

Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

January 2025



- Wed. 01** *New Year's Day*
- Sun. 05** *Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. - Communion*
- Mon. 08** *AI-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Tues. 07** *Blood Drive - First United Church*
- Wed. 08** *Senior Luncheon - Bridgeport UMC - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*
- Sun. 12** *Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. 4-H Presentation Workshop - 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.*
- Mon. 13** *AI-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Tues. 14** *4-H Cooking Series - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.*
- Sun. 19** *Morning Worship 8:45 a.m.*
- Mon. 20** *AI-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Tues. 21** *4-H Cooking Series - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.*
- Wed. 22** *CUC Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.*
- Sun. 26** *Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. Annual Meeting*
- Mon. 27** *AI-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Tues. 28** *4-H Cooking Series - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.*



Linda Oswald – at home, 8701 Knowledge Lane, Apt 116, Cicero, NY 13039 – SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
Helen Fischer - 139 Dormar Drive, North Syracuse, NY 13212 – We recently learned that she has moved to an assisted living facility in Horseheads. Once her address is received, we will share. Mail appears to be forwarded for now.

Grace Brignall and Family- 5514 N. Manlius Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066 – SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!

Carol Burleigh – 102 Watertree Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Savanna Colabufo and Courtney Clark – at home - 4296 Seeber Road, Canastota, NY 13032

Maryjane and Joe Molina - 502 Oot Lane, Apt. 2 Kirkville, NY 13082 - SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!

Ryan Hill –at home – 7060 Cattleman's Crossing Road, Cicero NY 13039

Patti Monday – Bernadine Apts., #1304, 417 Churchill Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13205.

Joanne Tongue – 2 Sacketts Road, Central Square, NY 13036

Doug Kliphon (and Sheri too) - 7088 Ferstler Road, Kirkville, NY 13082

Rev. Ed Veaudry - 438 Summerhaven Dr. N.E., East Syracuse, NY 13057

Nancy Liberatore – 4616 Granada Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872

Gloria and Jim Kyser and Family –

6844 Schuyler Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Lois Klein - 6991 Fly Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Sonny Ellis – 226 W. King Street, Jackson, TN 38301

Lorraine Vollmer – recovering from a recent fall - 6564 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Louise Claflin (Leslie's mom) – recovering from a recent fall - 2001 Tweed Court, Leesburg, FL 34788

Rev. Steve Deckard – Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA – home address – 14900 Evanston Ave. N., Shoreline, WA 98133.

Please reach out by card, phone, or email to our friends on the Prayer List.

Pastor's Message



The most underrated answer in the world is "I'm doing OK."

Not necessarily good, not necessarily bad, just OK.

I note this because around New Years, there's a tendency for new resolutions: what will we do to make ourselves better this year than we were last year?

It's a good sentiment, but all too often turns into something that's not sustainable.

Like if you're trying to exercise more. But then, you get hurt or busy or it's too cold outside or you can't pay for your gym membership this month.

The idea of a resolution is nice, but all too often it goes from a personal suggestion to another layer of guilt, yet another reminder of what we're "Supposed" to be doing instead of what we're "Actually" doing.

Didn't we get enough of that stress during the Holidays?

Won't we get enough of that stress in the New Year?

My point is this: if you don't have a Resolution, you don't have to get one.

Being OK is enough.

Surviving the year is enough.

Just being alive enough to take a deep breath is enough.

Don't ever feel like you need to add an extra layer of "Should" to your life.

Sometimes becoming a Better Person (trademark) just means being easier on ourselves for the ways we fall short.

So, let's start 2025 by showing the grace that God shows us: taking a deep breath and letting ourselves off the hook.

As we resolve to do better with Personal Grace, and know that February/Black History Month will be here very soon, I want to conclude this article with the words of Buffalo native and poet laureate Lucille Clifton:

"come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed."

*Yours in Christ,
Eric Adamcik*

Pastor's Office Hours

The following is Pastor Eric's schedule for office hours:

Monday @ Collamer, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday @ First United, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday @ First United, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursday @ Collamer, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Of course, this schedule is subject to change. If you would like to schedule a meeting with him, please contact the church office.



