

Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

December 2025



Mon. 01 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
 Tues. 02 Blood Drive - First United Church
 Wed. 03 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.
 Fri. 05 Prep day for Holiday Craft Sale and
 Baked Ziti lunch/dinner
 Sat. 06 Holiday Craft Sale and
 Baked Ziti lunch/dinner -
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Sun. 07 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -
 Communion
 Mon. 08 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
 Wed. 10 Senior Luncheon - Bridgeport UMC
 - 11:15 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
 Sat.13 First United Christmas Shoppe -
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Sun. 14 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -
 Mission Sunday
 Mon. 15 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
 Tues. 16 Master Gardeners
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Wed. 17 Blue Christmas/Longest Night
 Service 7:00 p.m. - First United
 Sat. 20 First United Cookie Walk
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Sun. 21 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.
 Mon. 22 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
 Wed. 24 Christmas Eve - Joint Worship
 Service - CUC - 7:00 p.m.
 Thurs. 25 Christmas Day
 Sun. 28 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.
 Wed. 31 New Year's Eve



Linda Oswald – upcoming surgery - at home, 8701
 Knowledge Lane, Apt 116, Cicero, NY 13039 –
 SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 Helen Fischer – 139 Dormar Drive, North Syracuse,
 NY 13212 – We 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.
 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 – SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 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 - 1500 Whispering Hills Road, Loris,
 SC 29569
 Diane Stevenson – St. Camillus, 813 Fay Road,
 Room 206, Syracuse, NY 13219
 Larry and Louise Claflin – 2001 Tweed Court,
 Leesburg, FL 34788
 Grace Brignall -7220 E. Genesee St., Apt. 225,
 Fayetteville, NY 13066.

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



Daylight Savings is... rough, to say the least.

It's entirely possible we might go to work in the dark, and go home in the dark.

We can't help but feel drained in that moment. And that's before the holidays swoop in, with their end of year reviews and gifts and preparing for company.

It's just hard to do the holidays, and the cold and dark make it that much harder!

But what if.... the darkness is actually a gift?

What if God is giving us this darkness as a way to minimize our distractions?

What if the darkness can be used to block out distractions, and focus on what really matters?

Sure, we might stay in our homes with the heat cranked up. But that time can also be used to read, to meditate on God's Word, to reflect on the promises we make to God and to ourselves.

To filter out the noise that comes with a late sunset, and use that silence to rest and truly be in touch with God.

So, as we say goodbye to 2025, and hello to a new Advent season, let us remember that darkness and cold can be a gift.

That while we're taught to fear darkness, it can also act as a warm blanket: comforting us with its predictability, as a familiar companion who reminds us that life goes on.

Let us embrace the darkness and cold, as prayerfully we stay in touch with our God this season.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, and amen.

~ Pastor Eric

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.



04 - Ginnie Busco

11 - Dan Christen

13 - Shawn Ellis

17 - Carol Turnbull

18 - Connie & Victor Oliver (A)

30 - Valerie Warfield

30 - Helen Fischer

31 - Jerome O'Neill

2026 PLEDGE CARDS



If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card to support our church's 2026 budget, please do so at your earlier convenience. This information is helpful as we prepare our budget. We will be starting the budget process in the next few weeks. Thank you for your support!

November 2025 Worship Report



"Now The Service Begins"
November 19 message title

Thanksgiving is just barely in the rear-view mirror and upon entering the beautifully decorated sanctuary November 30, the first Sunday of Advent was apparent. Communion was served by intinction to 31 on November 2.

A month full of special Sundays, we lifted up our loved ones in heaven on All Saints Day, honored our Veterans, along with Christ the King and the first Sunday of Advent. We were fortunate to have Andrea Scerbo fill in two Sundays when Christy was not available.

November's messages included "Say It Plain," "Now The Service Begins," "Abundance!" "Kingly" and "Stay Ready."

