

# Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

## February 2026



Sun. 01 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -  
Communion -  
Worship Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Mon. 02 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.

Tues. 03 Blood Drive - First United Church

Fri. 06 Arise -EFR 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sun. 08 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m.  
Joint Worship Committee Meeting 12:00-  
noon FUCOES

Mon. 09 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.

Wed. 11 Senior Luncheon - Bridgeport UMC  
- 11:15 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Fri. 13 Arise -EFR 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Sat. 14 Valentine's Day**

Sun. 15 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m.  
Chili Cook-Off - CUC 2:00 p.m.

Mon. 16 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.

Tues. 17 Master Gardeners  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Wed. 18 Ash Wednesday**  
*Imposition of ashes - CUC - noon*  
*Worship Service and Meal - FUCOES*  
*Soup Dinner 5:30 p.m.*  
*Worship Service 6:30 p.m.*

Fri. 20 Arise -EFR 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sun. 22 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m.

Wed. 25 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.

Fri. 27 Arise -EFR 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Linda Oswald – upcoming surgery - at home, 8701  
Knowledge Lane, Apt 116, Cicero, NY 13039 –  
SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!

Helen Fischer – 105 Laurel Lane, Sayre, PA 18840-  
9194

Carol Burleigh – 165 Forest Laki Drive, Cocoa, FL  
32926

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 –

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

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

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

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

Lorraine Vollmer – 6564 Collamer Road, East  
Syracuse, NY 13057

Rev. Steve Deckard – 16353 Wallingford Ave N,  
Shoreline WA 98133

Megan Wilbur - **SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!**  
1500 Whispering Hills Road, Loris SC 29569

Larry and Louise Claflin – 2001 Tweed Court,  
Leesburg, FL 34788

Grace Brignall -7220 E. Genesee St., Apt. 225,  
Fayetteville, NY 13066.

Gill Laroche - upcoming knee replacement surgery –  
6660 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

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



Greetings and Grace to you, beloved children of God!

If you're still around this area, you know it's cold, to say the least.

For that reason, I've always laughed at Valentine's Day being this time of year:

Even more gifts 6 weeks after Christmas.

In the middle of the coldest part of the year.

Also, in the middle of flu season.

So, we're trying to love on our partner while we're broke; freezing; and hacking up a lung.

There's a reason why Valentine's Day is such a classic setup for sitcom episodes: characters running everywhere trying to make sure everything is right, just like we're running around in real life!

We feel like we're in a romantic comedy with how much we have to do...

...which is even funnier, because this year we have Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Mardi Gras on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>!

So, we're going from romance, to partying, to solemn repentance.

If that's not the full range of human emotion in one week, I don't know what is. Especially depending on how we feel about each day: we may feel closer to repentance than celebration, or closer to celebration or repentance, depending on where we are in life.

God asks us to embrace it all.

To remember, no matter what we're doing, that God is with us forever and ever.

Whether we're loving, or celebrating, or repenting, God walks with us.

Whether we're exhausted or energetic, God walks with us.

Whether we're single or married for decades, God walks with us.

And so, during this chaotic season, let us remember that God loves us, even in our shortcomings and sins.

That we always have the chance to commune with God on our faith journey.

Let us commemorate that by saying together: hallelujah, hallelujah, and amen.

~ Pastor Eric



02 - Emeline McShane

05 - Savanna Colabufo

12 - Pam Laroche

19 - Debbie Lanty

23 - Linda Oswald

25 - Connie Oliver

26 - Michael Breclaw

## Lenten Special Dates

Please note the following on your February, March, and April calendars. Lent is a special season!



**FEBRUARY 18:** Ash Wednesday

Imposition of ashes – CUC – noon

FUCOES - Soup, bread & fruit dinner at 5:30 pm

Service at 6:30 p.m.

**APRIL 2:** Maundy Thursday @ CUC

Soup Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Service at 6:30 p.m.

**APRIL 3** Good Friday - FUCOES will be open from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for prayer time (no service)

**APRIL 5:** Easter

"Son"rise Service at CUC – 7:00 a.m.

8:45 a.m. service at CUC

10:30 a.m. service at FUCOES

## Lenten Bible Study

During Lent, we will be studying the book *Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar. The six-week study will start Sunday, February 22, at noon at CUC. We will then alternate with FUCOES for the remainder of the study and will conclude March 29. Lunch will be served. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate in this study.

