# The Beacon

**First United Methodist Church Seal Beach**

Do No Harm Do Good Stay in Love with God

**November 2026**


## From Pastor Tia

Greeting Friends:

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16

As you know, my latest sermon series has been on the Letter to the Hebrews. This "letter" is really a sermon, and the preacher is speaking to a church that is tired and struggling. His goal is to remind them of the grace, the love, and salvation that they have received through Jesus Christ. And through this, they are called to something better, something bigger. In a way he is saying take heart, hang in there, and keep the faith, for God has been always faithful.

As I reflect on the passage above, I am reminded of my own call to discipleship. There are times in my life when doing good and giving generously come easily. I'm seeing God every day, life is going smoothly, and I'm not worried about the future. But there are other times when life bears down on me and I'm worried about what will come next. I'm sure this is true for many of you too. Bills are due and time is tight. It seems like the right thing to do is to pull back. What the preacher of Hebrews reminds us is that when it is the most difficult of times and we might feel as if our faith is fading, those are the times when we must persevere.

When those times come when we don't want to do good, we must do good, even when it's a sacrifice. In those times when we don't want to give of the fruits of our labor, that's the time when we must give.

Our faith lives are not something we should let go stagnant. Our faith is a living faith, a faith that needs to continually grow in our lives. We must continue to build upon the foundational faith that we first learned.

John Wesley put it this way, " we are moving on towards perfection."

Perfection is a lofty goal, perhaps one we can never hope to meet. But moving toward that way, continuing to grow in our faith, that's a goal we can all meet. And as the preacher of Hebrews reminds us, we are to persevere even when we feel like falling away. God's grace has entered our lives and the gift of salvation is given to each one of us. With the faithfulness of God, doesn't it seem just right that we should do good and share what we have? For the sacrifice is pleasing to God.

The week before our Thanksgiving dinner, Sunday, November 22. You will be receiving a letter from me along with your estimate of giving card for 2027. I ask that you prayerfully consider how you will express your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness in the year to come.

Shalom,

Rev. Tia

**First United Church Of Seal Beach**
**Administrative Council Minutes**
**October 10, 2026 -** *by Greg Fellers*

**Present:** Pastor Tia, Johnny Scott, Carolyn Nicks, Bud Lewis, Debbie Hitchens, Greg and Kathy Fellers, Dan and Charlotta Butler.

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 12th meeting were reviewed. Charlotta moved approval, Carolyn seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The September 30th financials prepared by Johnny were reviewed. Actual YTD income was $228,812, with YTD expenses at $227,876. Showing $937 surplus. Carolyn asked for the current figure that has been raised for Rise Against Hunger. Donations to date to the church and directly to Rise Against Hunger are about $700 short of the $4100 needed. It was noted that SPPRC expenses, line item 5.20.210, were way over budget YTD. The costs were for Jeanne's retirement party. It was also noted that apportionments have only been half paid and we're ¾ of the way through the year. It was agreed to withdraw $10,000 from investments to make the next quarterly payment now. Pastor Tia reported that she has received a letter from the Conference informing us that our 2027 apportionments will increase by about $5000 due to the new way they are calculated based on the church's income.

**Endowment and Investment Committee:**

Pastor Tia reviewed the totals as of September 10, 2026: 1/15/2026

Endowments: $69,721 up 5.49% YTD $76,447

Memorials & Bequests: $84,321 up 6.07% YTD $115,651

Jubilee Fund: $455,939 up 6.18 % YTD $507,616

Total Investment: $609,981 up 6.09 % YTD $699,715

It was noted that $75,000 had been withdrawn from the Jubilee fund, $35,000 from the Memorials and Bequests fund and $10,000 Endowment fund YTD. This total $120,000 YTD. Pastor Tia reported that our investment managers effectively pool our investments with the District Union's to maintain a lower fee even though our investments have dropped below $million. It was noted that even though decent earnings reduced the net loss of our investments to about $90,000 YTD, the unfortunate reality is that we will only be able to operate this way for another 4 years or so.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:**