Pastor Eric explored passages from Habakkuk (a minor prophet), Joshua, Isaiah, Luke, and Matthew. From the Habakkuk passage, he reminded us that even in a spiritual wilderness or other dark time, God is coming, help is on the way! And that all will be held accountable and are called to do better. From his continuing education course, he shared about 'moral injury.' It is a term that originated while counseling Vietnam veterans, whose PTSD resulted in a "soul wound."

Thank you for lifting prayers, joys, and concerns for our church family, our community, our nation and around the world. See you in church!

Respectfully submitted,
~ Connie Oliver



Reminder:

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

Advent & Christmas Services



The following list of special December services was planned by the Joint Worship Teams of the Collamer United Church and the First United Church of East Syracuse (823 Franklin Park Drive, East Syracuse).

Please mark your calendars and join us!

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Longest Night/Blue Christmas Joint Service - the chapel @ First United of East Syracuse.

This will be a contemplative worship service that acknowledges feelings of sadness, grief, and loneliness during the holiday season. Unlike typical Christmas celebrations, this service provides a safe space for reflection, prayer, and quiet acknowledgment of hardship through scripture, song, and candle lighting.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Hosting Christmas Eve @ Collamer United Church, with combined church choirs.

Advent Bible Study



This year we will use *The Uncluttered Heart* by Beth Richardson. This is a 4-week study starting on Sunday, November 30 at noon. The first session will be held at First United Church of East Syracuse. We will then alternate between churches. The final session will be held at CUC on December 21. Lunch will be served.

This study focuses on the advent themes of hope, joy, peace, and love interweaving these with day-to-day life to prepare for this season and create a closer connection to God. There are daily readings of one page that highlight a quote, a scripture, a reflection, and a prayer. Encouraging readers to keep a word or phrase with them as part of their day to build their faith during Advent. We hope you will join us for this experience.

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Results



We had our second fall Chicken and Biscuit dinner on November 1st. The weather was perfect for "comfort food" and we sold 136 dinners via our drive-thru. Our profit was \$1,850.00. Thanks to those who donated towards expenses: Janet Krak, Pam Laroche, Judy McCallops, Wayne & Karen Brignall, Dave Vollmer, and Merle Oswald. Thanks to Robin Bartholomew and Scott Hudson of the 4-H Program who were a great help in the kitchen. Thanks also to Nolan and Raelynn Parker who helped with the drive thru. Again, thanks to Pam Laroche and her daughter, Monique Kocienski, who ran everything so smoothly.

On Friday, the workers were served hotdogs along with macaroni salad made by Ginnie Busco and baked beans brought by Judi Parker. Marie Czajak provided a delicious pumpkin dessert. Thanks to everyone! Hope to see you all on December 6th for our Baked Ziti lunch/dinner and Holiday Craft Sale!

~Submitted by Judi Parker

Holiday Craft Sale and Baked Ziti Lunch/Dinner

Saturday, December 6, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



The Collamer United Church will be having a Holiday Craft Sale along with a Baked Ziti lunch/dinner in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 6.

The Holiday Craft Sale will feature a variety of crafter's handmade goods including seasonal gifts, ornaments, knitted/crocheted items, jewelry, holiday, and home décor, some "new to you items," a bake sale, and a kid's table to keep them busy while you shop! Stay for our baked ziti lunch or bring it home for dinner!

The meal will include baked ziti, homemade meatballs, garden salad, Italian bread, and dessert. Eat-In or Take-Out.

November Monthly Senior Luncheon at Bridgeport UMC



Bridgeport United Methodist hosted their Thanksgiving themed senior ("Young at Heart") luncheon Wednesday, November 12, with 28 in attendance. Ginnie and Ed Busco and their friend Sue Bliss, Carol Burleigh, Merle Oswald, Judi Parker, Pat Pease, Val Warfield, and Leslie DuMond attended from CUC.

