

Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

January 2022



- Sat. 01 **Happy New Year!**
Sun. 02 Morning Worship - Tina Haines
Mon. 03 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 09 Morning Worship - Rev. Lauren Swanson
Communion
Mon. 10 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 16 Morning Worship - Rev. Lauren Swanson
Mon. 17 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 23 Morning Worship - Rev. Lauren Swanson
Mon. 24 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
Wed. 26 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.
Sun. 30 Morning Worship - Rev. Lauren Swanson
Annual Congregational Meeting
Mon. 31 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.



- 08 Mike Breclaw
08 Wayne Brignall
11 Tim Vollmer
18 Monique Laroche Kocienski
20 Keith Brignall
24 Dick Gilkey
26 Shirley Soergel
26 Jessica Vollmer



Ginny Hopkins – at home, 7851 State Route 298,
Apt. 305, Kirkville NY 13082

John Oswald – recuperating at home, 7832
Bull St., Bridgeport, NY 13030

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

Shirley Soergel - at home, The Oaks at Menorah
Park, Apt. 135, 18 Arbor Lane, Syracuse, NY 13214

Joan & Dexter Vosbury - at home

Muriel Spier - at Bishop Rehabilitation, 918 James
St., Rm. 256D, Syracuse, NY 13203

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

Louanne Smith Rudnick – Recovering from surgery,
7888 Myers Road, Kirkville, NY 13082

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

Andy and Annie Agrasto. Andy is at Roswell Park
Cancer Center in Buffalo

Marilyn Trendell – at home – 6829 Fly Road, East
Syracuse, NY 13057

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

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

The Family of Mickey Lorber - 7529 Meadow Wood
Dr., N. Syracuse, NY 13212– Mickey passed away on
December 28, 2021.

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

A Message From Rev. Swanson



We are excited to welcome Rev. Lauren Swanson back to the pulpit for the month of January and the first week in February. His message follows.

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

The Prophet here utters God's Word to a defeated people. The writing occurs during the time of Judah's decline when the Babylonian exile was imminent. It looked as though the Hebrew people were on the brink of extinction. The existence of Judah as a political entity was about to end. Into this environment Jeremiah speaks this word of hope.

Surely we can relate to a time such as this. The church is in decline all across our country. Latest polls show even the evangelical churches that had a brief turnaround in the last several years, are suffering decline. In fact, they are declining at a more rapid rate than the embattled mainline churches. The Northeast has led the way in church decline. We were the first states in the union, the first churches, the first revivals, and the first to decline. It seems the rest of the country has followed our lead. The plague of the last two years has contributed greatly to the challenges facing us. It is not an exaggeration to say, that if current trends continue, the existence of Christianity as we know it in this country, may be coming to an end.

But all around us are signs of hope. New ways of doing ministry are emerging. Many congregations have a newfound online community that is larger than their in-person worshipping congregation. We know the power of coming together in fellowship, prayer, learning and worship. The real question for our day is "How can we grow the faith and commitment of people we do not see face to face?"

- A Message from Rev. Swanson Continued -

It is not just a new year, it is a new era for the church. It is a comfort, then, to read the words of Jeremiah 29:11: *¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* God has a plan for us! God sees a future in which we play a major role. Our future may not look much like our past, but we are assured that we are in it together with God.

The Collamer United Church is not just in your hands - it is in God's hands, too. Come and worship this January, and see what the light of epiphany can reveal to you. It is a new day!

December 26, 2021

Sermon: "Being Good Children".

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52, Colossians 3:12-17

January 9, 2022

Epiphany celebrated, **Holy Communion**,

Sermon: "Not Just Any Star".

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-2

January 16, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Sermon: "Ascribing".

Scripture: Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 23, 2022

Sermon: "Fitting Together".

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

January 30, 2022

Sermon: "The Word Given Sense".

Scripture: 2 Tim 3:10-17, Neh 8:1-10

February 6, 2022

Holy Communion, Sermon: "Ministry is Messy".

Scripture: Psalm 71:1-6, Luke 4:21-30

Happy and Blessed New Year!

