

# Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

## December 2022



*We are thrilled to have Rev. Lauren Swanson with us for the entire month of December!*

- Sun. 04 Morning Worship - Singing Communion*
- Mon. 05 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Tues. 06 Blood Drive - First United Church of E. Syracuse 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.*
- Sun. 11 Morning Worship*
- Mon. 12 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Wed. 14 Senior Luncheon - Bridgeport UMC - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*
- Sun. 18 Morning Worship*
- Mon. 19 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Wed. 21 Longest Night/Blue Christmas Joint Service - 7:00 p.m. - First United*
- Sat. 24 Christmas Eve Joint Service - 7:00 p.m. - First United*
- Sun. 25 Christmas Day Joint Worship Service - 9:00 a.m. - CUC*
- Mon. 26 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.*
- Wed. 28 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.*

*Please see the flyer on the last page concerning details of our Advent and Christmas Services.*



**John Oswald (and Merle too) – SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE-** 7832 Bull St., Bridgeport, NY 13030

**Linda Oswald** – at home, 5501 Legionaire Dr. Apt 206, Cicero, NY 13039 – **SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!**

**Shirley Soergel - SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE -** 100 Flume Road, Apt. 106, Manlius, NY 13104.

**Helen Fischer** - at home, 139 Dormar Drive, North Syracuse, NY 13212

**Jim Reese (and Carol too)** – at home 4809 Flower Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310

**Keith Brignall (and Grace too)** – at home - 5514 N. Manlius Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066

**Carol Burleigh** – at home - 102 Watertree Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057

**Annie Agrasto and family and friends** – Her husband, Andy, passed away on July 1. **SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!**

**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** – 19-year-old son of Dennis and Nicole Hill and grandson of Rev. Steve and Pam Deckard.

Diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma. At home – 7060 Cattleman’s Crossing Road, Cicero NY 13039

**Wayne Fellows** – (Carol Warner’s husband) – 102 Seitz Drive, Camillus, NY 13031

**Patti Monday** – Sedgwick Heights, 1100 James Street, Room 230, Syracuse, NY 13203

**Karen Brignall (and Wayne too)** –at home recovering from hip replacement surgery –

326 Highbridge Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066

**Joanne Tongue** –at home recovering from spinal surgery – 2 Sacketts Road, Central Square, NY 13036

**David Krak** – at home recuperating from heart procedures – 7894 Kirkville Road, Kirkville, NY 13082

**Emeline McShane and family** - 7626 Totman Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

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

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



### *Anxious Anticipation*

Advent is a season of expectation. It is much more than anticipating the giving and receiving of presents. It is remembering the expectations surrounding Jesus' birth, and anticipating his being born anew in our hearts. It is looking back to the time when the long-awaited Messiah became flesh and dwelt among us, and looking ahead to the time when we shall see him face to face. It is seeing the present as pregnant with possibility and feeling the excitement of the promise of the future.

It is a season that can produce a lot of anxiety. What parties should we attend? What will we bring? What events will we host? What preparations need to be made? For whom shall we buy gifts? What shall we get them? Will they like it? How much should we spend? Will snow be a factor?

This is a time for family. Expectations for our celebrations are high, and rarely live up to the Norman Rockwell images we have in our heads. We tend to overcomplicate the time with emphasis on material things that are not really so important. It should be a time of instruction, thoughtfulness, caring, and worship. It is a time to pull closer as God's family and to understand our place in the church and in God's world. It is a celebration of our connectedness with each other and with all of creation.

Can you imagine how anxiously Mary and Joseph must have awaited the birth of Jesus? They had accepted an unprecedented mission: rearing a child sired by the Holy Spirit. When Mary was near full term, they were called out of town by the census, forced to lodge in a stable to give birth surrounded by animals and shepherds, and then angels. Mary and Joseph answered their call under difficult circumstances, and celebrated the birth with some unlikely companions. This is a season of acceptance; a fitting tribute to one who came to serve the last, the least, and the lost.

Advent is a time to look at yourself. It is an opportunity to reflect on all the gifts that God has given you: your life and all its trimmings, your faith and all its comfort, your baptism and place in the church, your salvation and promise of eternity. It is important to remember that Christmas is not about the presents, but about the love and caring that is expressed. This love is the Spirit of the living Lord bursting out whenever it can to continue the mission begun long ago.

