



The Beacon

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Do No Harm

Do Good

Stay in Love with God

September 2026

From Pastor Tia

Greeting Friends:

Below is what's going on for the month of September.

First off I hope you will join us for Jeanne's retirement celebration which is on Sunday, September 6th. We'll have some extra little food and dessert. It'll be a time to thank Jeanne for all her hard work these past 15 years.

Also on that Sunday, we will be starting our Fall sermon series. I will be using Adam Hamilton's book "The Holy Spirit, God's Presence and Power at Work in Us." The sermon series begins on September 6th and will conclude on World Communion Sunday, October 4th.

In this series we will learn about the Holy Spirit as God's active presence and power at work in the world, and in our lives. I hope you will have an opportunity to see how through the Spirit, we are transformed, lead, empowered, and guided in our faith journey. We will learn how Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit would come alongside them as comforter and counselor, empowering them to transform the world.

"The Holy Spirit" will help us to explore what scripture teaches about God's Spirit, from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus's promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament Letters. My hope is that this study will help you understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your daily walk with Christ.

To accompany the Sunday morning sermon series I will also be teaching a Bible study class that will look at each chapter of the book on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom, for five weeks. The class will begin on September 9th. All are welcome whether you have a book or not to join in the conversation. If you wish to purchase a book, I believe you can find it on Amazon.

To round out the month we will celebrate Blessing of the Animals on September 27th Sunday worship. All pets are welcome, as well as their humans.

There are so many blessings to be thankful for each day. But we are called to be more than thankful, we are called to be faithful. One of those ways to be faithful is to look for God every day. See how God is working in your life. Listen to how God may be calling you. If you don't already do so, I challenge you to take time each morning for a short prayer. A prayer that asks God to make you aware of where he is leading you that day. May we not just see the blessings of each day, but may we also be aware of God's prompting in our lives.

Shalom,

Rev. Tia



First United Church Of Seal Beach
Administrative Council Minutes
July 25, 2026 - by Greg Fellers

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

Greg opened the meeting at 9:34am. Beth led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 11th meeting were reviewed. Charlotta moved approval, Kathy seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The June 30th financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was \$128,058, with YTD expenses at \$153,628. Showing deficit of \$25,569.

It was noted that the congregation's giving YTD has improved close to the budgeted YTD estimate. The advertising expenses were reviewed again as they remain more than twice budget YTD. It was noted that expenses are paid in large 6-month amounts, seasonal spending is higher with Easter and banners are almost \$100 each more expensive. Only 25% of apportionments have been paid. Pastor Tia reported that the Conference has adopted a new appointment system that will be based on "tithing" of our previous year's income. A lot of details about how that will work exactly have yet to be determined.

Endowment and Investment Committee: Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of July 23, 2026:

	1/15/2026
Endowments:	\$79,922
up 5.82% YTD	\$76,447
Memorials & Bequests:	\$99,226
up 6.37% YTD	\$115,651
Jubilee Fund:	\$472,971
up 6.65% YTD	\$507,616
Total Investment:	\$652,118
up 6.52 % YTD	\$699,715

It was noted that \$60,000 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 met with a field rep from the insurance company for a premises inspection. Everything was good but he commented that the insurance company could require a sprinkler system to be installed for the large stove. The fact that it was turned off 95% of the time and we had a special K-rated fire extinguisher nearby made it OK for now.

Griff Electric came out and repaired the light fixture in the sanctuary, replaced the exterior spotlight on the sanctuary and checked out electrical feed to the lighted cross. The problem is with the cross itself. Repair would involve a specialized sign company and a crane. Possibly painting it and putting a spotlight on it were discussed. The termite service came out and inspected and treated 3 areas in the church. It was found that the infested doors to the electrical meter at the outside of the building on the apartment side were in such bad condition that they needed to be replaced. Russ built and painted 2 new custom doors and he and Darrel installed the doors. Pastor Tia reported that the AC for the parsonage has been out for about a week. The necessary parts for repair are supposed to come early next week.

Worship: Charlotta reported that worship while Pastor Tia was on Renewal leave went well and we enjoyed the sermons from several guest preachers. Anjanette, Barbara and Christian did a lot of work to help the services run smoothly. It was noted that we have not had any families with children in worship for quite a while. Seasonal altar colors will be green.

Missions: Carolyn reported that Rise Against Hunger is coming up on October 18th and she will begin the advertising for the event to raise the needed funds and to encourage participation. She is hoping for 30 volunteers as that number worked well last time. Pastor Tia will write an article for the Beacon asking for folks to support the event.

Admin., Council cont. from page 2.

SPPRC: Beth reported that Jeanne will be really retiring the end of August. A listing for a new Administrative Assistant has been sent out and there are a total of 4 applications so far. The hours could be variable depending on the scope of work that gets included in the future position. Experience with data entry and payroll would be a plus to consider future expansion of job duties.