Lauren Swanson

Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation; a poignant, sudden, profound understanding of something.

Meaning of the Nativity



Simple definition of the word nativity refers to “the occasion of a person’s birth; the birth of Jesus Christ, and a picture/carving/ model representing Jesus’ birth.

Nativity scenes are a common sight at Christmas time, but what could seem like a simple decoration actually has a lot of spiritual lessons if you look hard enough. St. Francis of Assisi created [the first crèche in 1223](#), in an attempt to bring the focus of Christmas back to the birth of Christ and away from material, gift-giving customs.

United Methodist Jeanne Honeycutt has spent time researching the meaning behind variations in crèche displays. She and volunteers from [First United Methodist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn.](#) maintain a [permanent Nativity museum at their church](#), which showcases more than 400 crèches. Honeycutt shared her research with us and explained the symbols listed below.

Halos

The halo, or nimbus, has been used for centuries to denote deity. When appearing in Christian art, a halo symbolizes the light of God and a soul infused with God's spirit. The halo also signifies God's "glory," from the Greek word *doxa*, meaning the shining brilliance of God.

Jesus' outstretched arms

The Christ Child's outstretched arms reflect the invitation to salvation through him.

Stable

Most scholars believe that the stable referred to in the Gospels was most likely a cave built into the rocks behind, or adjacent to, the inn, which illustrates the divine truth that the Son of God came down to the very heart of the earth to dwell among humanity. Later, the cave would be revered as Christ's burial place, from which he would be resurrected.

Swaddling clothes

Swaddling clothes, as described in the New Testament, foretell Jesus' burial shroud.

The Virgin Mary's gown

The Virgin Mary often wears a gown of red, signifying lifeblood. Her mantle of blue represents the sky and heaven, conveying that she is the link between the human and the divine.

- Meaning of the Nativity Continued -

Hands over heart

At times, Mary is seen with hands clasped over her heart, alluding to St. Luke's account: "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2: 19)

Shepherds

The shepherds represent the common man. They also reference David, the shepherd who became king, and indicate Christ's ancestral lineage.

The Good Shepherd

Throughout the Old Testament, God is often referred to as a shepherd: "He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." (Isaiah 40: 11)

The Magi

The three wise men, or Magi, are often depicted as being three different ages — one young, one middle-aged, and one elderly — relating to the three stages of life.

Gifts of the Magi

The gifts the Magi bring to Christ also take on significance. Gold indicates Christ's kingship, incense symbolizes his divinity and myrrh foreshadows his death.

Nationalities of the Magi

The Magi are often portrayed as coming from three geographical and cultural areas — Asia, Africa and Europe — referring to the three known continents at the time.

The Magi's animals

The animals that carry the Magi to Bethlehem vary as well. You may see them riding a horse from Europe, a camel from Asia and an elephant from Africa.

The stable animals

The ox and ass illustrate that Christ is the king of all creation, both human and animal. The ox is believed to represent patience while the ass connotes humility.

The animals watch over Christ

The animals are often seen hovering over the Christ Child, as though to warm him with their breath.

Lambs

Having accompanied the shepherds, lambs are almost always present. The lamb symbolizes purity and points toward Jesus' sacrificial death upon the cross.

A rooster

The rooster is sometimes included as a symbol of vigilance and foreshadows the cock crowing three times on the night of Jesus' betrayal.

December 2021 Worship Report

Meaning of the Nativity Continued -

A dog

The dog is believed to embody faithfulness and loyalty.

Columns

The presence of Roman or Greek columns, often as ruins, depicts Christianity's triumph over the pagan world. Also illustrating Jesus' birth into both a Jewish and Hellenistic world, they reiterate the message that Christ came for all races and all cultures.

A well

The presence of a well signifies the purity of Jesus and references the waters of baptism.

Palm branches

Romans acknowledged the palm branch as a symbol of victory. In a nativity, palms represent the branches waved on Christ's entry into Jerusalem and foretells his triumph over the grave.

