



April 16, 2024

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 !

Tuesday, April 16 – Drop off your baskets to the Parish House between Noon and 2 pm.

Please don't wrap your basket since we will be taking photos to display on Facebook, but do include a list of the contents. If you prefer to make a monetary donation to the fundraiser, please indicate that it is for the basket social and place it in the offering plate.

Saturday, April 20 – Spring Basket Social - The Parish House doors will open at Noon for you to purchase tickets, view the baskets and put your tickets in the containers for the baskets you would like to win. Then get some refreshments, find a seat at one of the tables and enjoy some social time with friends – both old and new. Drawing for the baskets and door prizes will begin at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 for 25 basket chances, a door prize chance and refreshments. You, or someone representing you, must be present to win. Bring a friend (or more) and plan to have a lot of fun!



Wednesday, April 24

- **Bible Study - 11am – noon**

Join us for a five-week study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

- **Craft Day -**

The Community Life Team will sponsor a Craft Day from 3-5 pm. You're invited to participate by learning a new craft like making a bead bracelet, learning to crochet or quill. Maybe you would like to join by working on a craft project you've already started. Maybe you would like to share a craft you enjoy and show others how to do it. It will be a fun afternoon of crafting for everyone – even if you just want to watch!

Friday, May 3 – Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser Dinner - 5 PM in the Parish House. The hall will be transformed into a Mexican cantina complete with South of the Border décor, Mariachi music and a delicious variety of Mexican cuisine dishes including Rafael's authentic Mole sauce and so much more. Suggested donation \$20/person.

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**New Bible Study begins April 24!**  
**Join us for a five-week study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians**  
**Wednesdays 11am - noon**

Conservative Christians love Paul, but among more progressive Christians, Paul is often seen as a problematic source of Christian theology. They may claim that Paul hates women, condones slavery, hates gay people and is sexually repressed. On top of that, Paul never met Jesus—so what could he know about Christ, anyway? Come to Bible study, and we'll see what Paul might have to say of value for us in his letter to the Galatians. All are welcome. Bring a Bible, your questions, and an open mind.

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**Interested in becoming part of our church family?**

We will receive new members on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**. The requirements for membership include your having been baptized (in any denomination), your willingness to commit to supporting this congregation's worship and work, and your attendance at one or two brief information sessions with Pastor Kathleen. If you are interested in exploring membership at First Congregational UCC Lake Helen, please see Pastor Kathleen.



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**History of Cindo de Mayo**

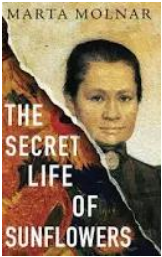
Although "El Cinco de Mayo" (the fifth of May) is not a National Holiday in Mexico and should not be confused with Mexican Independence Day which is September 15th, it is still a source of pride and celebration for Mexican Americans and a number of citizens of Mexico, especially the ones from the town of Puebla, Mexico.

On May 5th, 1862 the French troops intended to easily conquer the small town of Puebla, with their well organized troops of 6,000 (undefeated for over 50 years). However, the smaller Mexican troops of only 2,000, consisting mostly of indigenous local people, were able to defeat the French troops in this one battle by their preparation, determination and valor. Although the French eventually won that war and ruled Mexico for five years, the Battle of Puebla demonstrated that human spirit and pride standing up against seemingly insurmountable odds can make a difference.

**WE ARE THE CHURCH  
TOGETHER**

## Book Club

We are starting up our Book Club again! We will meet on the **4<sup>th</sup> Monday** every other month beginning **June 24 at 2 pm**. Participants will alternate selecting the book and leading the discussion.



The book for June 24 is *The Secret Life of sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. A brief synopsis of the book:

*"When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.*

*Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world.*

*The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past?"*

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## Upcoming birthdays and anniversaries

### **Happy Birthday to:**

Judi Beland, April 19  
Rafael Ruiz, April 22

We have no record of any birthdays or anniversaries in the month of May.

### **Happy Anniversary to:**

We have no April anniversaries

If we missed your special day, please send an email to the church office at [LakeHelenUCC@cfl.rr.com](mailto:LakeHelenUCC@cfl.rr.com) and we'll be sure to add it to the records.

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## Prayer Requests

Please Note: If you have a prayer request that you would like added, please contact the church office at [LakeHelenUCC@cfl.rr.com](mailto:LakeHelenUCC@cfl.rr.com) or call 386-218-5976

Please keep those listed below in prayer.

Pat Campbell  
Ernie Carpenter  
Ralph DeMattia  
Miriam Guimarin

Tina Habick  
Shirley Hotze  
John Jewell  
Keith & Dolores Lewis  
Dora Miletic

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

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