



The Beacon

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in Love with God

August 2026

From Pastor Tia

Greeting Friends:

On October 18th we will once again host our annual Rise Against Hunger event, and we need your help and support. There are at least three ways you may participate and help, with your prayers, gifts, and service. There are so many things to like about the Rise Against Hunger Organization.

I love numbers, so here are some numbers for you. In 2025, 68.9 million meals were packaged. 7.3 million plus lives impacted. 3,988 metric tons of food were prepared. 2,532 schools were supported globally. 282,028 students fed daily. All of this happens because thousands of volunteers come together every year to pack up meals to send to people, especially children, in need.

On Sunday, October 18th. We will endeavor to package. 10,152 meals. Which will cost us \$4,100. We have already raised \$1,100 but are still in need of \$3,000 to reach our goal. Each bag of food that is assembled contains enough food for 6 meals, which costs around \$2.40 or .40 cents per meal.

Now October seems way off in the distance, but we all know how time flies. It is approximately 11 weeks away. I would like you to consider how you will support this First Church mission project.

PRAYERS – Everyone is invited to pray for all those involved in this project from those who organize it, to those who work on that day, and especially for those who will be nourished by the food packaged.

GIFTS – We still need to raise \$3,000. I want you to consider some more numbers: An extra-large Iced Coffee at Starbucks is \$5.40. If you got one, or something like it, each week for the next 10 weeks

you will have spent \$54.40 which is equivalent to 136 meals. A hamburger combo from In-N-Out is around \$9.00 or \$90 for the time mentioned above. That is equivalent to 225 meals. And just to make things interesting I went to Blackboard Bistro with the Lunch Bunch the other day and got a Club sandwich with avocado, two meals for me, it was around \$24.00. pretty average for going out to lunch now a days. Well, that's \$240, if I ate out once a week for the next 10 weeks that would be equivalent to 600 meals.

I'm not asking you to give up your lunches out, your fancy coffee drinks, or even your guilty pleasure of going to In-N-Out for a burger now and then. Perhaps you will consider matching some of those extra indulgences with a gift to help feed others?

SERVICE – The other thing I really appreciate about Rise Against Hunger is the opportunity for many people with differing abilities and skills being able to participate and help package food. I hope, if you are able, you will consider signing up to help on October 18th.

Carolyn Nicks is the coordinator for this ministry of First Church, you may direct any questions to her, myself or the office. How can we make a difference? How can we serve God? Well, this is one way.

Shalom,



Report on the California-Pacific Annual Conference -

by Greg Fellers

I attended our Cal-Pac UMC Annual Conference held this year June 17-20 at the La Quinta Resort. I served as the Lay Delegate representing Seal Beach FUMC. This is THE big annual gathering of clergy and lay people from some 400 congregations spread across a huge geographic area. We met in a large room that looked to me to have upwards of a 1000 people in attendance.

The opening worship on Wednesday afternoon was led by our Bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank, speaking to the theme of “Astonish”. I enjoyed her humanity and her humor. The worship experiences every morning were enhanced by a talented praise music band and large screens to see speakers more clearly.

The “business” of the conference was conducted in 6 Plenary sessions spread over 3 days. These sessions were conducted by the Bishop and covered the whole gamut of the ministry of our Church.

There were introductions of all the Cabinet and Conference staff, recognition and awards for outstanding leadership and service, recognition and welcome to our newly ordained Elders, Deacons and transfers from other Conferences, voting for our Conference delegates to the General Conference of the worldwide church and also to our Western Jurisdiction conference.

The Cabinet, which is comprised of the Bishop and District Superintendent, gave several reports and recommendations for the closure of several churches no longer able to remain viable. The Conference Treasurer presented the budget which was adopted. He also presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to restructure apportionments. Historically, they have been an annual “assessment”, based on a complicated formula, to each local church for their “portion” of the Conference expenditures. It felt like a “tax” of the local churches. The new recommendation is that churches will be asked to tithe a percent of their previous year’s income, and the Conference budget would be pegged to the sum of those tithes. It was

One motion that received much discussion was to adopt the statement of Kairos Palestine, the Christian Palestinian organization. An attempt to tame down the critical language of Israel was defeated, and the original motion to adopt their statement was approved.

Morning worship experiences were especially meaningful as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of women in ministry in the Methodist church one morning and had a powerful and uplifting celebration of Juneteenth led by our African American brothers and sisters on Friday morning.

We ended our time Saturday morning in District breakfasts as we honored those clergy retiring, welcomed new clergy into our district and celebrated the work going on all over our West District.

If you have any questions, I’d love to chat with you.