Contemporary figures

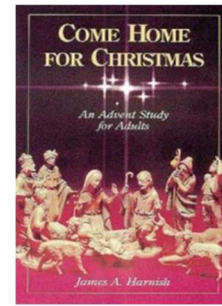
The inclusion of contemporary figures in native clothing helps Christians of different cultures to relate personally to the events of the Holy Night.

Farmers, bakers and candlestick makers

At times, figures representing common occupations are added to emphasize that Christ came for people from all walks of life.

Families with children can read the Christmas story as they set up the manger scene, adding each character one-by-one and taking time to reflect on each figure and the role it plays in the Nativity. Some people wait a week to add the Wise Men to their display to mark the time it would have taken for the Magi to travel to visit the Baby Jesus. Most churches celebrate the arrival of the Magi on Epiphany (January 6), the day immediately following the twelve days of Christmas.

Churches usually leave Nativity scenes on display until the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated a couple of weeks after Christmas.



The sanctuary was invitingly transformed with the Advent banner and wreath, candles in the windows, the Christmas tree, blue paraments and the beautiful handcrafted nativity set loaned each year by Lorraine Vollmer. As much as these traditions are comforting, even more important is our personal Advent journey. This year, Pastor Ed invited us to 'Come Home'. Each week we read scripture, shared a 'Come Home' litany, lit another candle in the Advent wreath, and, later on in the service, heard his message guiding us to focus our Advent season on where we are with welcoming baby Jesus. We celebrated Holy Communion by intinction on December 5.

Thanks to Elder Bill Porter offering to lead us, we were able to worship together at CUC on Christmas Eve! At least 35 were in attendance and it was a special time, indeed. It was especially wonderful to have a number of children with us that evening. During the Children's Moment, each of us was given a bow, and looked all festive and filled with joy wearing them, as Mr. Porter explained how *each of us* is a present. How I missed being able to gather in person a year ago..... singing 'Silent Night' as the candlelight grows throughout the sanctuary is profoundly touching to the soul.

Rev. Lauren Swanson returned to the pulpit December 26 and will be with us through the first Sunday in February, except January, when Tina Haines will be with us.

We are open every Sunday, weather depending - check 'Collamer United Church' on Facebook if you want to know if we had to cancel due to inclement weather.

Stay safe, please continue to pray for whomever God is calling to Collamer United and First United of East Syracuse, and hope to see you in church.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Oliver

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CUC BOARD MEETING

October 27, 2021

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on October 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. Elder Jessica Volmer opened the meeting with prayer and Elder Leslie DuMond served as Moderator.

A motion was properly made by Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver and seconded by Elder David Vollmer to approve the regular Session minutes of September 22, 2021, as amended.

Elder Pamela Laroche Laroche reviewed the financial reports of the church. A motion was made by Elder Jeannine Parks and seconded by Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver to accept the Treasurer's Reports for August and September 2021.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE: Elder David Vollmer reported that power will be run for the LED message board. Jerome O'Neill cleaned the gutters. Judd DuMond stabilized and painted the posts for the handicapped parking signs in the front parking lot. Three new handicapped parking signs were also installed to replace old faded signs. Gill Laroche reset the outside lights and changed batteries in clocks.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Elder Jeannine Parks reported there has been no regular attendance for Sunday school since the breakout of Covid-19. She recently reached out to the Kliphon family by speaking to Sheri Kliphon, the grandmother, concerning providing Christian education to the children and bringing them back to church. She also met Sheri Kliphon and her granddaughter at the recent Chicken & Biscuit dinner.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM: Elder Susan O'Neill reported that the committee phoned and sent cards and letters to shut-ins for birthdays and anniversaries. Rev. Veaudry's wife, Jeri, is in the process of transferring her membership to our church. We have contacted the Methodist Conference regarding the process we need to follow since we do not have an installed minister.

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

St. Matthews Food Pantry: We collected 2 boxes of food that were delivered to St. Matthews Food Pantry on October 5, 2021 by Elder Merle Oswald and Pat Pease.