Diane Taylor told us that Pastor Omar was in Jamaica helping his family recover from the recent hurricane. It was noted that Bridgeport UMC is having a Holiday Flower bulb fundraiser.

Shirley Pease welcomed us, recognized the veterans present and thanked them for their service. Shirley read a devotional, "Gratitude Changes Everything," by Sharon James, and talked about giving thanks. We played a Thanksgiving trivia game and gifts were given to those with the most correct answers.

Shirley Pease blessed our lunch which consisted of a Thanksgiving feast, including turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, green beans, and dinner rolls. Homemade pumpkin pie was served for dessert. The usual beverages of water, hot tea, and coffee were also available.

After the meal, Judy Toner did a slide presentation of her recent mission trip to Honduras, sponsored by NY HELP Honduras. It was noted that Honduras is the second poorest country in the world and that the program is in need of funding.

The next senior luncheon is **Wednesday, December 10**. Ham, scalloped potatoes, and veggies will be served. We will have a sing-along with the Master's Touch Chorale and a holiday gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$5 and \$10. Please let Leslie know if you will be attending. She will RSVP on behalf of CUC. Come check it out! It's wonderful fellowship.

~Submitted by Leslie DuMond



by Merle Oswald

For November, we collected 65 boxes of stuffing mix for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. Due to a food shortage at the food pantry, they were delivered by Merle Oswald on November 10, 2025, earlier than usual. Thank you all.



Each month in 2025, we will collect specific items for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. The items we will be collecting are as follows:

December – Canned Meat



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.



In memory of Valerie Warfield's mom, Jean Warfield, we collected the following items for Mercy House: 5 lbs. of ground coffee, 73 Garbage Bags (33 gallon with ties), 780 count plastic forks, knives, and Spoons, 6 large size liquid dish soap, and 50 individual snacks.



They were delivered to Mercy House by Valerie Warfield, Judi Parker, and Leslie DuMond on November 20.

December Missions



We will be collecting gifts for families of children attending the East Syracuse-Minoa schools. The lists of gifts are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The deadline for collection is December 15. The gifts should be placed under our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. They will be blessed by Pastor Eric on December 14.



We will also be preparing and packaging cookies for our shut-ins. December 14, is Mission Sunday. We will gather in the fellowship hall after the worship service to package cookies. Refreshments will be provided.



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 donated 67 stuffed animals to the Syracuse Crunch Hockey team for donation to local charities supporting the Central New York community. Most of them were left over from our rummage sale and the rest were donated by members. They were delivered by Pat Pease and Merle Oswald on November 19.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE October 29, 2025 CUC BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on October 29, 2025, at 6:05 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge.

GUEST PRESENTATION: Rev. Monica Styron, Chair, Social Justice Committee of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, introduced herself and was introduced to the Board members. She asked what members thought is breaking God's heart and discussion took place. She discussed the current situation where SNAP benefits will be withheld from those in need due to the government shutdown. She also discussed the needs of the various programs run by InterFaith Works. Rev. Styron was thanked for her presentation and excused from the meeting.

MINUTES: A motion was properly made by Elder Connie Oliver and seconded by Elder Merle Oswald to approve the regular Session minutes of September 24, 2025. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Adamcik reminded the Board that he will be on vacation November 24 – 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Rev. Adamcik noted that both churches will be holding All Saints Day remembrance services on the same day, November 2.

Rev. Adamcik reported he is taking an online continuing education class offered through Union Theological Seminary. This class on Moral Injury is about recognizing moral violations in our ministry, how to address them, and how to heal them. It's very helpful for the pastoral care part of his duties in particular. The best definition from Dr Jonathan Shay: "moral injury is: (a) A betrayal of what's 'right;' (b) either by a person of legitimate authority or oneself; and (c) in a high stakes situation." This course meets on Thursday evenings, from October 16 through November 6. He will be taking another online course offered by Union Seminary. That course is about preaching, and 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, presented by Auburn Seminary, a separate entity from Union.

