



December 12, 2023

First Congregational UCC
PO Box 135
Lake Helen, FL 32744



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are always welcome here!

Facebook: @LakeHelenUCC

Website: <https://www.lakehelen-ucc.com/>

Happenings!

Thursday, December 14 - Council Meeting at 10:00 am.

In addition to the current council members, those newly elected to serve beginning January 1, 2024 are asked to attend the meeting. This gives those new members an opportunity to become familiar with the meeting and the current issues being addressed.

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

- 10:30 am Worship and lighting of the 4th Advent candle
- 7:00 pm A Service of Lessons, Carols, Candlelight & Communion

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**The United Church of Christ Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



This offering will be received on Fourth Sunday of Advent, which falls on Christmas Eve this year. Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line. We will combine all donations and include the amount in our monthly check to the Florida Conference UCC. Special envelopes for this offering will be included in your bulletin on Sunday, December 10.

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The tree in our sanctuary is a CHRISMON TREE

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas Trees in Churches and Christians homes. Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. Chrismons can be made from nearly anything, but paper and embroidered ones are the most widely used.



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We have found that without lots of TLC, poinsettia plants do not thrive in our sanctuary. So, instead of memorializing those special people in our lives with poinsettia plants, we have an opportunity to make a donation in lieu of a plant. This year you are invited to memorialize those special people in your life with a donation to the Parish House Floor Fund. You will find a sheet for this purpose included with your bulletin on Sunday. Please return your form and donation by December 17. These will be listed in the Christmas Eve evening bulletin.

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CHRISTMAS EVE ~ December 24 at 7:00 PM

A Service of Lessons, Carols, Candlelight & Communion

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### Upcoming birthdays and anniversaries

#### ***Happy Birthday to:***

Riley Sutherland-Hodge, Dec. 18  
 Aliceann Marshall, December 22  
 John Jewell, December 26

#### ***Happy Anniversary to:***

We have no record of any  
 anniversaries in December.

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Prayer Requests

Please keep those listed below in prayer.

Pat Campbell
 Ernie Carpenter
 Ralph DeMattia
 Don (needs a lung)
 Lily Hardin

Shirley Hotze
 John Jewell
 Keith Lewis
 Dolores Lewis
 Dora Miletic

Jen Miletic and her family
 Joanne & Jim Muir
 Jim Robinson
 Rev. Dale Stuart
 Kelly & Stacy Sutherland

Ephesiéens, those at Brit's Home and the people of Haiti

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER