# Collamer United Church Circuit Rider
# November 2026

**Sun. 01 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. –**
**All Saints Recognition - Communion**
**Mon. 02 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
**Tues. 03 First United Blood Drive –**
**1:00 – 6:00 p.m.**
**Election Day**
**Fri. 06 4-H Achievement Day –**
**Fellowship Hall 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**
**Sat. 07 Adirondack Club – 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.**
**Sun. 08 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. –**
**Mon. 09 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
**Wed. 11 Bridgeport UMC Senior Luncheon –**
**11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
***Veteran's Day***
**Sat. 14 I Can Only Imagine Movie double feature – 1:00 p.m.**
**Sun. 15 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.**
**Mon. 16 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
**Tues.17 Master Gardeners**
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
**Wed.18 CUC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**
**Sun. 22 Worship Service 8:45 a.m. –**
**Christ The King Sunday**
**Mon. 23 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
**Thurs. 26 Thanksgiving**
**Sun. 29 Worship Service 8:45 a.m.**
**Advent Bible Study – FUCOES - Noon**
**Mon. 30 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**

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

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

# Pastor's Message

Historically, November is a time to be thankful.

To take stock of what's around us, and see where our gratitude is.

This is a great annual practice, to be sure; but it's also a great year-round practice.

Because we live in a world with a lot of anxiety: a lot of things that immediately demand our attention, people depending on us, tasks to check off our list.

That is especially true around Thanksgiving and the holidays, when those tasks ramp up: travel; cooking; hosting; gift giving.

This time of year is ostensibly about being grateful, but our human brains can't help but think of all the things we haven't done.

How ironic: for all the talk of gratitude around November, our to-do lists are designed to make us run away from gratitude:

Define ourselves more by what we don't have, than what we do have.

So, these next couple months, I encourage us to take stock of what we still have.

To cultivate that Attitude of Gratitude: that a little baby boy was born in Palestine, and can guide us in this life and the next towards our loving God.

That we are not defined by our To-Do Lists, but by the love God has for us, just because we are.

Let us remember that this holiday, and then make it a New Years' resolution as well.

Amen, and amen.

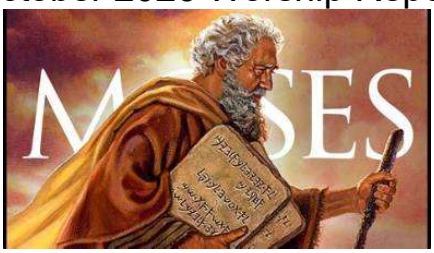
Pastor Eric

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

01 – Jack Oswald
10 – Doug Kliphon
18 – Karen Brignall
24 – Jim Schuyler
26 – Leslie DuMond
28 – Gloria Kyser
29 – Josh Kliphon

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1. Don't forget to turn your clocks back. You don't want to be early for church on All Saints Day!

# October 2026 Worship Report




October 4th was World Communion Sunday. Elders Jeannine Parks and Pat Pease served a variety of breads to 18 worshipers. Pastor Eric's sermon, "Into the Mixing Bowl," was especially fitting as Christians of many nationalities and ethnicities celebrated communion around the world—a mixing bowl of God's children. We are different and distinct, but not divided. We bring our varied talents and backgrounds to our Christian faith rather than leaving them behind. As Paul explained in Philippians 3:4–14, his Jewish heritage enriched his Christian faith. May we also add our talents to the mixing bowl and deepen our faith. The day was also Pastor Eric's birthday, which we celebrated with cake after the service.

On October 11, Pastor Eric's sermon, "Fair Point," reflected on Exodus 32:1–14. The passage shows that idolatry is not limited to worshiping foreign deities; it can also mean reshaping the true God to suit our desire for comfort, certainty, and control. Like the Israelites, who grew anxious and impatient when God seemed distant and made a golden calf, we may allow fear, complacency, or tradition to hinder spiritual growth and strain our relationships. Yet uncertainty need not be a threat—it can be an opportunity to trust God and do God's will. When Moses appealed to God, God listened and relented—a "fair point" that reminds us to be reasonable with one another. Even in uncertain times, God remains with us, helping us work through our fears with faith.

On October 18, Pastor Eric's sermon, "Mysterious Ways," reflected on Exodus 33:12–23, a conversation between Moses and God after the golden calf incident. Moses understood that restoring the broken covenant between God and the people depended on God's presence. Likewise, our church is bound by a covenant among the pastor, board, and congregation; when that covenant is strained or broken, we must seek God's guidance and healing. Moses asked for direction, God promised to be with him, and Moses boldly asked to see God's glory. God agreed to let His goodness pass before Moses but warned, "You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." God placed Moses in a cleft of a rock, covered him as His glory passed by, and then allowed Moses to see only His back. This extraordinary encounter

- Worship Report Continued -

reveals that much about God's ways and glory remains mysterious and beyond our understanding. Yet what we know of God's love and mercy is enough to sustain our journey.