## January 2026 Worship Report



*Image used for 1/14 message title*

We've shared common experiences of an active winter, January thaw then the big winter storm, while striving to conserve water in our homes until OCWA workers completed the repair just up Northern Boulevard a bit. We finalized another Christmas season with Epiphany then studied Jesus' baptism and heard two more messages. Communion was served by intinction to 23 on January 4.

January's messages included "The Greatest Gift", "The First Step", "Listen Up", & "Knit Together". Pastor Eric explored passages in Matthew, Isaiah and 1 Corinthians. We celebrated Epiphany January 4 and Jesus' baptism on the 11th. The choir got a bit smaller as Janet and Judy headed to warmer climates for several months. Karen and I sang (unintended) duets two Sundays — it is a joy to sing alongside her!

Many thanks to the crew that transformed the sanctuary before the January 11 service. A storm hit the morning scheduled for the Christmas packing up to happen, but they are a flexible group and still got their mission accomplished! As the "big storm" was beginning to rage on Sunday the 25th, Christie's postlude of "Let It Snow" lightened the mood and brought joy. What a treat to have her wonderful music!

Can you believe I have been writing these monthly reports for 9 years? Judi Parker is excited to take over leading the Worship Team beginning in February. *Thank you each and every one* for the love and support all this time, and for making this a wonderful community of faith to be a part of.

Respectfully submitted,  
~ Connie Oliver

Editor's Note: Thank you, Connie for all of your hard work leading the Worship Team over the past 9 years! Also, for serving on the seemingly never-ending but successful search for a new pastor! We greatly appreciate everything you have done!

**WELCOME**

**NEW**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS**

The following individuals have been appointed to serve on the Collamer United Church Board of Elders for 2026:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Georgia Clifford | Technology and Media    |
| Leslie DuMond    | Stewardship & Finance   |
| Gill Laroche     | Building and Grounds    |
| Pamela Laroche   | Treasurer               |
| Conne Oliver     | Pastor/Parish Relations |
| Judi Parker      | Worship                 |
| Merle Oswald     | Missions                |
| Jeannine Parks   | Christian Education     |
| Valerie Warfield | Membership/Evangelism   |



### Chili Cook-Off Showdown!

#### Two Churches, One Fiery Competition! 🔥

Get ready for an exciting and delicious event—it's time for a friendly chili cook-off between Collamer United Church and First United Church of East Syracuse!

**When?** Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>      Time: 2:00 p.m.  
**Where?** Collamer United Church, 6865 Fly Rd., East Syracuse

Sample a variety of homemade chili recipes from both churches! Bring your family and friends to taste and vote! Vote for your favorite from each church and then help crown the Chili Champion!

Don't miss out on this fun-filled day of food and fellowship. Together, let's see which church will be the Chili Champion!

Interested in entering your own chili? Contact your church office for details.



*by Merle Oswald*



The hat and mitten tree has been set up in the Narthex. We are collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to be provided to the Rescue Mission. We have had a great response so far! Thank you!

## **“Soup”er Bowl Sunday**



**Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 8, 2026. During 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!**

Each month in 2026, we will collect specific items for St. Matthew’s Food Pantry. A list for the upcoming year will be posted in the March Circuit Rider.

You are welcome to donate other non-perishable food items as well. We continue to collect cardboard egg cartons. Please note that the food pantry can only use cartons holding a dozen eggs.

## **February 2026 Mission**



**February is American Heart Month, a nationwide effort to raise awareness that cardiovascular disease is the #1 killer of women, with the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women Campaign leading the charge through events like National Wear Red Day (first Friday in February) to encourage women to know their risks, live heart healthy, and speak up about symptoms, as women often experience different heart attack signs than men. During February, we will collect monetary donations for the American Heart Association.**

## **January Monthly Senior Luncheon at Bridgeport UMC**



Another enjoyable Young at Heart Luncheon was held at Bridgeport UMC on Wednesday, January 12. There was a great turnout of approximately 35 people. Attending from CUC were Ginnie and Ed Busco, Valerie Warfield, Pastor Eric, Judi Parker, Leslie DuMond, Pat Pease, and Merle Oswald.

