

Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

October 2026



- Fri. 02 Chicken & Biscuit Work Day**
Sat. 03 Chicken & Biscuit Dinner - 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 04 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -
World Communion Sunday
Mon. 05 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 11 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -
Mon. 12 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 14 Bridgeport UMC Senior Luncheon -
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. 17 Crafts & Fellowship - First United -
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sun. 18 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.
Mon. 19 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Tues. 20 Master Gardeners
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. 24 Foodless Dinner - See details later in
this newsletter!
Sun. 25 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.
Mon. 26 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 28 CUC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 31 Halloween



- 04 - Pastor Eric
 08 - Janet Vollmer
 11 - Jeri Veaudry
 12 - Lorraine Vollmer
 20 - Karen & Wayne Brignall (A)
 29 - Marc McMaster
 24 - Gill & Pam Laroche (A)
 26 - Mike & Tammy Breclaw (A)



- Grace Brignall - 7220 E. Genesee St., Apt. 225,
 Fayetteville, NY 13066.
 Carol Burleigh - 102 Watertree Drive, East
 Syracuse, NY 13057
 Dan Christen (Recent Fall) - 508 McCool Avenue,
 East Syracuse, NY 13057
 Larry and Louise Claflin - 2001 Tweed Court,
 Leesburg, FL 34788
 Savanna Colabufo and Courtney Clark - at home -
 4296 Seeber Road, Canastota, NY 13032
 Rev. Steve Deckard - 16353 Wallingford Ave N.,
 Shoreline WA 98133
 Sonny Ellis - 226 W. King Street, Jackson, TN 38301
 Helen Fischer - 105 Laurel Lane, Sayre, PA 18840-
 9194
 Ryan Hill - at home - 7060 Cattleman's Crossing
 Road, Cicero NY 13039
 Kliphon Family - 7087 Ferstler Road, Kirkville, NY
 13082
 Sandy LeBlanc (Step-mother of Doug Kliphon - 4763
 Royal Meadow Dr., Liverpool, NY 13088
 Linda Oswald - at home, 8701 Knowledge Lane, Apt
 116, Cicero, NY 13039 - SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 Diane Stevenson - Sedgwick Heights, 1100 James
 Street, Room 329, Syracuse, NY 13203
 JoAnn Tongue - 2 Sacketts Road, Central Square, NY
 13036
 Lorraine Vollmer - 6564 Collamer Road, East
 Syracuse, NY 13057
 Megan Wilbur - SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 1500 Whispering Hills Road, Loris SC 29569

Please reach out by card, phone, or email to our friends on the Prayer List. If you would like to call someone but don't have their number, please contact the church office.



Pastor's Message



Between the changing of the leaves, and the Syracuse sports season kicking off, we are truly in a season of orange!

Orange on the inside, orange on the outside, orange everywhere.

The popular design website Adobe says the color orange “is considered fresh, youthful, and creative,” that it “exudes positivity and vibrates happiness.”

In our case, I imagine a break from the heat gives us a lot of happiness! Being able to turn off our air conditioners, finally. Heck, my family in Tennessee is celebrating finally being below 90 degrees!

So, as we start to celebrate Sweater Weather, let us be thankful for changing seasons.

We might be more stressed than summer because of school schedules, rummage sale and dinners, but we can also put the worries of summer behind us, and have a clean slate for the season.

As we embrace the Orange of this season, with freshness and creativity, let's take this season as a chance to color outside the lines a bit: to be creative in our outreach as a church, discerning creative ways to love the whole world.

In a season that focuses on scares (and not just from Halloween), let us as the Church be the cozy Orange that comforts them.

Amen, and amen.

Pastor Eric



We will be holding our All-Saints Day worship service on Sunday, November 1. We will be remembering loved ones that have gone on before us. We will recognize those who passed during the past 12 months. *If you would like to recognize a loved one that passed since November 2025, please contact the church office.*



October 4 is World Communion Sunday. The Presbytery has a World Communion Sunday Offering campaign which works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Special offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.