Crop Walk: Jim Schuyler was the only representative of Collamer to actually do the walk during the Crop Walk. Thank's Jim! However, we did collect a total of \$343.

Adopt-A-Highway: The adopt a highway clean-up project took place on October 17, 2021 after the worship service. Seven hearty souls, Jerome and Susan O'Neill, Mike Breclaw, Dick Gilkey, Jim and Judy Schuyler, and Victor Oliver, picked up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

the Thruway Bridge. They filled 5 bags. We would like to thank Mike Breclaw for heading up this project!

Women's Opportunity Center: On October 21, 2021, Elder Merle Oswald and Pat Pease delivered to the Women's Opportunity Center in Liverpool several bags of women's professional clothing, jewelry, shoes and purses left over from our rummage sale. Those items will be valued by the organization and we will receive a receipt.

Collection of Gifts for School Children: Elder Merle Oswald contacted the Main Counselor of three local schools to request lists of families to receive Christmas gifts. She will provide the information during the week of November 7, 2021. Gifts will be due December 19 as the schools will be closing for the holiday on December 23, 2021.

Honoring Veterans: We will need donations of American flags to be placed on graves during our recognition of veterans on November 7.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported a Zoom interview of a potential candidate was conducted on October 20. We do not feel that this individual is the right fit for our churches. We have requested and received another match and contacted several more candidates. Again, several of these candidates did not fit the criteria and have not been contacted. Others are not available or not interested in the shared ministry position. We do have two potential candidates and plan to interview one on October 28, 2021. Please keep our committees in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported that the pledge request letter for 2022 was sent out on October 8, 2021. We have received some returned cards.

TECHNOLOGY: Discussion took place concerning installing a monitor or smart TV in the rear of the church sanctuary to allow the minister, liturgist, etc. to view the projections. It was determined that Elder Jessica Vollmer will look into the options. Elder Jessica Vollmer reported that projections during worship services are continuing.

WORSHIP: Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported as follows: October pulpit supply: Rev. Ed Veaudry. He will be with us through December 19. World Communion Sunday was October 3. Communion was served by intinction as well as offering the pre-packaged individual cups on October 3 - 23 were in attendance. Greg Hoover played special music during the service. A Worship Committee meeting was held on October 13 to address planning for Advent worship services. The choir resumed singing on October 17, 2021. There will be no ecumenical Thanksgiving service. We do not have a minister available to conduct a

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

worship service on Christmas Eve. We should consider attending services at First United Church of East Syracuse or Minoa Methodist Church.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board reviewed and approved a proposed policy required for compliance with the NY Hero Act.

Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported concerning installation of the LED message board. The company awaits delivery of the LED portion. In the meantime, they are working on the posts and other portions of the sign. Conduit was bored for the sign and to run electricity to the memorial garden. The hardscape work was completed on October 8, 2021. A work day for planting shrubs and plants will be scheduled.

Brief discussion took place concerning ordering memorial bricks in honor of deceased members of the church who have not already been remembered through the purchase of a brick.

Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported that the shade on the brass lamp on the piano needs to be adjusted.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported we received information concerning a Benevolent Care Grand Fund provided by the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse to assist in the care of elderly persons within the bounds of the Presbytery. The grant will be requested to help with meals for Brown Memorial Methodist Church and the Meals-On-Wheels program.

Discussion took place concerning the lack of volunteers to be ushers, liturgists and to do general church cleaning.

Elder Susan O'Neill suggested that we hold a surprise engagement reception for Janet Krak and Dick Gilkey following worship services on October 31, 2021. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Merle Oswald to approve the engagement reception. Motion passed.

Elder Leslie DuMond reported we received a call from a representative of Al-Anon. They are having financial issues due to a decrease in their membership since Covid. They have asked if we can reduce the rental fee from \$30 to \$15. A motion was made by Elder Merle Oswald and seconded by Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver to approve reduction of the rental fee as requested by Al-Anon. Motion passed.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be December 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM.



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.

Leslie DuMond

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net.



