- May 12<sup>th</sup> Robert & Joy Rosen
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Chris & Deanna Butler
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Mike & Joyce Strawn



### May 2026 Worship Schedule

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

Sermon Series  
Spring Into Faith

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am  
Guest Preachers

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Communion  
Philippians 2:12-18  
“Blessing Machine”  
Rev. Cheryl Kelly

May 10<sup>h</sup>

John 14:15-23  
“I Will Not Leave You Orphaned”  
Rev. Lee Carlile

May 17<sup>th</sup>

Music Sunday

May 24<sup>th</sup>

Romans 8:1-4  
“Where the Spirit is There is Freedom”  
Rev. Nicole Reilley

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
“Not How, But Who”  
Rev. Lee Carlile

**First United Methodist Church Seal Beach**

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

**May 2026**

Phone: (562) 431-0494

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.  
11:00am-2:00pm

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

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

June 2026 Beacon Deadline

**DEADLINE** 11:00am Fri. May 22<sup>nd</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.



*Save the Date*

*Mothers and Others Tea*

*Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*

*1:00 to 3:00pm*