Shirley Pease welcomed the group. She led us in some activities; an Epiphany quiz and word search and a question-and-answer quiz designed for us to get to know one another. As usual, gifts were presented to the winners!

The theme was Collamer Day! Pastor Eric read a prayer and devotional from Deuteronomy 15:7-11. He talked about Martin Luther King, Jr. and what he stood for and how this relates to the bible passage. Merle Oswald made a presentation on our CUC mission projects in 2025 and Judi Parker assisted with a slide presentation.

We all enjoyed a delicious meal of lasagna, garden salad, Italian bread and pudding and mini cupcakes for dessert! A good time was had by all!

The next luncheon will take place on February 11. We hope to see you there!

~Submitted by Leslie DuMond





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 7, 2026, CUC BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on January 7, 2026, at 6:05 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge.

**MINUTES:** A motion was properly made by Elder Emeline McShane and seconded by Elder Judith Parker to approve the regular Session minutes of December 7, 2025. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Elder Pamela Laroche presented the financial reports of the church for the month of November 2025. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Jeannine Parks to accept the Treasurer's Reports November 2025. Motion passed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Rev. Adamcik noted he was on vacation December 25 through January 3.

Rev. Adamcik reported he will be doing another online program about preaching. This will meet on Thursday evenings in February. He is also planning to attend an Emerging Leaders Cohort that will gather March 22-25, 2026, in Lake Tahoe. This is presented by Auburn Union Seminary. There should be no expenses associated with this training.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** It was noted that Elders Gill and Pam Laroche set up the outdoor nativity on December 4. It will be taken down soon.

The new water meter was installed on December 16.

The heat in the Narthex was not working properly. On December 23, 2025, Cooney Heating and Air Conditioning came and noted several issues. Temporary repairs to the system were made. The boiler system is old and in poor condition. Gill Laroche will investigate the possibility of replacing the boiler and the possible installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary.

Shawn and Jaden Ellis mopped the kitchen and fellowship hall floors. Ginie Busco is continuing to do weekly cleaning. Dave Vollmer has plowed the parking lot as needed.

Efforts to discuss with Gerharz Equipment concerning possible replacement of the stove are continuing.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Elder Jeannine Parks reported the Advent Bible study wrapped up on December 21. We used the devotional "The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God during Advent and

## -Board Minutes Continued -

Christmas. We alternated between churches for the four sessions. It was well received.

**MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM:** Elder Emeline McShane reported that cards/calls/visits are continuing. We are now placing cards on the podium in the Narthex each Sunday to be signed by the congregation and sent to various individuals.

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

**St. Matthews Food Pantry** - During December, we collected 106 cans of various meats for St. Matthew's Food Pantry, including tuna, Beefaroni, spaghetti with meatballs, Vienna sausage, spam, ham, chicken breast, chili, pasta rings with meat balls, corned beef and breakfast sausage hash, raviolis, and chili beans. They were dedicated by Elder Bill Porter on December 28, 2025. They were delivered by Wayne Brignall along with other donated items.

**Christmas Gifts** - We collected gifts for families of two children attending the East Syracuse-Minoa schools. Each child received five gifts and gift cards were provided for the parents/guardians. The gifts were picked up by the school counselor on December 16.

**Cookies** - We also packaged cookies for 10 people/groups including our homebound, the mail carrier and Al-Anon on December 14, Mission Sunday. Thanks to all who purchased and wrapped gifts and made and packed cookies!

**Hat & Mitten Tree** - The hat and mitten tree has been set up in the Narthex. We are collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to be provided to the Rescue Mission.

**"Soup"er Bowl Sunday** - Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 8, 2026. During 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.

**Benevolent Care Grant** - We received the \$500 Benevolent Care Grant from the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse.

**PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS:** Elder Judith Parker reported that the PPRC has made recommendations concerning wage increases for Rev. Adamcik, Secretary Leslie DuMond and organist Christy Knowlton. Rev. Adamcik and

**-Board Minutes Continued -**

**-Board Minutes Continued –**

Elder Leslie DuMond were excused from this portion of the meeting. Discussion took place concerning the performance of the paid staff and the increases proposed by the PPRC. After discussion, motion was made by Elder Judith Parker and seconded by Elder Emeline McShane to approve the wage increases. Motion passed

**STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE:** Elder Leslie DuMond reported the Stewardship Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, to prepare the proposed budget for 2026.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Elder Judith Parker reported the Facebook page and website continue to be updated on a regular basis. Joe Hudgins has joined the committee and will likely work on the website. Research was done on getting a website manager to improve the site.