On October 25, Pastor Eric concluded his sermon series on Moses with "Veneration," based on Deuteronomy 34:4–12. God showed Moses the Promised Land, though Moses would not enter it. Moses then died in Moab at age 120, still vigorous, and God buried him in an unknown valley. After Israel mourned for 30 days, Joshua succeeded him, filled with wisdom through Moses' laying on of hands. Moses is remembered as an unparalleled prophet who knew the Lord face-to-face and performed mighty deeds before all Israel. In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, we presented Pastor Eric with a card and gift as a token of our gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,
~ Judi Parker

# *Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Results*

Our fall dinner was held on October 3. It was a beautiful day and we sold 126 dinners via our drive-thru. Our profit was $1,102.38. Thanks to those who donated towards expenses: Janet Krak, Pam Laroche, Judy McCallops, Dave Vollmer, and Merle Oswald. Thanks to Scott Hudson and Robin Bartholomew of the 4-H Program who were a great help in the kitchen. Special recognition to Pam Laroche who again ran that kitchen expertly.

On Friday, the workers were treated to hotdogs cooked by Ginnie Busco. We also had loaded baked potato salad made by Leslie DuMond, pistachio pudding salad made by Ginie Busco, chips provided by Judi Parker, and delicious pumpkin cake provided by Marie Czajak. Thanks to everyone!

~Submitted by Leslie DuMond.

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!

**Monday, December 21, 2026, 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.*

**Thursday, December 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**
Hosting Christmas Eve @ First United Church of East Syracuse, with combined church choirs.

## Advent Bible Study

This year we will use *The Marvel and Miracle of Advent by Christine Caine & Lisa Harper*. This is a 4-week study starting on Sunday, November 29 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 20. Lunch will be served.

Jesus' arrival on earth changed the course of history forever. Not only for those who lived in the first century, but for those of us in the twenty-first century as well. The miracle and marvel of the Advent season demonstrates that we are precious to Him. He's not a distant God. He is Emmanuel, God with us. That includes wherever you are, right now.

Bridgeport United Methodist hosted their first fall senior ("Young at Heart") luncheon Wednesday, October 14, from 11:15 - 1, with approximately 20 in attendance. Ginnie and Ed Busco, Merle Oswald, Pat Pease, Judi Parker, and Leslie DuMond attended from CUC. The fellowship hall was decorated with a fall theme, and a Love Offering canister was near the sign in sheet for those able to help defray the cost of the meal.

Diane Taylor welcomed us back after the summer break. Kathy Bachman talked about their current mission project, Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes were provided for those who would like to participate. In November we will have a box packing party. Diane Taylor noted they are having a Trunk or Treat for children on Halloween, October 31.

Pastor Omar thanked God for bringing us back together and read a reflection concerning All Saints. We then sang "For All the Saints". Pastor Omar then read Hebrews 12:1-2 and we talked about the saints in our lives. We then played an October trivia game, and gifts were given to those with the most correct answers.

Lunch was blessed by Pastor Omar and included BBQ chicken, salt potatoes, green salad, fruit salad, and cookies for dessert.

After the meal, we listened to a presentation from representatives of the Madison County Rural Health Council. They discussed their programs, including Mental Health Education, Nutrition & Physical Activity and Transportation services.

The next senior luncheon is **Wednesday, November 11**. 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

Holiday Craft Sale and Baked Ziti Lunch/Dinner
Saturday, December 5, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Collamer United Church will be having another Holiday Craft Sale along with a Baked Ziti lunch/dinner in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 5. 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!

Crafters get crafting! If you know of anyone who would like to rent a table/space to sell crafts or have any questions, please contact the church office.

**Join us for an inspiring double feature!**
***I Can Only Imagine*** and ***I Can Only Imagine 2***
**Saturday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m.** Each film runs approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes and will be shown in the sanctuary. Pizza and soda will be served between the films.
The first film tells the story of MercyMe lead singer Bart Millard. After growing up with an abusive father, played by *Dennis Quaid*, Bart draws on his painful past and their eventual reconciliation to write the best-selling Christian single of all time.
The sequel follows Bart, played by *John Michael Finley*, as he struggles to balance family life with fame after the song's success. New touring bandmate Tim Timmons, played by *Milo Ventimiglia*, faces personal hardships and cancer. His journey inspires Bart to write "Even If," confront his past, and repair his family relationships.
We hope you'll join us for these two uplifting films!