Rev. Adamcik reported he volunteered to be commissioner to the Synod for the meeting to be held in Amsterdam, New York, on November 15. All expenses related to the meeting will be covered by the Presbytery. There will be a Presbytery meeting on November 19.

-Board Minutes Continued -

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Gill Laroche repacked the shed with the rummage sale supplies. He delivered bottles/cans and cleared up the account totaling \$55.00.

Ginnie Busco is continuing to do weekly cleaning. Gill Laroche set mouse traps in the office and a lone mouse was caught.

Gill Laroche and Vollmer's employee, Shawn, mowed the lawn. Gill and Pam Laroche cut back plants and ornamental grasses. The wind screen at the front entrance was installed.

Gill Laroche turned off gas to the stove and recapped the vent. The Jerome Fire Equipment inspection was conducted on October 23, 2025, and passed.

Discussions with Gerharz Equipment concerning possible replacement of the stove are continuing.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM: Elder Emeline McShane reported that cards/calls/visits are continuing. She distributed a copy of the draft Pictorial Membership Directory and asked that board members submit changes or comments. She also distributed the outreach list. It was noted that this list only includes information reported to the church office and that other outreach has taken place. It was suggested that on a weekly basis, a card for one person on the prayer list be placed in the Narthex to be signed by the congregation. Moving forward, if anyone places someone on the prayer list, we will request that they ask the person or family being added if they would like a pastoral visit. We need to ask them so then we can directly let the pastor know.

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

St. Matthews Food Pantry - For October, we collected 70 cans of pumpkin pie filling, 3 boxes of food, and 19 egg cartons for St. Matthew's Food Pantry. They were dedicated by Pastor Eric on October 26, 2025. They were delivered by Merle Oswald on October 27, 2025. For November, we will be collecting boxed stuffing mix.

Crop Walk - We are continuing to collect donations for the Crop Walk.

Adopt-A-Highway - On October 26, 2025, immediately following the worship service, 6 of us enjoyed a beautiful fall day by picking up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to the Thruway Bridge. Ginnie and Ed

-Board Minutes Continued –

Busco, Leslie DuMond, Merle Oswald, Connie Oliver, and Pat Pease collected 5 bags of trash along the way.

Mercy House – In memory of Valerie Warfield's mom, we are having a special mission to support Mercy House of the Southern Tier located in Endicott, New York. Mercy House is a community care shelter which provides a home and a supportive family to people with terminal illnesses who can no longer remain at home. During the period October 19 through November 16, 2026, we are collecting the following items which will be delivered to Mercy House: ground coffee, 33-gallon garbage bags (with ties), plastic forks, knives and spoons, large size liquid dish soap, and bulk snack boxes.

Honoring Veterans- We will recognize the veterans on Sunday, November 9, 2025.

Christmas Gifts - We will be collecting gifts for families of children attending the East Syracuse-Minoa schools. The lists of gifts will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The deadline for collection is December 15. The gifts should be placed under our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. They will be dedicated by Pastor Eric on December 14.

Benevolent Grant Fund – The application for this grant has been completed and will be submitted prior to the November 1 deadline.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: It was noted that a PPR meeting will take place on Monday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. Presbytery representative Rev. Kenneth Wonderland will attend.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported we are continuing efforts to rent the fellowship hall and kitchen. The pledge request letter will be sent next week. She will be on vacation from Monday, November 10, through Thursday, November 14.

TECHNOLOGY: Elder Judith Parker reported the Facebook page and website continue to be updated on a regular basis. We are advertising for crafters to rent tables at our upcoming Holiday Craft Sale.

WORSHIP: Elder Connie Oliver reported as follows:

- October 5:
 - Communion - 26 were served communion by intinction; Connie Oliver was communion steward (only 1 was needed for World Wide Communion Sunday).
- Choir resumed October 5.
- Combined Worship Committee meeting @FUCOES took place at noon on Sunday, October 5th. Plans were made

-Board Minutes Continued -

- for Advent (begins November 30), and other special dates (including Veterans Recognition on November 9).
- Andrea Scerbo will be filling in while Christy is away November 2 (All Saints Day) and 23 (Christ the King Sunday).
- Discussion took place concerning singing praise songs at the beginning of the service. This will be addressed with Christy Knowlton.