Just a reminder that I am a Notary Public. If you have the need for notary services, please contact me at the church office to schedule an appointment.

Leslie DuMond



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is January 26, 2022. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting this deadline. We are still transitioning our Circuit Rider to e-mail distribution. If you have not already done so, please provide your e-mail address to:

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net

Of course, we are happy to continue to mail it if you prefer.



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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CUC BOARD MEETING

December 1, 2021

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on December 1, 2021, at 6:02 p.m. in the lounge. Elder Leslie DuMond opened the meeting with prayer and served as Moderator.

A motion was properly made by Elder David Vollmer and seconded by Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver to approve the regular Session minutes of October 27, 2021, as amended.

Elder Pamela Laroche Laroche reviewed the financial reports of the church. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Susan O'Neill to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2021.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE: Elder David Vollmer reported that Gill Laroche reset the clock in the Sanctuary on November 8. Most of the work done in November revolved around the electrical needs of the LED Message Board and also providing electric power for the shed and memorial garden. He rented a trencher to bury the lines from the church to the sign and garden. With the help from Brandon, Shawn and Gill, most of the underground work was done in one day. Over the next few days, the ditch was filled and leveled and the wiring was completed indoors. The remaining wiring will be completed when the LED message board is installed and lighting is installed in the garden. He also reported that a tree was cut down behind the church and Gill Laroche handled the boiler inspection which passed.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM: Elder Susan O'Neill reported that the documentation required for the transfer of membership for Jeri Veaudry has been submitted to the Methodist Conference. An engagement reception for Janet Krak and Dick Gilkey was held on October 31. The committee continues to phone and send cards and letters to shut-ins for birthdays and anniversaries.

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

St. Matthews Food Pantry: We collected 5 boxes and one bag of food that were delivered to St. Matthews Food Pantry by Pat Pease.

Recognition of Veterans: On Sunday, November 7, 2021, we recognized the veterans with Pastor Ed reading each name, branch of service and era served. After the service Janet Krak, Dave Vollmer, Pat Pease, Jim and Judy Schuyler, Jeannine Parks and Merle Oswald placed flags on graves of veterans in the Collamer Cemetery. Jeannine Parks said a prayer over the graves.

Women's Opportunity Center: We received a receipt from the Woman's Opportunity Center valuing the items donated from our rummage sale at \$830.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

Collection of Gifts for School Children: We received information regarding gifts to be collected for two families. The first family has two boys. The second family has two boys and a girl. The gift wishes are listed on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The wrapped gifts are due Sunday, December 19.

Sunnyside Adult Home: We will also be purchasing gifts for ten people at the Sunnyside Adult Home. The gift wishes are included on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported the committees will be conducting a second Zoom interview of a potential candidate on Monday, December 6. We have sent the individual copies of recent newsletters and annual reports to help her learn more about our church. We are preparing a video that will be sent to her prior to the interview. Please keep our committees in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported the Stewardship Committee will be meeting on December 11, 2021 to work on the budget for 2022.

TECHNOLOGY: Elder Jessica Vollmer reported she has researched purchase of a large screen monitor to be mounted in the back of the sanctuary. The options are: (1) BJ's has an 82" Samsung with a 3-year warranty for \$1,399; and (2) Best Buy has an 82" LG for \$1,499 with unknown warranty. We will also need a wall mount for \$33 and a 75-foot HDMI cord for \$66. We will look into hiring an electrician to install the necessary outlet.

WORSHIP: Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported as follows: November pulpit supply: Rev. Ed Veaudry. He will be with us through December 19. Communion was served by intinction as well as offering the pre-packaged individual cups on November 7 - 27 were in attendance and on November 21 (Christ the King) - 28 were served. First United Church of East Syracuse has extended an invitation to their 7 pm Christmas Eve service. Rev. Janet Gleason, of Minoa United Methodist Church, welcomes us to their service, also at 7 pm. Bill Porter called after reading the Circuit Rider and offered to lead a Christmas Eve service for us. It was determined that we will hold the Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. A supplement to the Circuit Rider will be sent via e-mail to announce the service and it will be posted on Facebook and the website. Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver will look into having Christy Knowlton record music.