Aspire

On Sunday evening, October 25th, six women from CUC: Georgia Clifford, Jodi Jones, Connie Heidt-Oliver, Valerie Warfield, Judi Parker and Emeline McShane joined several hundred Christian women for Aspire, a three-hour program featuring music by Jaime Jamgochian, comedy by Tammy Whitehurst, and heartfelt teaching from Mary Shannon. Filled with laughter, a few tender tears, and uplifting music, the evening left us feeling joyful, encouraged, and grateful for the experience we shared.

~ Submitted by Judi Parker

We collected $220 during our World Communion Sunday Campaign. Thank you for your generosity!

## Rest in Peace Helen Fischer

Helen Fischer, a member since 2016, passed away on October 26 at the tender age of 99. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

# MISSIONS MINISTRIES

by Merle Oswald

In October, we collected 60 boxes of stuffing mix for St. Matthew's food pantry. The collection was dedicated by Pastor Eric on October 25. Thank you for your support.

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

November: Bar and liquid hand soap.
December: Shampoo and conditioner (men's and women's)
We continue to collect cardboard egg cartons. Please note tha the food pantry can only use cartons holding a dozen eggs.

## VETERANS DAY

*November 11, 2025*

*We will recognize the veterans during our worship service on Sunday, November 8, 2026.*

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 13. The gifts should be placed under our Christmas tree in the sanctuary. They will be blessed by Pastor Eric on December 13.

## Adopt-A-Highway

After the service on Sunday, October 25, a group of Collamer United Church members participated in our semiannual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along our one-mile stretch of Fly Road. Jim and Judy Schuyler (not pictured), Ed and Ginnie Busco, and Georgia Clifford and Connie Oliver scoured the roadside for litter, helping beautify the stretch of Fly Road from the intersection of Collamer Road to the bridge over the Thruway. A Fly Road neighbor, Larry stepped in to help haul the trash away for the second time this year – thank you Larry!

Along with the litter, we found a few treasures. Ginnie is holding what appears to be a beautiful crystal cup and serving dishes. She plans to clean them so they can be used at church. Connie is holding a "Tasmanian Devil" skateboard that Ed plans to clean up and pass along to a young person eager to give it a spin!

We invite everyone in the community to join us! We hold this cleanup every April and October with the goal of making the earth a little cleaner—one road at a time.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 CUC BOARD MEETING

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on September 23, 2026, at 6:06 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge. Elder Judith Parker opened the meeting with prayer and served as moderator.

MINUTES: A motion was properly made by Elder Judith Parker and seconded by Elder Merle Oswald to approve the regular Session minutes of July 29, 2026. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Elder Pamela Laroche provided, via email, the financial reports of the church for the months of July and August 2026. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Georgia Clifford to accept the Treasurer's Reports for July and August 2026. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Eric discussed concerns expressed about the recent inappropriate sharing during joys and concerns. After discussion, it was determined that we will no longer pass the microphone. Instead, we will have congregants write down their joys and/or concerns to be read by the pastor.

Pastor Eric was on vacation from July 21 – 26.

Pastor Eric reported concerning the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations meeting held on August 22-27 in Louisville, Kentucky.

A joint service was held with First United on September 6, 2026, Labor Day weekend. Pastor Eric was on vacation on Sunday, September 13.

He attended the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, September 19. The next meeting will be October 17. The merger work between the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse and the Susquehanna Valley is continuing. The Synod provided a grant of $20,000 to help defray the costs of the merger.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE: Elder Douglas Kliphon reported: Ginnie Busco is continuing to do weekly cleaning. Dave Vollmer mowed the church grounds. Judd DuMond weed whacked and sprayed a non-toxic weed killer. Douglas Kliphon took care of the bee hive near the front entrance and sprayed the wasps in the lower parking lot area. Gill Laroche also sprayed the wasps.

Gill Laroche returned the bottles and cans.



Four oscillating fans have been purchased and placed in various locations in the sanctuary. Diaper changing stations will be installed in both ladies' rooms in the near future.

Elder Douglas Kliphon located motion sensor and night and day lighting to be installed in the parking lot area. He will look into having the building pressure washed. He is working on locating a plumber to install the backflow valve.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Elder Jeannine Parks is working on cleaning out and organizing the Sunday school room. Elder Judith Parker and Ginnie Busco cleaned out the nursery. Many items were donated to the rummage sale.

MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: It was noted that work on the membership directory is continuing. Cards are continuing to be sent to those in need of prayer.

A joint picnic with First United was held on August 22. 31 people attended. It was suggested that name tags be provided in the future. Also, more organized activities should be planned.