**Trustees:** Concerning the Serenity Room, Greg reported that he looked at vinyl flooring at Lowe's for some prices but didn't have the opportunity to talk to anyone. He went to Bixby Plaza Flooring on Los Al Blvd and talked to a salesperson about commercial carpet, vinyl flooring and laminate flooring. She stressed the importance of proper floor prep needed before a hard floor product is installed. She came to the church with samples and met with Darrel, Russ, Kathy and Greg. We agreed that the best option to consider were laminate flooring and commercial grade carpet. Approximate cost for the hard floor about $10 per square foot, carpet about half that. This includes the removal of the old carpet, needed floor prep and floorboards. 2-day install time for hard floor, one day for carpet. After some discussion, it was decided to forgo spending money on this project at this time. We will patch paint the wall, replaced the damaged floorboard and have the carpet cleaned thoroughly.

**Worship:** Charlotta shared some possible figurines for the altar for Advent, but they didn't seem to be what we're looking for. Pastor Tia will continue to look into it. Charlotta will purchase the advent candles. She will be doing some calendar coordination with Valerie.

**Missions:** Carolyn reported that Rise Against Hunger is coming up on just a week from Sunday on the 18th . She has just 12 people signed up and we're about $700 short on the funds needed. There have been some hiccups with online registration. Instead of regular fellowship time food there will just be bottled water and packages of cookies. Hall set up will be on Saturday. Men will get the additional tables needed on Thursday after their breakfast.

**SPPRC:** Staff issues were discussed.

**Women's Group**: Word did not get our that there was a meeting set for the 12th, so Pastor Tia is not available. The date was reset for the 19th at 10:30am. They will discuss the Tea and decide about 2027. They will also talk about how to coordinate for fellowship time duties.

**Lay Leader Report:** Barbara requested input on the Prayer Hats. It seems like not much is happening. Possible some more information and promotion ahead would have helped people understand what it was all about. Pastor Tia will talk with Barbara.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tia shared that a new sermon series on the Book of Hebrews starts this Sunday, and Bible study starts Wednesday. New Fall banners were also put up. These are more general and can be used each year to save money. This year's Charge Conference is November 12th, 7pm, a Zoom meeting. She shared a packet of the many forms that are required by the Conference. Some were handed out and others were quickly discussed. Staff parish will need to meet to discuss the pastor compensation package that will be presented at the Charge Conference.

**Pastor's Report cont.:** Pastor Tia also shared that the 100-day allowance for Delores at the care center will be up and they're trying to figure out the next best move for her and for the family.

. **Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** Greg and Tom Curd will meet with Dan and Greg this afternoon to check that the roof drains for the fellowship hall are open and working. It was noted that the City has been working on berms and pumps at the beach to get ready for the approaching storm and high tides.

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

**Opening Prayer:** Greg

**Closing Prayer:** Charlotta

Carolyn led us in the closing prayer.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:18am

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## Thanksgiving Potluck

### Sunday, Nov. 22nd

All are invited to our Annual Feast.

Please sign up to bring your favorite food or to help set up or clean up.

Sign-up sheet is now in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope you plan on joining us for this



Special Day!

**From Our Lay Leader**

Sometimes we need help getting started talking with Jesus. We are Learning to Pray every day so I'm trying a little experiment.

There are two paper Top Hats in the Fellowship Hall. The directions are in the Top Hats and listed below. See if you can give this a try.

Spend time talking with Jesus everyday you'll be glad you did!

**"Just a Little Talk with God" : Prayers**

1. **Write a prayer on a 3"x5" card. Fold it in half and place it in one of the hats.**
2. **Take someone else's prayer out and talk with Jesus about this person's prayer and your own concern. Do this for the following week.**
3. **The next Sunday, return the prayer to the hat and draw another one. You may also add new prayer requests of your own.**

**Blessings,**

Barbara Arnold



**Prayer Chain**

October 25th prayer requests:

-Robyn, former colleague of Anjanette's, who recently retired and has been struggling with a very serious illness. She was able to come home but requires 24-hour care and still needs our prayers.

On Oct. 28th – Anjanette's good friend and colleague, Caran, who has been sending the updates about Robyn, was hit by a car last night while standing and speaking with a neighbor. She's alive and going to be okay, but she has a long recovery ahead of her. Please keep her in your prayers for healing.