On Wednesday, October 14, Bridgeport UMC will resume its monthly “Young at Heart” senior luncheons. They will be serving BBQ chicken, salt potatoes, veggies and dessert. The Madison County Transportation Department will do a presentation. Operation Christmas Child boxes and information will be distributed. During the next luncheon in November there will be a Christmas box packing party. This is always a good time with informative programs and great food. The program runs from 11:15 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please join us!

September 2026 Worship Report



On September 6, Pastor Eric preached a sermon titled “Read Carefully.” Exodus 12:1–14 describes the institution of Passover: selecting and preparing the lamb, marking doorframes with its blood, and establishing a lasting remembrance of the event. These verses emerge from the Israelites’ trauma under Pharaoh, an authoritarian ruler who resisted justice, ignored repeated warnings, treated the people cruelly, and ordered the killing of male infants. Households marked with the lamb’s blood were passed over and spared from this tragedy. Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb—The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the entire world, offering eternal salvation to all people.

On September 13, while Pastor Eric was away, Rev. Lauren Swanson returned to our pulpit. It was good to see and hear him again! His sermon, “Being Good Citizens of Earth,” drew on readings from Genesis, Isaiah, and Matthew. These passages teach that all people are made in God’s image and entrusted with caring for the earth. They also define true worship as active social justice: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing those in need. In Matthew’s account of the final judgment—the sheep and the goats—Jesus says that how we treat the hungry, thirsty, strangers, and imprisoned is how we treat him.

On September 20, Pastor Eric’s message, “Get Fed,” focused on Exodus 16:2–15. When the Israelites complained to Moses and Aaron that they were hungry, God heard them and provided manna—bread from heaven—each day. God instructed them to gather only what they needed and not hoard it; those who did found that it spoiled by the next day. This account teaches us to depend on God *daily* for spiritual nourishment and points directly to Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. In John 6, Jesus explicitly refers to this event.

- Worship Report Continued -

On September 27, we heard Pastor Eric’s message, “Getting Watered.” The Israelites complained to Moses that they had no water and feared dying of thirst. When Moses asked God what to do, God told him to strike a rock with the staff that he used at the Nile, and water flowed from it! Pastor Eric explained that Jesus Christ gives living water, which we should share with everyone, regardless of race, class, age, or gender. We are called to water others!

Respectfully submitted,
~ Judi Parker



We are starting to prepare for our annual Holiday Craft Sale to be held on December 5. Please start crafting!

We will also be holding our Baked Ziti dinner during the sale! More details to follow.





On Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, we held our annual huge rummage sale. Once again, we had lots of “stuff”! It was a great turnout on an absolutely beautiful fall weekend. This year’s grand total was **\$4,813.25!!!** Almost a record.

As in the past, we were able to help several other charitable organizations by donating our “leftovers.” Representatives of the following organizations came to the greenhouse and took things they could use: Bridgeport UMC (Winter Clothing Drive); United Methodist Restart Program, University United Methodist Clothing Closet, St. Matthew’s Secondhand Store, and Priscilla’s Save the Animals. Books were delivered to the Fayetteville Free Library. For a complete list of organizations we helped, please see a related article in the Missions Report below. The remaining items were donated to the Rescue Mission. We also had a special pickup of clothes and linens by Hearts for the Homeless. They took 25 bags plus the leftover paper grocery bags!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this very successful event, for donating items, providing baked goods, for countless hours spent organizing and pricing items at the steamy greenhouse, working the sale, packing up and delivering leftover items to various organizations. We could not do this without all of you and really appreciate the hard work. A big thank you goes out to Mike Robinson who showed up at the greenhouse after the sale and took three truck-loads of stuff to the Rescue Mission. Thanks also to Judd DuMond for hauling supplies, etc. back to church and delivering large items to New Hope Family Service. An extra special thanks to Vollmer’s for again providing use of the greenhouse, and going above and beyond to help with our many “needs”! Claire even made more salt potatoes for Saturday since we ran out on Friday! THANK YOU ALL!

