



The Beacon

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in Love with God

October 2026

From Pastor Tia

Greeting Friends:

As September fades into the past, the crescendo begins to build as we get closer and closer to the holiday season. I know this is not news to you since there are already Halloween and Christmas decorations in the stores. Here at First Church we too are starting to plan for the days ahead.

I will finish up my sermon series on the Holy Spirit on World Communion Sunday. The following Sunday, October 11, I will begin a new sermon series, "A Study of Hebrews," "There will also be a companion Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Hebrews, also known as the letter to the Hebrews, is a very interesting letter, also known as an epistle. Below is a quote from the book that I'm using for this study:

"Among the books of the New Testament, the epistle to the Hebrews, stands out as both strange and fascinating. Unique in style and content, as a piece of literature, it is simply unlike any of the other epistles. Though some of its phrases are among the best known and most often quoted passages in the New Testament, many contemporary Christians are largely unacquainted with the book as a whole, finding themselves lost in its serpentine passage ways and elaborate theological arguments." (Interpretations - A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching - Hebrews. By Thomas Long).

My hope is that you will find this journey through Hebrews as fascinating and enlightening as I will. The series will continue through November 22, Thanksgiving Sunday.

One of the best highlights of October will be the "Rise Against Hunger" event Sunday October 18th, right after church. There are jobs for every age and every ability. Don't miss this opportunity to help prepare 10,000 meals for hungry children around the world. If you don't know how it can be done, come and we'll show you. If you will be there or not we would appreciate your financial donation to offset the cost to the church. It costs us a little over \$4,000 to sponsor this event. Please contact the office or myself for more information.

October ends with my favorite, falling back to Standard Time. Just in time to get that extra hour of sleep before our All Saints celebration on Sunday, November 1st.

I hope and pray this Fall season brings you warmth and peace.

Shalom,



First United Church Of Seal Beach
Administrative Council Minutes
September 12, 2026 - by Greg Fellers

Present: Pastor Tia, Johnny Scott, Barbara Arnold, Carolyn Nicks, Beth Barinek, Greg and Kathy Fellers, Dan and Charlotta Butler.
Greg opened the meeting at 9:34 am. Barbara led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 25th meeting were reviewed. Charlotta moved approval, Dan seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Election of Chair of Board of Trustees: Greg talked with Bud Lewis who has agreed to fill the position of Chair, understanding that the main function of the Chair is to be the person empowered to sign legal documents on behalf of the Church. The “work” of the Trustees will be conducted by the Ad Council acting as the Board of Trustees. Greg moved nomination of Bud, Barbara seconded, and he was elected unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: The August 31st financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was \$190,890, with YTD expenses at \$203,865. Showing deficit of \$12,975.

Beth questioned why the Pastor’s pension expense was over budget since that number is known at the beginning of the year. Johnny explained that the accounting of that portion of the Pastor compensation had been done incorrectly and it should be corrected by the next financial report.

Endowment and Investment Committee: Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of September 10, 2026:

	1/15/2026
Endowments:	\$81,023
up 7.28% YTD	\$76,447
Memorials & Bequests:	\$85,625
up 7.71%	\$115,651
Jubilee Fund:	\$478,966.
up 8.0%	\$507,616.
Total Investment:	\$645,614.
up 7.88%	\$699,714.

It was noted that \$60,000 had been withdrawn from the Jubilee fund and \$35,000 from the Memorials and Bequests fund YTD. Pastor Tia shared some history of our investments since we started with about \$1.1million around 2014. We have withdrawn a total of \$786,303 since 2020. This represents some 71% of the original amount invested, but earnings have helped maintain our investments at 63% of the original amount.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Trustees: Greg reported that another overhead light fixture is malfunctioning in the sanctuary. The bulb is good but the power blinks off and on with the slightest movement of the fixture. It was recommended that we have Griff Electric back out to repair this one, much like the previous one. It was suggested to have the other 2 checked out at the same time. Greg will call Griff.

Pastor Tia purchased a new rug for the entrance to the Narthex. Dan will remove the old carpet and install the new one with adhesive tape for safety. The poor condition of the carpet in the Serenity Room after years of heavy use and coffee stains was introduced. There was a desire to do the work with our own volunteers to save money. Pastor Tia suggested installing 2 ceiling fans at the same time. It was decided to continue discussion at the next meeting until we could get a better idea of costs for the project. It was suggested that the user groups be contacted to see if there are any skilled people who might want to help or if there is any interest in donating to help cover the expenses that will benefit them directly. It was also suggested to put an article in the Beacon seeking volunteers to help with the project.

Worship: Charlotta reported that she got the candle problem corrected. Seasonal altar colors will continue to be green until Advent. Jeanne's retirement party was successful with everyone contributing to help out, especially with Pastor Tia providing a bounty of good food.

Pastor Tia brought up the altar decorations for Advent/Christmas and suggested the idea of displaying different cultural representations of the Nativity each Sunday. It was agreed that it sounded like a good idea and suggestions were made. Pastor Tia will pursue it further.

Missions: Carolyn reported that Rise Against Hunger is coming up on October 18th and she only has one person signed up so far. There has been approximately \$2000 raised so far, roughly half of what will be needed. She will ask Valerie to have weekly notices in the Bulletins. A last call should be in the October Beacon to raise the funds needed and to encourage participation. She is hoping for 30 volunteers as that number worked well last time.

Women's Group: Charlotta reported that their scheduled meeting in August was cancelled, and no new date has been set. The women continue to take their turn hosting Fellowship Time. There is a need to canvas the remaining membership to ascertain what the future status of the group might be.