07 - Jeffrey Clark

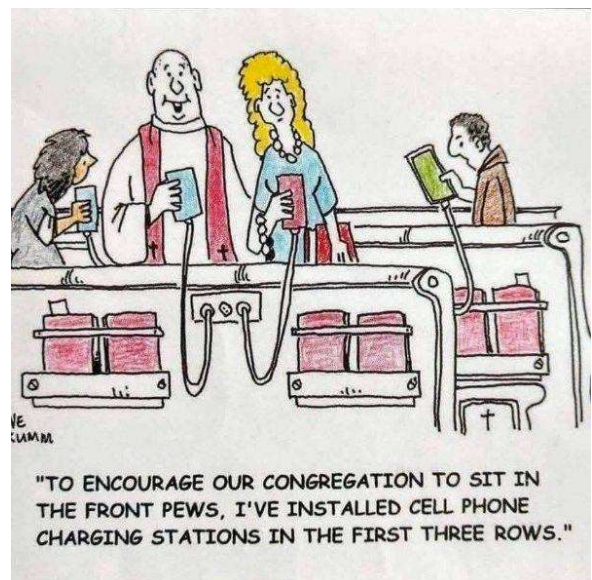
08 - Mike Breclaw

08 - Wayne Brignall

18 - Monique Laroche Kocienski

21 - Jaden Ellis

26 - Jessica Vollmer



December 2024 Worship Report



We entered the sanctuary December 1 to see the nativity, Advent wreath, beautifully decorated tree, artwork, and numerous acknowledgements that Advent had begun. Rev. Adamcik served 28 by intinction that morning, with Karen B. and myself assisting. Deb L. and I read the Advent readings and lit the candle of hope!

This month's messages were "Just Getting Started," "Beginnings," "Running on our Laurels", "Mother(s) and "Don't Let Go of Christmas," by Lynn Jacques and special guest(!), while Pastor Eric was on vacation.

Special thanks to:

- the Vollmer family for use of their nativity
- FUCOES for hosting the Christmas Eve and the Longest Night services.
- all who participated in the Advent readings and lighting of candles, especially those who came forward as readers for the first time.
- Christy, for incredible music, leading the choir and the variety of anthems each week. And to the choir, for giving their best.
- Judi Parker for faithful tech services.
- those who helped with coffee hours these past few months, especially December 29th after our combined 9:30 a.m. service.

See the January / February schedule for liturgists, ushers, acolytes, and communion assistants on the hall bulletin board; it has also been emailed to those on the schedule. Feedback has been positive regarding the new process! Many thanks to all - every service has numerous moving parts and it is encouraging to see how the list of volunteers has grown.

May you feel richly blessed as we look forward to whatever 2025 holds. Continue to pray for each other, our mission in our community and world.

Respectfully submitted,
~ Connie Oliver

December Monthly Senior Luncheon at Bridgeport UMC



Bridgeport United Methodist Church hosted their monthly senior ("Young at Heart") luncheon Wednesday, December 11, from 11 - 1, with 28 in attendance! Merle Oswald, Ginnie Busco, Carol Burleigh, Judi Parker, and Leslie DuMond attended from CUC. Bridgeport UMC has a great group of crafters. We were invited to do some Christmas shopping before things got started. They had homemade jams and lots of craft items.

The fellowship hall was decorated for Christmas. Pastor Omar welcomed us and we sang several Christmas carols. Pastor then introduced the Christmas Story and Judy Toner, Diane Taylor, and Shirley Pease took turns reading Luke 2:1-21. Pastor Omar then talked about how Christmas is for giving and noted the greatest gifts are love and salvation. He then led us in prayer.

Before lunch, we played a "right/left pass the gift" game. Those of us who had the gift at the end of the story got to keep it.

As usual, a Love Offering canister was available for those able to help defray the cost of the meal. A Christmas meal was served, including ham, parsley potatoes, corn, apple sauce, and fruit salad. For dessert, we had ginger cake with homemade whipped cream and cookies. Hot water for tea, coffee, cider, and pitchers of water were provided.

After the meal, we had a fun gift exchange. We all picked a gift from under the tree. Diane Taylor then threw dice. Each number had instructions on where to pass the gift. Everyone ended up with a nice gift.

The next senior luncheon is **Wednesday, January 8**. Please let Leslie know if you will be attending. She will RSVP on behalf of CUC. Come check it out! It's wonderful.



by Merle Oswald

December Missions



We collected gifts for two families of children attending the East Syracuse-Minoa schools. We provided wrapped gifts for two families, consisting of 7 children. The gifts were blessed by Pastor Eric on December 15 and picked up by Meghan Thomas, school counselor, on December 16.



On Mission Sunday, December 15, we packaged donated cookies for our shut-ins. Containers were filled for 13 shut-ins as well as the Post Office and Al-Anon. Seven people donated cookies and candy (Pat Pease, Ginnie Busco, Marie Czajak, grace Brignall, Judi Parker, Janet Vollmer, Merle Oswald, Judy McCallops, and Connie Oliver). The cookies were delivered to shut-ins by various individuals.