OLD BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported that Sexual Harassment Policy needs to be updated to reflect the appropriate contact person. This will be done once we have a PPRC chairperson.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

The Benevolent Care Grant Fund application was submitted to Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse prior to the November 1 deadline.

Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported concerning installation of the LED message board. The sign should arrive around December 7 and installation will then be scheduled.

Elder Connie Heidt-Oliver reported Aspinall's has planted a privacy fence of trees for the memorial garden. The committee met with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener to discuss the next phase of planting. We will be putting together an inventory of plants to be donated from gardens of members and friends of the church for planting in the Spring.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported an Upper New York Annual Conference Commission on Readiness Congregational Survey has been received. This is due December 15. We will reach out to the Methodist Conference for more information concerning the transition taking place within the Methodist Church.

It was noted that the Nominating Committee has been meeting under the leadership of Judy McCallops. Elder Leslie DuMond reported concerning the deadlines relating to the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on January 30, 2022.

Elder Susan O'Neill reported that the Membership Committee is asking that the congregation send Christmas cards to people on our prayer list. We will look into preparing a personalized Christmas card for the church for next year.

Gill Laroche discussed the deteriorating condition of the steeple. He distributed copies of drone pictures. He reported that the cost to repair the steeple is as much as the cost to replace it with no guarantee. Judy McCallops contacted Piedmont, the same company that provided the original steeple and obtained quotes for a new steeple very similar to the existing one. The cost is in excess of \$10,000 and includes a 20-year warranty. We also received an estimate for dismantling and removing the existing steeple and installing the new steeple. That estimate is also in excess of \$10,000. It was determined to schedule a special congregational meeting on December 19, 2021 to discuss replacement of the steeple and any other business that may come before the meeting.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be December 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.



Serenity Memorial Garden Update!



The 4' benches are back in stock!

The bench design is correctly depicted here, however the seat and back will be a red cedar color, complimenting the brick colors in the garden. Maintenance free, these benches are crafted from recycled milk jugs.

We plan to place the order by mid-January, with anticipated delivery in late April. Price is \$410, which includes shipping. An optional 8" x 2" brass plaque is an additional \$100. Connect with Connie regarding your order, or contact Leslie in the church office for assistance. Thank you!

LED SIGN UPDATE.

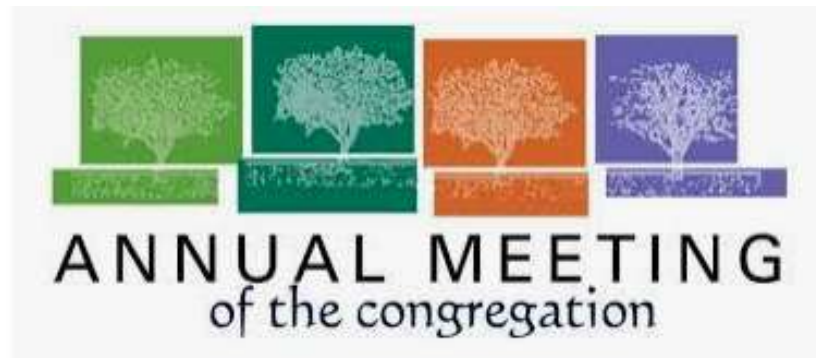


On Monday, December 20th, at long last the installation was begun! While we hoped to be functional before Christmas Eve, due to some shipping damage in several panels of the LED boards, we had to wait for the rest of the installation to happen on Monday, December 27th. After a bit of hasty training, a couple of messages are now scrolling by! We look forward to being a voice in the community, and are grateful this opportunity was able to come to fruition.

We would like **YOU** to be involved. Do you have a favorite scripture verse, clever saying, community outreach opportunity, etc. to broadcast on the sign? Please submit your ideas in the narthex.



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



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, immediately following the worship service. Rev. Lauren Swanson will moderate the meeting. The deadline for submission of reports for the meeting is January 9, 2022.