**WORSHIP:** Elder Connie Oliver submitted a written report as follows:

- December 7:
  - Communion - 28 were served communion by intinction, including one in the pew; Karen Brignall and Connie Oliver were communion stewards.
- December 14 (Mission Sunday) - during the service, the gifts to our ESM families were dedicated.
- 4th Sunday of Advent wrapped up December 21, 2025. Joe Hudgins and Amy Caldeira are our newest volunteers. Thank you!
- Christmas Eve service 7 pm was well attended. FUCOES choir members joined CUC voices. Christy's 2 daughters sang. Many people stepped up to handle various tasks (acolyte, reader(s), Advent wreath, hand out candles, turn out lights before Silent Night candle lighting, etc.)
- Elder Bill Porter and Andrea Scerbo filled in at 9:30 service on December 28. Kara Zimmerman accompanied Andrea on her violin, which was well received. Canned meat items for East Syracuse food pantry were dedicated.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026. This is being announced from the pulpit every Sunday, starting on January 4. Committee reports are due no later than January 11.

Our first Holiday Craft Sale and Baked Ziti Lunch/Dinner took place on Saturday, December 6, in the Fellowship Hall. It was a very successful event.

Connie Oliver noted that she worked with the sign manufacturer in New Hampshire and our electronic sign is functioning properly again.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Arise-Exceptional Family Resources will be utilizing the Fellowship Hall for the Funtastic Friday's program during January and February.

Andy Smith, Mutt Dog BBQ, is back and will be using the kitchen during the weeks of January 5 and 12 to make BBQ sauce.

Elder Connie Oliver submitted the following proposed communion dates for 2026: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6. Motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Judith Parker to approve the 2026 communion dates, with the exception of July 5 and September 6 which are subject to change. Motion passed.

The next meeting will take place on January 21, 2026, for the purpose of reviewing and approving the Annual Report. Opening Prayer to be given by: Elder Merle Oswald. Closing Prayer to be given by Rev. Adamcik. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on February 25, 2026.



Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| April 11          | Chicken & Biscuit Dinner                       |
| May 9             | Chicken & Biscuit Dinner                       |
| September 18 – 19 | Rummage Sale                                   |
| October 3         | Chicken & Biscuit Dinner                       |
| October 24        | Chicken & Biscuit Dinner                       |
| December 5        | Holiday Craft Sale and Baked Ziti Lunch/Dinner |

Stay tuned for more details!



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is February 24, 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.

## PLANET AID DONATION BOX



### Reminder:

CUC benefits from donations placed in the Planet Aid box located at Vollmer Farms. Please drop off your donations to benefit our 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. Please contact the church office for information.



### Reminder:

First United Church of East Syracuse hosts a blood drive the first Tuesday of every month, from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

## Bottles & Cans



We have an arrangement with ESM Bottle Return. They have recently moved to 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.



<http://www.radafundraising.com>.

select Support New Fundraiser, enter Collamer United Church



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.

## 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

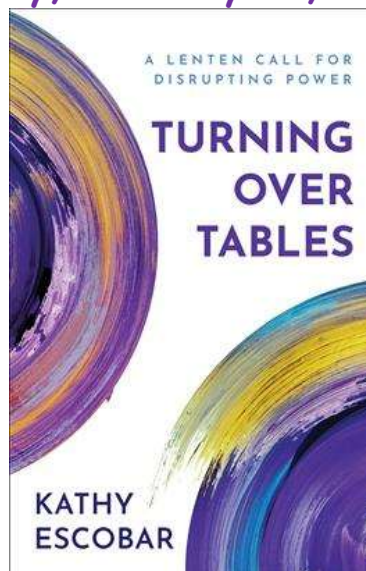
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**Lenten Bible Study**  
**Starting Sunday, February 22, at noon, at CUC**



**Please see details in this newsletter.**