OLD BUSINESS: Rev. Adamcik and Leslie DuMond completed the required Sexual Harassment Training on October 16, 2025.

Arise-Exceptional Family Resources will use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen on Thursday, November 13, 2025, for a Friendsgiving event. This will include use of the stove. The Funtastic Friday's program has returned to its prior meeting place. They will, however, use the Fellowship Hall on November 21. During their last session in October, the group made cards thanking us for allowing them to use our space. They have been placed on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Since it does not appear that there will be any activity concerning replacement of the stove before the end of the year, it has been determined that the proposed Craft Sale and Baked Ziti dinner will be held on December 6. It will run from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The meal will include baked ziti, homemade meatballs, garden salad, Italian bread, and dessert. Eat-In or Take-Out. The cost will be \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10. We are seeking vendors to rent tables/ space to sell crafts.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion took place concerning passing around sign-up sheets for various events, etc. during the worship service. It was determined that we will no longer do this. People will be provided an opportunity to sign-up before and after the service.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be October 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The following meeting will take place on December 3.



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is December 29, 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.

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.



Children's Christmas Shop

Join us for this wonderful holiday tradition where children (Ages 5-12) can shop for very affordable gifts on their own (with help of friendly elves!) & then have them wrapped for free, ready to put under the tree!

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: First United Church of East Syracuse
823 Franklin Park Drive, East Syracuse

Refreshments are available for Parents & Guardians to enjoy while the kids are shopping!

Proceeds go to the First United Church of East Syracuse

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

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net

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.



Join us for the First United Church of East Syracuse's Annual

Cookie Walk

Let us do your holiday baking for you... Choose from a variety of your favorite homemade cookies & treats for your holiday enjoyment & entertaining!

\$8.00 / lb.

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2025
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: First United Church of East Syracuse
823 Franklin Park Drive, East Syracuse

Proceeds go to the First United Church of East Syracuse

Christmas

Birth of Jesus Word Search

N K H F O S H I N I N G Z I P
 C C I D R J G W T V R K M V P
 T Q H V A A K G A B R I E L W
 C W Q W M A N G E R S N S N L
 D X O L E Y P K L Z T G S M C
 O L J L H N R G I F T S I Q U
 I W O E E K I R S N G W A S W
 N T R G L M E J H C C Y H D I
 N U S N H S O K E G J E S U S
 K R R A T S X N P F E K N L E
 E F C A E Q S I H P Q N X S M
 E Z B P B U O G E A Y O V A E
 P L H V S Q Y H R M Q D R E N
 E F G L Q K G T D Q H Y B A B
 R D O G F O N O S I O R N M M

ANGEL
 BABY
 BETHLEHEM
 CENSUS
 DONKEY
 EAST
 FRANKINCENSE

GABRIEL
 GIFTS
 GOLD
 INNKEEPER
 JESUS
 JOSEPH
 KINGS

MAGI
 MANGER
 MARY
 MESSIAH
 MYRRH
 NIGHT
 SHEEP

SHEPHERDS
 SHINING
 SON OF GOD
 STABLE
 STAR
 STRAW
 WISE MEN



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



Holiday Craft Sale and Baked Ziti Lunch/Dinner
Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



The Collamer United Church will be having a Holiday Craft Sale along with a Baked Ziti lunch/dinner in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 6. The Holiday Craft Sale will feature a variety of crafter's handmade goods including seasonal gifts, ornaments, and more. The meal will include baked ziti, homemade meatballs, garden salad, Italian bread, and dessert. Eat-In or Take-Out. The cost will be \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10. All are welcome!