-Pastor Tia's, mom, Dolores, is coming home tomorrow. Pray for Pastor Tia and Dolores as they start this new stage in their lives.

-Jackie is asking for prayers for her friends, Mira & Jordan, as they are trying IVF and praying for divine success as they seek to have a child.

-Prayers requested for our nearby coasts as the tide rises and waves are high. Pray for the safety of those who live there and for the first responders and city workers who are trying to help protect the people and their property.

On Oct. 18th, Leslie reported that baby Zenith is now 5lbs., 3oz. and will be going home in about 3 weeks. Continue to pray for the family.

-Pray for the people of Bend, Oregon, where the school shooting happened.

## November Birthdays

Tommy Jordan
DJ Carnegie
Tom Curd
Janice West
Harlene Goodrich
Mike Strawn
Emily Curd
Leslie Hill
Lauren Everson
Nicolette Dunbar
Jeff Lopez
Charlotta Butler
Chad Strawn
Richard Irving
Mathis Seguin







## November Anniversaries

11/1 – Devin and Sue Dunbar
11/7 – Russ and Pam Cross
11/24-Jay Bullock and Sara Anderson

## November Altar Flowers



11/1 – Open
11/8 – Open
11/15 Open
11/22 – Dan in honor of Charlotta's Birthday
11/29 - 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. Nov.-14th Hybrid @ 9:30am. Meets on the second Saturday of the month.

**Beacon Article Deadline –** Tues. Nov. 17th @ 11:00am

**Fall Bible Study** – Wednesdays on Zoom 7:00pm "A Study of Hebrews" until Wed. Nov. 18th

**Lunch Bunch –** Will be meeting on Dec.9th for a Christmas Lunch @ 11:30am @ Acapulco, 6270 E. PCH in Long Beach. No Lunch Bunch in November.

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

**Mission Ministry Fellowship -** Thurs. Nov. 5th @ 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.

**Charge Conference –** Thurs. Nov. 12th @ 7:00pm on Zoom

**Thanksgiving Potluck** – Sun. Nov. 22nd after the Worship Service

| Finance Report as of October 13, 2026 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly | Year to Date | Budget Year to Date |
| | 9/21/26-10/13/26 | 1/1/26-10/13/26 | 1/1/26-10/13/26 |
| Income Totals | 11,311.47 | 240,123.84 | 258,064.00 |
| Expense Totals | 17,354.01 | 245,229.84 | 258,020.00 |
| Difference | -6,042.54 | -5,106.00 | 44.00 |

## Missions
by Carolyn Nicks

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Sunday, October 18th was a special day at First Church. Volunteers gathered in Fellowship Hall to bag 10,000 meals in just a few hours. Our volunteers ranged in age from 4 to over 90. Excitement filled the air. The first one thousand meals seemed like forever to finish but the next three thousand was no time at all. When the final gong was heard letting us know we had completed our task, it was just over two hours. By 2 o'clock the room was cleaned up and project was complete. Rise Against Hunger has been an opportunity for our volunteers to give back to those in need. May God Bless us all!

We have given out 25 lunches since the Oct. Beacon.

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, 2025

## Nov./Dec. 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.

## November 2026 Worship Schedule



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

Nov. 1st
All Saints Day
Hebrews 7:23-28
"A Study of Hebrews – Jesus is the High Priest"

Nov. 8th
Hebrews 9:11-14
"A Study of Hebrews – Worship Old and New"

Nov. 15th
Hebrews 9:24-28
"A Study of Hebrews – From the End to Beginning"

Nov. 22nd
Hebrews 10:11-25
"A Study of Hebrews – The New Covenant"
Thanksgiving Potluck after Worship

Nov. 29th
1st Sunday of Advent

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

**First United Methodist Church Seal Beach**
148 10th Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

**November 2026**

Phone: (562) 431-0494

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

Web site: www.firstchurchsealbeach.org

Email: Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

Beacon Deadline




11:00am Mon., Nov. 19th

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pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org

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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/. Or go to our website, scroll to the bottom right & click on 
Space is available for comments.