The hat and mitten tree has been set up in the Narthex. We will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to be provided to the Rescue Mission. We already have 20 handmade hats donated by Janet Krak. Thank you!

- Mission Report Continued -

January Mission



Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 9, 2025. During the second two weeks in January and the first week of February, we will be collecting cans of soup and boxes and bags of crackers to be donated to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry.



We will also dress in our sports garb for the service. We hope to see everyone there!

Food Collection



We will be collecting a specific item needed by the food pantry each month. For December, we collected 1 bag of food items and 21 egg cartons for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. We also collected 39 boxes of macaroni and cheese which were blessed by Pastor Eric on December 15, 2024. They were delivered by Wayne Brignall.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 20, 2024 CUC BOARD MEETING

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on November 20, 2024, at 6:05 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge. Elder Jeannine Parks opened the meeting with prayer and Elder Jerome O'Neill served as moderator.

MINUTES: A motion was properly made by Elder Judith Parker and seconded by Elder Merle Oswald to approve the regular Session minutes of October 23, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Elder Pamela Laroche reviewed the financial reports of the church for the month October 2024. A motion was properly made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Connie Oliver to approve the financial reports.

VITAL STATISTICS: The funeral service and reception for Keith Brignall was held on November 11, 2024.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Eric Adamcik reported he attended the Synod of the Northeast meeting in Albany on October 24 – 26. He discussed the structure of the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church. The Synod of the Northeast consists of Presbyteries from Maine to Southern New Jersey. It is one of 16 bodies in the Presbyterian Church. Another meeting will be held in November of 2025. He noted that the Presbytery of Cayuga – Syracuse will likely merge with the Presbytery of Susquehanna (Binghamton area). A 15¢ increase in per capita was approved. He inquired whether we have denominational representatives to represent CUC. This will be considered.

He will be attending a meeting of the Association of Partners in Christian Education in Memphis, Tennessee, on January 29 through February 1, 2025. Discussion took place concerning reimbursement of expenses for this continuing education. He will also be taking the following vacation time: November 4 – 9, November 26 – 27, and December 26 and 29.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM: Elder Emeline McShane reported cards and calls are continuing. She suggested looking into putting together a monthly youth group. This would include youth from other churches and possibly 4-H members.

We will be showing the movie, I Heard the Bells, on December 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. A flyer was sent to the local churches inviting them to attend.

Discussion took place concerning recognizing Carol Burleigh's membership transfer from the First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango. It was noted that Carol has been a regular attendee of CUC for many years. We will look into scheduling something in January. Emeline will also reach out to other potential new members in January.

Discussion took place concerning the individuals that should receive letters concerning their inactive status.

It was noted that a procedure should be put into place to keep track of individuals that have received visits, calls, and cards.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: The food service inspection will be due in January. Gill Laroche changed the timers for the lights, adjusted the clock, and put a new clock in the Fellowship Hall. He also cleaned the entrance way and took the recyclables to the bottle return. Gill Laroche mowed. Ginnie Busco continues to do weekly cleaning of the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: We will have an Advent study called *Honest Advent* by Scott Erickson. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Books have been ordered. We will host the study on December 8. Soup, crackers, bread, and dessert will be provided.

MISSIONS: Elder Merle Oswald reported concerning the following mission projects:

St. Matthews Food Pantry - In November, we collected 2 boxes of food and 53 egg cartons for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. We also collected 284 packages of instant hot cocoa. They were delivered by Wayne Brignall. In December, we will collect boxed macaroni and cheese.

Veterans – We collected names and information concerning veterans that our congregation and friends wished to recognize. On Sunday, November 10, 2024, we recognized the veterans by projecting their names while Christy played patriotic music.

Operation Christmas Child - We filled 6 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a Mission of Samaritan's Purse, 3 for girls and 3 for boys. We received more donations of items than would fit in the boxes. The boxes were packed on

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

November 12 by Pat Pease, Connie Oliver, Judi Parker, and Merle Oswald. Refreshments were served. The boxes were delivered to Bridgeport UMC and will be shipped and delivered to children in need around the world.

Gifts for School Children – We will also be collecting gifts for two families of school children attending East Syracuse-Minoa schools. The lists are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The deadline for collection is December 15.

Hat & Mitten Tree – The Hat and Mitten tree has been set up in the Narthex. Janet Krak donated 20 hand-made hats. The collection will be donated to the Rescue Mission.