The Advent season culminates on Christmas Eve when we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. Then the Christmas season commences and celebration continues through to Epiphany. This is both a sacred remembrance and a joyful celebration. Don't let the busyness of holiday preparations keep you away from that which connects you to the true beauty and meaning of Advent and Christmas.



- 07 - Richard Way*
- 17 - Carol Turnbull*
- 18 - Connie & Victor Oliver (A)*
- 30 - Valerie Warfield*
- 30 - Helen Fischer*
- 31 - Jerome O'Neill*

### **Serenity Garden Update**



We will be placing another brick order in March. It is our plan to dedicate the new bricks on Mother's Day. Please place your order(s) at <https://4everbricks.com/donors/collamer>. If you need assistance, please reach out to Connie Oliver.

## November 2022 Worship Report



Some familiar faces were with us this month! What a joy to have such loving support, as we continue searching for our next pastor.

On November 6 we loved Elder Bill Porter's visit with his teddy bear friend, Austin, a prop for "This is What Friends Are For". We also honored our veterans that day. "Let It Shine" was his thanksgiving message preached November 20. Jaden helped him with a clam shell and 5 kernels of corn visual, remembering and thanking God for the cooperation between Indians and Pilgrims so many years ago, as a reminder to continue to be thankful every day. Jane Lorraine filled in on piano and organ while Christy had the day off.

Rev. Betty Morey spoke on "Standing Firm and Holding Fast" November 13th, and served communion by intinction to 27. She and Jeffrey feel like part of our CUC family.

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent - the sanctuary will be decorated, and Rev. Lauren Swanson will be with us for the next 8 Sundays. We will be joining with First United of East Syracuse for a "Longest Night" service on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m. in their chapel. They will also host a combined Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. on the 24th. CUC will host a combined service Christmas Day, which is on Sunday this year.

I'm looking for those interested in doing a brief reading and lighting a candle on the Advent wreath. Please see me if you are interested, thank you! Let us make this season of Advent special again this year as we look forward to His coming with "Anxious Anticipation". Hope to see you in church!

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Oliver

## Monthly Senior Luncheon



Bridgeport United Methodist Church sent an invitation for the first monthly senior luncheon that was held Wednesday, November 9 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in their fellowship hall. Judi Parker announced this inaugural event at the November 6th worship service.

Fran and Al Lurette, Merle Oswald, Judi Parker, Leslie DuMond, and Connie Oliver attended from CUC. Over 20 were fed — Pastor Omar Hall spoke, and offered a prayer over the meal. Diane Taylor shared about the calling she felt to try this new fellowship opportunity, and then we went around the room to give each person a moment to introduce ourselves, give some history of our time in the area, and share a thought of something we were thankful for. It was fun to hear the connections in the room, such as Merle mentioning she had been a scout leader, and another participant had been in her troop! It was nice to connect with friends from Bridgeport, and meet some new folks.

A tasty meal of pulled pork, tossed salad, applesauce, dessert, and beverages was provided, with a Love Offering opportunity. After the meal Diane mentioned a number of area charitable opportunities to see if we were interested. She had 6 shoeboxes to fill, for those who wished to participate in Operation Christmas Child, through the Samaritan's Purse organization.

The next senior luncheon will be held **Wednesday, December 14th**, and going forward, will occur the second Wednesday of each month. Come check it out! The fellowship is fun, a meal cooked by others is always yummy, and we can work together on some worthwhile charitable projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Oliver



by Merle Oswald



# VETERANS DAY



Our Mission for November was to recognize our veterans, both those who have served in the past and those who are currently serving. We collected names and information concerning veterans that our congregation and friends wished to recognize. On Sunday, November 6, 2022, we recognized the veterans with Victor Oliver reading each name and branch of service. After the service Janet Krak, Dave Vollmer, Pat Pease, Judy McCallops, Merle Oswald and Shawn and Jaden Ellis placed flags on graves of veterans in the Collamer Cemetery. Pat Pease said the following prayer over the graves:

*Dear Lord, today we honor our veterans, worthy men who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you bless them as we put a flag on their graves. In our Lord Jesus Christ name, Amen.*



## December Missions



This year we will be purchasing Christmas gifts for a large family with children attending local schools. We will also collect gifts for a college bound East Syracuse-Minoa high school student. The gift lists are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to purchase gifts and are unable to come to church to view the lists, please contact the church office. The deadline for collection of gifts is December 13, 2022.