Respectfully,
Leslie DuMond



A special thank you . . .

The ladies from the “Bakery Shoppe” wish to thank ALL who shared their time and baking talents for our part of the rummage sale.

Everyone enjoyed the many delicious choices – breads, cookies, brownies, etc. and came back for more . . . making our first complete sell out!

This year, we had some new entries in the bread category – green tomato, strawberry walnut, applesauce and lemon blueberry, as well as the ever-popular pumpkin, banana, cranberry and banana chocolate chip. We also had a new entry in our cookie category – banana white chocolate chip.

Our regular chocolate chip cookies are also very popular!! Who doesn’t like chocolate cookies and milk??

The “blue ribbon this year is awarded to Dorothy DiMento for her outstanding contributions. She filled one whole table with many choices. Hint: the strawberry thumbprint and biscotti are always a favorite!!

We have some truly great bakers in our CUC family and friends. Thanks again! See you next year.

The “Bakery Shoppe” ladies:
Carol Burleigh, Pat Pease and Carol Turnbull



by Merle Oswald

In September, we collected 23 bottles of liquid laundry detergent for St. Matthew's food pantry. They are in need of these types of items because they are not covered by SNAP benefits. The collection was dedicated by Pastor Eric on September 27. Thank you for your support.



Each month in 2026, we will collect specific items for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. The following is a list of the items we will collect:

- October: Boxed stuffing
- November: Liquid hand soap.
- December: Shampoo and conditioner (men's and women's)

We continue to collect cardboard egg cartons. Please note that the food pantry can only use cartons holding a dozen eggs.

Rummage Sale Leftovers



Once again, Merle Oswald has done a wonderful job arranging for donation of our left-over rummage sale items to various other charitable organizations. In addition to the organizations referenced earlier in this newsletter, items have been or will be donated to the following organizations:

New Hope Family Services – Baby clothes, high chairs, pack & play and toys. The items were delivered by Merle Oswald and Pat Pease on September 23.

Helping Hounds – Dog related items.

East Syracuse Minoa Schools – Evening Gowns.

Syracuse Crunch – Stuffed Animals.

Ralph Rotella, the Shoe Repair Guy (for donation to the Rescue Mission at Christmastime).

She also put aside hats and gloves for our upcoming Hat and Mitten tree as well as school supplies for donation next year!

Great job Merle!

Adopt-A-Highway

On October 25, 2026, immediately following the worship service, we will pick up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to the Thruway Bridge. This is actually a fun time. Please join us! Georgia Clifford is heading up this mission. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please let her know.



- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JULY 29, 2026 CUC BOARD MEETING

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on July 29, 2026, at 6:05 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge. Elder Merle Oswald opened the meeting with prayer and Elder Pamela Laroche served as moderator.

MINUTES: A motion was properly made by Elder Connie Oliver and seconded by Elder Merle Oswald to approve the regular Session minutes of June 17, 2026. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Elder Pamela Laroche presented the financial reports of the church for the month of June 2026. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Connie Oliver to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2026. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Eric discussed items addressed during the General Assembly that he attended in Milwaukee on June 22 – July 2 and distributed a handout. He discussed action taken by the Theological Education Committee, on which he serves. He also discussed highlights of the meeting. He was on vacation from July 21 – 26.

Pastor Eric reported he will be out August 22-27 for the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations. This will be held in Louisville, Kentucky. All expenses will be paid by the Presbytery. Pulpit supply will be needed on Sunday, August 23. He will be attending the stated Presbytery meeting on July 30.

Elder Connie Oliver distributed a map of the Presbytery provided by Jim Schuyler, our Presbytery representative.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Ginnie Busco is continuing to do weekly cleaning. Gill Laroche installed a new carbon monoxide detector in the Narthex. Dave Vollmer mowed the church grounds. Judd DuMond weed whacked. Connie and Victor Oliver and Leslie DuMond weeded the memorial garden. Theresa Shepherd from the Master Gardeners program also weeded.