Women's Group: Charlotta reported that a very successful Tea was held on May 9th with good attendance and wonderful food as usual. She and Debbie co-chaired and it worked well. They were able to share \$454 with each of the 3 organizations that were sponsored. The next meeting was set for August 10th at 10:30am to discuss the future and how the group will continue to be organized. Charlotta felt that they should plan to hold the Tea again next year.

Lay Leader Report: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tia shared that she really appreciated her time off. We are now part way through the "First Church at the Movies" sermon series. Next, she plans a six-week series based on the book by Adam Hamilton, "Holy Spirit". The Blessing of the Animals will be September 27th. Then she will do a six-week series on the Book of Hebrews. The Conference has switched to Safe Ministry for background checks, so anyone who needs to renew will have to go through the new training.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Greg attended the CalPac Annual Conference this year, June 17-20, and wrote a report that was in August's Beacon. He noted that there was a total of 7 churches that were officially voted closed after a report from the Cabinet. For many reasons, this trend is happening in all churches today, and it remains a challenge to find effective and fruitful ways for congregations to reach out and minister to the unchurched.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be September 12th (hybrid) at 9:30am.

Opening Prayer: Barbara

Closing Prayer: Charlotta

Carolyn led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:45am

Fall Bible Study

"The Holy Spirit, God's Presence and Power at Work in us" Adam Hamilton

Wednesday's Zoom @ 7:00pm
Starting Sept. 9th through Oct. 7th





Prayer Chain

Keep all those affected by the Hurricane in Hawaii. UMCOR is there, if you'd like to donate you can do it through the church just designate it's for Hawaii Relief.

Greg G's girlfriend Isabella's family lived up in the Reno area where the fire is. Isabella's parents & grandparent have been evacuated. They don't know if they even have a house anymore. Keep them & all who are suffering & the first responders in your prayers.

Leslie H. asks for prayers for her newborn grandson, born on Aug. 8 & is 2lbs 3oz. He is in the NICU getting stronger every day. Pray for him & his family.

Debbie's sister Mary continues to heal from her surgery.

Debbie's friend Jane is in hospice care pray for her & her family.

Continue to pray for Anjanette's family.

JOY

Barbara's son John is visiting.

Valerie Scott starts this Wed. as the new Administrative Assistant.

Missions by Carolyn Nicks

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Mark your calendar Sunday October 18, 2026

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 21 lunches since the July Beacon.



Rev. Dr. Mary Walton

Celebration of Life

Sept. 26th – 11:00am

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

Check the weekly program for updates.



September Birthdays

Belva Jettier
Carolyn Nicks
Rita Rudloff
Delayne Wildermuth
Lynn Adkins
Eric Anderson
Sophia Hill
Sally Harvey
Greg Fellers



September Anniversaries

9/9 – Dan & Charlotta Butler
9/20 – Christian & Anjanette Navarro
9/29 – Dave & Lauren Everson

September Altar Flowers

9/6 – Dan & Charlotta in honor of their anniversary 9/9.
9/13 – Open
9/20 – Open
9/27 – 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.

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

Fall Bible Study – Wednesdays starting Sept. 6th through Oct. 4th; Zoom 7:00pm “The Holy Spirit, God’s presence and Power at Work in Us.”

Lunch Bunch - Wed. Sept. 23rd @ 11:30am @ Bistro St. Germain. 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. Sept. 3rd. @ 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 – Women's Group will meet in Sept., stay tuned. Meetings held as needed.



Finance Report as of August 18, 2026			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	7/21/26-8/18/26	1/1/26-8/18/26	1/1/26-8/18/26
Income Totals	5,043.00	171,905.28	206,450.00
Expense Totals	26,851.51	202,439.19	206,416.00
Difference	-21,808.51	-30,533.91	34.00

Blessing of the Animals



Sept. 27, 2026

We will celebrate with our four legged, feathered, aquatic, or whatever friends. Toward the end of the service owners will be invited to bring their pets forward for a time of blessing. Invite your friends, invite your neighbors – we will have a very interesting time.

New Sermon Series starts Sept. 6th

“The Holy Spirit – God’s Presence and Power at Work in Us”

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.

September 2026 Worship Schedule



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

Sept. 6th

Communion

Genesis 1:1-2, Exodus 31:1-5

“The Holy Spirit – God’s Creation,
Powerful Force at Work in Us”

Sept. 13th

Luke 3:16, Luke 11:13

“The Holy Spirit – Baptism with the Holy
Spirit and Fire”

Sept. 20th

Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4

“The Holy Spirit – God’s Creation,
Pentecost, Power, Tongues, and the Leading
of the Spirit”

Sept. 27th

Blessing of the Animals

John 3:5-6, John 14:16-17

“The Holy Spirit – The Advocate,
Comforter, Counselor”

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

First United Methodist Church Seal Beach

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Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

September 2026

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

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September 2026 Beacon Deadline

DEADLINE

11:00am Mon. Sept. 21st

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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.