Benevolent care Grant Fund – The application for the Benevolent Care Grant was completed and submitted to the Presbytery on November 9, 2024.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: Elder Jeri Veaudry reported a PPRC meeting took place on Tuesday, November 19. It was a very productive meeting. Another meeting will be held in December.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: The annual pledge request letter for 2025 was sent out at the end of October. The Stewardship Committee will be meeting in December to put together the budget for 2025.

TECHNOLOGY: A projector has been purchased. It will be used for the upcoming Bible Study and movie

WORSHIP: Elder Connie Oliver reported as follows:

- Communion - Rev. Adamcik served communion by intinction to 30 on November 3, All Saints Day. Elders Valerie Warfield and Connie Oliver served as communion assistants.
- We honored our veterans during the November 10 service, and will celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 24.
- Christy is away on November 20 — Andrea Scerbo will fill in for her on the piano.
- We continue to collect people's favorite traditional hymns. The current list has been compiled on google drive and shared with Pastor Eric.
- The November and December schedule for acolyte, liturgist, usher, communion stewards has been posted on the hall bulletin board. So far, people have shown up on their assigned dates. We have updated the acolyte instructions as evidenced on November 17. The new system seems to be going well and all slots are full through the end of 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported the Nominating Committee has been provided instructions to begin its work to fill

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

positions for the Class of 2027. The following positions will need to be filled, Building and Grounds, Missions, and Technology.

The Master Gardeners met in the Fellowship Hall on November 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. They will be having a holiday event during their regularly scheduled meeting time on December 17. They will not use the kitchen but asked if we have power strips they can use. They will also be using the punch bowl.

The 4-H group held a leadership training meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 16.

Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver expressed concerns about some hymn selections.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported it is getting to be time to start working on the Annual Report. She will need each committee chair to provide a list of their members. A chart of the current CUC administration was distributed for assistance with this. Each committee chair will also need to provide a written report to be included in the Annual Report.

Elder Leslie DuMond reported we were contacted by the Adirondack Club concerning its spring meeting. They asked if the Fellowship Hall is available on March 22 or April 5. As a result, she reached out to the dinner committee concerning the April date.

The dinner committee is recommending to hold our spring dinners on April 5 and May 10. A motion was properly made by Elder Jerome O'Neill and seconded by Elder Jeannine Parks to accept the recommendation of the dinner committee. Motion passed.

The Adirondack Club has been advised that April 5 is not available. We have no conflict for March 22. A motion was properly made by Elder Connie Oliver and seconded by Elder Judith Parker to approve the Adirondack Club's use of the Fellowship Hall on March 22, 2025. Motion passed.

Elder Connie Oliver reported that on December 29 Pastor Eric and Christy Knowlton will both be away. She and Darlene Lesser from FUCOES have been working on filling pulpit supply and music. It was suggested that we combine the services and host FUCOES at CUC with a change of the start time for that particular Sunday. Discussion took place. A motion was properly made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Jerome O'Neill to hold a joint worship service at CUC on December 29, starting at 9:30 a.m. Motion passed.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be November 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Church Secretary/Notary Services



Reminder

I am generally in the Church Office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Other times vary. When I am not in the office, I monitor the Church e-mail regularly. I am also available to provide notary services.

Leslie DuMond



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is January 27, 2025. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting this deadline. We are accepting donations for postage for the monthly newsletter. Any donations will be appreciated. Also, if you are still receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail and would like to receive it via e-mail, please contact the church office.

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net.



We are putting together a pictorial directory of CUC members and friends. We have been taking pictures at church. If you would like to submit a picture of yourself and/or your family, please e-mail it to the church office.



On Saturday, December 21st we held our annual craft sale. It was very successful, bringing in \$415! Thank you to everyone who donated their crafts! This sale, as with previous years, was held in conjunction with First United's Cookie Walk. We both handed out flyers advertising each other's events.

Bottles & Cans



We have an arrangement with ESM Bottle Return. They have recently moved to Arterial Road in Lyncourt, across from the bakery. They will provide our Church the redemption money from the returns. You may also put your bottles and cans in the container in the lower entrance to the church.

Fellowship Hall Rental



Our church fellowship hall is available for rent for special occasions and meetings. Maximum capacity is 140. Please contact the church office for information.



Collamer United Church
6865 Fly Road
East Syracuse, NY 13057
(315) 463-4939
collamerunitedchurch.org



The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Collamer United Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following the worship service. Rev. Eric Adamcik will moderate the meeting. The deadline for submission of reports for the meeting is January 12, 2025.