The Onondaga County Health Department inspected the kitchen on July 27. There were no issues.

It was noted that the wasps have returned to the Eagle Scout garden area and that there is a bee hive under the overhang at the front entrance. Elder Kliphon will take care of these.

He is continuing to address the Onondaga County Health Department requirement that we install a backflow valve.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: We recognized graduates on June 28, 2026. We had four graduates. Jeffrey Clark, Devin DeForest, Sarah O'Neill and Natalie Pidkaminy. Cards and small gifts were presented. A reception was held after the service.

Elder Jeannine Parks is working on cleaning out and organizing the Sunday school room. She will also work on the nursery.

MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: It was noted that work on the membership directory is continuing. Cards are continuing to be put out during weekly worship services and sent to those in need of prayer.

Elders Valerie Warfield and Leslie DuMond are working with representatives of First United to prepare for the joint picnic to be held on August 22. A sign-up sheet for donation of food items is in the Narthex.

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

St. Matthews Food Pantry – For July, we collected paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins) and salt and pepper. The items collected were as follows: 92 rolls of toilet paper, 31 rolls of paper towels, 1970 napkins, 2 boxes of tissues, 15 containers of salt, and 17 containers of pepper. They were dedicated during our service on July 26, 2026. We also collected two boxes and two bags of miscellaneous items as well as 37 egg cartons.

For August, we will collect cake and brownie mixes.

S.A.M. (Senior Adult Ministry) – We collected \$625 in donations to help support the S.A.M. program which is held every Tuesday and Thursday at the North Manlius Church.

School Supplies – Once again, in August, we will be collecting school supplies to be provided to children in need attending Woodland Elementary School and Pine Grove Middle School. A box has been placed in the Narthex for collection of the donations. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 30, 2026.

Brown Memorial UMC – Elder Leslie DuMond reported we will be serving a picnic meal at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 9.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

We will be submitting an application for the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Food Supplemental Grant. Pastor Eric noted he could assist with that.

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS: Elder Connie Oliver reported meetings are being scheduled to complete work on the congregational surveys.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported we are continuing efforts to raise funds through the use of our kitchen. A food truck fundraiser and classic car cruise-in will be held on Sunday, August 2. Happy Eating Grounds will provide food for sale with proceeds benefiting CUC.

WORSHIP: Elder Judith Parker submitted a written report as follows:

On July 5, since it was a holiday weekend we had arranged in advance to have a joint service at First United Church of East Syracuse at 9:30 a.m. On July 12, communion was served to 21 by Elders Valerie Warfield and Judi Parker. On July 26, Pastor Eric was unable to be in the pulpit because he took a short notice vacation. Elders Judith Parker and Connie Oliver led the service. In place of a sermon there was a time of sharing our stories and testimonies with 28 in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS: Diaper changing stations have been ordered and received. They need to be installed in the upstairs and downstairs ladies' rooms. Elder Douglas Kliphon will work with Elder Judith Parker concerning installation.

A Panera Bread fundraising event took place at the Dewitt location on July 21 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. We raised \$112.82.

Elder Pamela Laroche reported the commercial kitchen refrigerator required extensive repairs/compressor replacement. It was determined that replacement of the compressor again on a 35 - year-old unit was not recommended. Pam and Gill Laroche researched the matter and a new commercial refrigerator was purchased from Gerharz Equipment. Elder Douglas Kliphon disposed of the old unit.

Elder Pamela Laroche discussed certain issues that arose concerning help during the reception after a recent funeral. Minimal help was available due to the last-minute scheduling of the funeral and the holiday weekend. Elder Merle Oswald also addressed concerns expressed by attendees related to the uncomfortable temperature in the sanctuary during the funeral on an extremely hot afternoon. Elder Douglas Kliphon will look into getting more fans to be used in the sanctuary.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported the contract with the Onondaga County Cooperative Extension is due for renewal. The new term would be July 12, 2026 – July 12, 2027. There will be no change to the terms. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Pamela Laroche to approve and sign the updated contract.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

Elder Leslie DuMond reported that the 4-H Program used the fellowship hall to hold its summer camp program on July 28 due to inclement weather.