We will also be preparing and packaging cookies for our shut-ins. December 18, 2022, is Mission Sunday. We will gather in the fellowship hall after the worship service to package the cookies.



Once again, we will be collecting hats and mittens to be donated to the Rescue Mission. We will also be collecting hats, mittens, scarfs, and socks for the Upstate Adult Medical Center which collects items for the underserved population. Please leave them under/on the tree in the Narthex. The deadline for collection is Mission Sunday, December 18, 2022.

If you would like to help with these missions' projects but cannot come to church, please let Merle know. She loves to shop!

### Adopt-A-Highway



On Sunday, October 30, following the worship service, several of our members and friends picked up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to the Thruway Bridge. We would like to thank the following individuals for participating in this project. Merle Oswald, Connie Oliver, Pat Pease and Devin DeForest, Jerome O'Neill, Ginnie and Ed Busco and Mike Breclaw. They filled 5 bags and found some strange things! We would like to thank Mike Breclaw for heading up this project!

### St. Matthews Food Pantry



We are continuing to collect donations of nonperishable food items to be delivered to St. Matthews Food Pantry. In November, we collected 6 boxes and one bag of food and 14 egg cartons. They were delivered to St. Matthews by Wayne Brignall.

### Chicken & Biscuit Dinner



The November 12, 2022 dinner rounded out this year's four dinners. Another profitable event . . . \$2,398.22. We served 170 guests. As always, all of the help and donations made this possible. John and Merle Oswald again paid for the majority of the groceries. Dave Vollmer gave the vegetables and Grace and Keith Brignall provided some additional groceries. Judi Parker and Leslie DuMond served lunch to the Friday work crew. That was topped off with desserts by Connie Oliver and Emeline McShane. Our friend Fritz out did himself and doubled his cash donation. We do truly appreciate everyone's efforts whether it was a donation of cash or goods of plain old hard work. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted by Karen Brignall



The following is a list of the scripture lessons and sermons to be presented during Advent should you wish to prepare yourselves in advance of the Sunday worship services or if you cannot attend.

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermons
December 4	Matthew 3:1-12 Isaiah 11:1-10	Igniting Ministries
December 11	Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Incendiary Servanthood
December 18	Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-25	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
December 21	Isaiah 35:1-10 Isaiah 60:1-6	The Most Wonderful Time?
December 24	Isaiah 9:2-7 John 1:1-18	The Time is Upon Us
December 25	Luke 2:1-7	A Whole New World



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is December 26, 2022. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting this deadline.



The Board did not meet until November 30. As such, the Minutes of the October meeting were not available at the time of publication. They will be included in the January edition.

### 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.



We continue to be in need of liturgists, ushers, and people to do general cleaning at the church. Please sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact the church office to volunteer.

Thanks!

Leslie DuMond

[CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net](mailto:CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net)

### Fellowship Hall Rental

### BOTTLES & CANS



The East Syracuse Bottle & Can Return, located in the Plaza next to the Thrifty Shopper in the Village of East Syracuse, provides 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.



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



*If you  
look for Me  
at Christmas*

you won't need a special star –  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations –  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.



But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart,  
you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you...



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



You are invited to join  
Collamer United Church and  
First United Church of East Syracuse for our



Sundays, November 27, 2022 through December 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.	Advent Worship Series ~ <i>Anxious Anticipation</i> ~ Rev. Lauren Swanson @ Collamer United Church
Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.	Longest Night/Blue Christmas Joint Service @ First United Church of East Syracuse Chapel
Saturday, December 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Joint Service @ First United Church of East Syracuse
Sunday, December 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Joint Service @ Collamer United Church

Collamer United Church, 6865 Fly Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057  
First United Church of East Syracuse, 823 Franklin Park Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057