Lay Leader Report: Barbara introduced the idea of the "Prayer Hat" as a way of emphasizing that we are a praying congregation. She would like to provide small cards on which we each write our prayer for the week and put it in the hat to share. She will have the hats out on the tables in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday with some directions inviting people to write down and share a prayer as well as pick out a prayer for them to concentrate on for the following week. She will also put an article in the next Beacon explaining the idea to the congregation.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia shared that the Lions invited us to participate in the Christmas Parade. It was decided that we would not, but the church might do something around that time to support community activities.

The date for this year's Charge Conference is November 12th, 7:00pm, a Zoom meeting.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Charlotta brought up the prediction of heavy rains this winter and wanted to make sure we are prepared for possible flooding at the back door, which happened one time several years ago. The City is doing a better job with pumps and water diversion now, but we should be prepared to respond with sand bagging if a warning is issued by the City.

Dan suggested that we also check the roof drains before winter, given the problems we've had in the past. It will require someone getting up on the roof and introducing water from a hose down each drain to make sure they are clear. "volunteers" to help with that before winter. The Lopez's name was suggested along with Tom Curd.

The rain gutters on the Sanctuary should also be checked before winter.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be October 10th (hybrid) at 9:30am.

Opening Prayer: Kathy

Closing Prayer: Carolyn

Charlotta led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 11:20am



Missions
by Carolyn Nicks

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Mark your calendar Sunday October 18, 2026
11:00am to 1:00pm

Use the link below to register/donate for this event to help end world hunger.

<https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e807881>

If you need help with registration call Carolyn Nicks
562-704-2188

We have given out 24 lunches since the Sept. Beacon.

Pacific Airshow Huntington Beach

Fri. Oct. 2nd to Sun. Oct. 4th

10:30am to 4:30pm

It is noisy! They also rehearse earlier in that week.



Prayer Chain

On September 20, Leslie shared that Zenith's heart surgery went well and he is doing much better. She is thankful for your ongoing prayers. Please continue praying for Zen, his family, and his medical team.

Prayers for Debbie's sister, Mary, as she continues to heal from surgery.

Prayers for the family and friends of Debbie's friend, Jane, who recently passed away in hospice care.

Prayers for healing for Jason & Susie who are friends of Debbie.

- Anjanette's Requests continued prayers for her family.

Anjanette's former boss, Robyn, is bedridden with a series of unknown illnesses. Please pray for wisdom for the doctors seeking a diagnosis.

Pray for the Hayward family who are friends of Barbara in the passing of Skip.

Pray for Greg's brother, Mark, who's traveling in France for the next couple of months. We pray for a safe journey.

From Our Lay Leader

Enjoy praying and talking with Jesus this month. Remember Top Hats in the Fellowship Hall. Follow the steps to choose and pray.

Blessings & Happy Fall,



October Birthdays

Greg Curd
Malia Seguin
Isabella Hill
Jaime Lopez
Ryan Carnegie
Max Carnegie
Sue Dunbar
Taylor Johnson



October Anniversaries

10/17 – Chris & Delayne Wildermuth

In-Person & Virtual Worship Sundays
9:30am

E-mail Prayer Chain -

prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Admin. Council – Sat. Oct. 10th Hybrid @ 9:30am. Meets on the second Saturday of the month.

Beacon Article Deadline – Mon. Sept. 19th @ 11:00am

Fall Bible Study – Wednesdays starting Oct. 11th through Nov. 22nd; Zoom 7:00pm “A Study of Hebrews”

Lunch Bunch - Wed. Oct. 21st @ 11:30am @ Schooner or Later. Lunch Bunch gets together on the 4th Wed of the month. All are welcome. Notify Jeanne (mignaccaj@gmail.com) 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. Oct. 1st @ 10:00am. 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. Beach Bell Rehearsals Sundays 12:15pm.

Women's Group – Women's Group will meet in Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 12th.

October Altar Flowers



10/4 – Open
10/11 – Open
10/18 – Open
10/25 - Open

If you'd like to provide flowers 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.



Finance Report as of September 21, 2026			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	8/18/26-9/21/26	1/1/26-9/21/26	1/1/26-9/21/26
Income Totals	30,762.50	221,652.56	232,257.00
Expense Totals	19,700.23	220,549.38	232,218.00
Difference	11,062.27	1,103.18	39.00

Habitat For Humanity of Greater LA's Long
Beach Project – Fundraiser

Domenico's Italian Restaurant
Monday October 19, 2026
4:00pm to 9:00pm

Help us raise money while enjoying your
favorite pizza, pasta and salad! Dominico's will
donate back 25% of your check!

**Pick up Coupon from table in Fellowship Hall
that is needed to participate.**

New Sermon Series starts Oct. 11th
"A Study of Hebrews"

Sept./Oct. 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.

October 2026 Worship Schedule



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

Oct. 4th

World Communion Sunday
1 Corinthians 12:7, Galatians 5:22-23
"The Holy Spirit – Gifts, Fruit, and Daily
Life in the Spirit"

Oct. 11th

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
"A Study of Hebrews – Jesus the Last Word
and The First"

Oct. 18th

Hebrews 4:12-16
"A Study of Hebrews – Holding Fast and
Praying Boldly"

Oct. 25th

Hebrews 5:1-10
"A Study of Hebrews – Job Description of
the High Priest"

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

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Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

October 2026

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

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Beacon Deadline



11:00am Mon., Nov. 19th

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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.