The CCE Onondaga Food Preservationists program will be holding a Food Connections Workshop and has asked to use the fellowship hall and kitchen on Wednesday, October 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They will pay the contracted rates for use of our facilities.

Elder Leslie DuMond reported the rummage sale will take place on September 18 – 19. Dave Vollmer has authorized use of the greenhouse – again. We will be able to access the greenhouse by September 1.

Elder Connie Oliver reported she and Victor Oliver have distributed posters advertising the Cruise-In throughout the neighborhood. Approximately 200 flyers have been distributed in the community.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be September 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Church Secretary/Notary Services



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

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net.

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. – 3 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.

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS DONATION BOX



Please drop off your clothes and shoes donations in the yellow box located at Vollmer Farms. CUC will benefit from those donations.



<http://www.radafundraising.com> select Support New Fundraiser, enter Collamer United Church

Fellowship Hall Rental

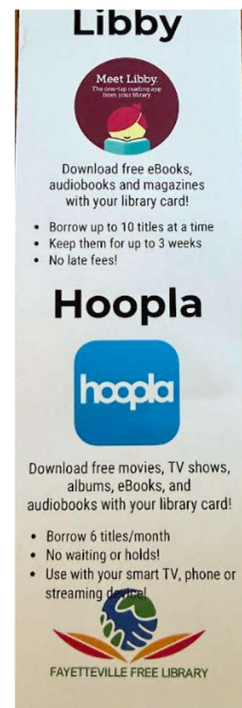


Our church fellowship hall is available for rent for special occasions and meetings. Maximum capacity is 140, with seating for 110. The kitchen is also available for rent and qualifies as a Commissary Kitchen for the Onondaga County Health Department. Please contact the church office for information.



The deadline for any items for the next Circuit Rider is October 26, 2026. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting this deadline. We are accepting donations for postage for the monthly newsletter. Any donations will be appreciated.

Fayetteville Free Library



Bottles & Cans



We have an arrangement with ESM Bottle Return, located on Arterial Road in Lyncourt. 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 of the church.



POINSETTIAS

The cost of each plant is \$8.00

Sorry! -but we must insist on **CASH** (and we won't be able to make change)

DEADLINE DATE IS NOV.8

please give completed forms to Leslie

PLANT GIVEN BY: _____

PLANT GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLANT GIVEN IN HONOR OF: _____

"FOODLESS DINNER" **OCTOBER 24, 2026**



We have scheduling conflicts for the October 24th dinner. So, instead, please join us in attending a "Foodless Dinner" at Collamer United Church on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

It's so easy ...

*no planning ~ shopping ~ setting-up ~ cooking ~
serving ~ dish washing ~ or clean-up involved ~*

All you need to do is write a check to CUC for the amount you normally spend to come to one of our chicken & biscuit dinners (suggested amount \$15 per person). You don't even need to leave your home!

Please write "Foodless Dinner" in the memo portion of your check and either bring it or mail it to church by October 24th. The money will be used toward the operating expenses of CUC.

Thank you for your support!!!



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



Chicken & Biscuit Dinner



Saturday, October 3, 2026 – Drive-Thru Only

@ COLLAMER UNITED CHURCH

6865 FLY ROAD IN COLLAMER (463-4939)

Serving will start at 4:30 P.M.

(Collamer Church is known for its great cooks!)

***This delightful, home style chicken and biscuit dinner will include
mashed potatoes, gravy, freshly cooked vegetables, and delicious desserts.***

Tickets may be purchased upon arrival:

\$15.00 for ALL Adults; \$6.00 for Children 10 and under.

Sorry - we cannot accept credit cards.