Greg Fellers



Congratulations 2026 Graduates

University Graduates



Ava – Jeff & Jaime's Daughter
Parson School of Design
BBA Strategic Design & Management

High School Graduates

Hayden – Debbie's Great Nephew
Mill Creek High School
Dixie Trade School in the Fall

Kevin – Greg & Kathy's Grandson
El Toro High School
University of Pacific in the Fall

Chloe – Greg & Kathy's Granddaughter
Esperanza High School
Pepperdine University in the Fall

Hailey – Darrel & Linda; Mike & Sue's
Granddaughter
Mellikan High School
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the Fall

Promotions

Daniel James – Dan & Renate's Grandson
Patrick Henry Elementary 5th Grade
Attending Helen Keller Middle School in the
Fall



Prayer Chain

**Barbara A. got to visit with her friend Mary. Mary is on her way home please pray for safe travels.*

**Continued prayers for Dolores, she is in a Rehab Center and is getting PT & Occupational Therapy*

**Valerie S. & the entire Scott family as they navigate the transition time during the next month.*

**Jimmy, as he continues to look for a job.*

Debbie H.'s friends Jason & Susie are recovering.

Missions

by Carolyn Nicks

Meal Packaging Event - First UMC - Seal Beach - October 18, 2026 - Seal Beach, CA

Grab a hairnet, find your station, and get ready to make an impact! Together, we'll package nutritious meals that help fuel communities around the world. It's a fun, fast-moving experience where every meal you package brings us one step closer to ending hunger. You're part of a global movement working to create a world where all people have the nourishment they need to thrive.

<https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/meal-packaging-event-first-umc-seal-beach-october-18-2026-seal-beach-ca/e807881>

God bless us all!

I am retiring, my last day at work will be Aug. 28th.

It has been a pleasure working with everyone. Pastor Tia is the best boss I could have asked for.

I have been encouraged by your kindness, prayers, support & friendship.

Even though I won't see you every day, I will see you at Church and at Lunch Bunch.

Thank you for your love, encouragement and the many ways you have enriched my life.

Love & Blessings Jeanne Mignacca



August Birthdays

Dylan McCarthy
Cash Lopez
Colin Jordan
Pat Hines
Anjanette Navarro
Pastor Tia Wildermuth

August Anniversaries

8/5 – Ruth & Leonard Jordan
8/9 - Dan & Renate Carnegie
8/14 – Daniel & Donna Carnegie
8/17 – Kathy & Greg Fellers

August Altar Flowers

If you'd like to provide flowers on Aug. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd or 30th 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 services.

In-Person & Virtual Worship Sundays 9:30am

E-mail Prayer Chain -

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Admin. Council – Sat. Sept. 12th Hybrid @ 9:30am. Meets on the second Saturday of the month.

Beacon Article Deadline – Mon. Aug 24th @ 11:00am

Bible Study – Miracles of Jesus. Wed. Aug 5th, 19th & 26th @ 7:00pm on Zoom.

Lunch Bunch - Wed. Aug 26th @ 11:30am @ Bistro St. Geraine. Lunch Bunch gets together on 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 Thurs. @ 7:30am @ Blackboard Bistro on PCH.

Mission Ministry Fellowship - Thurs. Aug. 6th @ 9:00am. Meets on the first Thurs. of the month.

Music Ministry - Anjanette Navarro - anjanette880@gmail.com. Trio & Choir rehearsal times vary; Sundays 8:30 & 11:00am.

Women's Group – Aug. 10th @ 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings held as needed.



Finance Report as of July 20, 2026			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	7/1/26-7/20/26	1/1/26-7/20/26	1/1/26-7/20/26
Income Totals	37,333.00	165,391.00	180,643.00
Expense Totals	10,654.00	164,282	180,614.00
Difference	26,679.00	1,109.00	29.00

**Summer Bible Study – Miracles of Jesus
Wednesday's Zoom @ 7:00pm**

Study Schedule -

8/5 - Matthew 14:15-33, Feeding of the 5000

8/12 No Class

8/19 - Matthew 15:21-28, The Canaanite Woman

8/26 - Luke 17:11-19, Ten Lepers

August 2026 Worship Schedule



In-Person Worship 9:30am

Streaming live on Facebook

August Sermon Series

First Church at the Movies

Sunday Casual Worship Services 9:30am

Aug. 2nd

Communion

Romans 12:21

“First Church at the Movies –
K-Pop Demon Hunters”

Aug. 9th

John 8:31-36

“First Church at the Movies –
Born Yesterday”

Aug. 16th

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

“First Church at the Movies –
Zootopia 1 & 2”

Aug. 23rd

Hebrews 11:1

“First Church at the Movies –
Kung Fu Panda”

Aug. 30th

Luke 10:10

“First Church at the Movies –
Wake Up Dead Mam:
A Knives Out Mystery”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

New Sermon Series starts Sept. 6th
“The Holy Spirit – God’s Presence and
Power at Work in Us”

July/August 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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Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

August 2026

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

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Email: Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

September 2026 Beacon Deadline



11:00am Mon. August 24th

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.

2026 Church Directory

The new 2026 Church Directories are in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like one mailed to you let me know. Thanks Jeanne