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

**St. Matthews Food Pantry** – For August, we collected 33 boxes of cake and brownie mixes for St. Matthew's Food Pantry! As usual, the congregation was very generous! They were dedicated by Pastor Eric on August 30. For September, we are collecting liquid laundry detergent. For October, we will collect boxed stuffing.

**School Supplies** – In August, we collected school supplies to be provided to children in need attending Woodland Elementary School and Pine Grove Middle School. We collected the following items: 336 pencils, 12 3-ring binders, 1970 filler paper, 696 crayons, 30 composition books, 134 glue sticks, 156 jumbo markers, 40 pocket folders, 222 erasers, 10 pencil sharpeners, 52 pens, 6 pencil cases, 48 color pencils, and 5 spiral notebooks. They were dedicated by Pastor Eric on August 30.

**Brown Memorial UMC** – On August 9, 2026, we hosted a picnic meal at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church. We provided hot dogs, salads, watermelon and milk. Those attending from CUC included Pastor Eric, Ginnie & Ed Busco, Leslie and Judd DuMond, Connie Oliver, and Merle Oswald. Anne Coughenour and Lynn Jacques from First United also attended. As usual, we

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

enjoyed this worthy mission project. We also enjoyed meeting Brown Memorial's new pastor, Pastor Rose.

**Adopt-A-Highway** – On October 25, 2026, immediately following the worship service, we will pick up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to the Thruway Bridge. This is actually a fun time. Elder Georgia Clifford is heading this mission.

**Rummage Sale Leftovers** – As in the past, we will be arranging to donate items left over from the rummage sale to various other charitable organizations. Our friend Mike Robinson made several trips to drop things off at the Rescue Mission. Hearts for the Homeless picked up the remaining clothing on September 22. On September 23, Elder Merle Oswald and Pat Pease delivered baby items to New Hope Family Services. Items were also delivered to them by Elder Leslie and Judd DuMond on September 25. On September 24, Marie Czajak delivered books to the Fayetteville Free Library. Ralph Rotella, Discount Shoe Repair, will pick up the shoes. We can deliver the stuffed animals to the Syracuse Crunch at any time. Men's suits and women's work clothes were delivered to the Rescue Mission. Hats and gloves will be put aside to be placed under the Hat & Mitten Tree during the holidays.

We submitted an application for the Cayuga Syracuse Presbytery Food Supplemental Grant. The grant requested is $750. We will also be submitting the Benevolent Care Grant Fund application to the Presbytery by November 1. At the suggestion of Lynn Jacques, we will be increasing this grant request.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported that, unfortunately, the car cruise-in was a bit of a bust due to the weather. Those who attended the short event had a good time. Our food truck partner, Happy Eating Grounds, chose to cancel because of the anticipated low attendance due to the weather forecast. However, they provided a $100 donation.

October 4 is World Communion Sunday. The Presbytery has a World Communion Sunday Offering campaign which works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness and ecumenical and interfaith relations. We will participate in this fundraising effort this year.

TECHNOLOGY: Elder Georgia Clifford reported the website and Facebook page continue to be updated. The rummage sale was advertised on Facebook and Craigs list.

On September 16, Edler Judith Parker met with Francis Audio Visual concerning possible improvement of the acoustics in the sanctuary. It was noted that the organ is at its lowest level.

WORSHIP: Elder Judith Parker reported as follows: On August 2, communion was served to 26 by Elders Connie Oliver and Georgia

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

Clifford. A joint worship service was held during the picnic on August 22. Communion was also served on August 30; 21 people were served by Elders Judith Parker and Pat Pease. A combined service with First United was held at CUC on September 6, Labor Day weekend.

Pastor Eric was on vacation September 13. Rev. Lauren Swanson provided pulpit supply.

OLD BUSINESS: The CCE Onondaga Food Preservationists program cancelled its Food Connections Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, October 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This was due to the program director's health issues.

NEW BUSINESS: First United will be hosting a Crafts & Fellowship event on Saturday, October 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Autumn and Advent/Christmas crafts will be made. The cost is $5.00 per person which will include craft supplies and a light snack.

Elder Leslie DuMond met with Qianna Frazier, an ice cream truck operator, on September 15 concerning potential use of the kitchen as a commissary kitchen. We have not heard anything further.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be October 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

## Church Secretary/Notary Services

I am generally in the Church Office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Other times vary. When I am not in the office, I monitor the Church e-mail regularly. I am also available to provide notary services.
Leslie DuMond
CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net.

## Pastor's Office Hours

The following is Pastor Eric's schedule for office hours:

Monday @ Collamer, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Tuesday @ First United, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday @ First United, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday @ Collamer, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Of course, this schedule is subject to change. If you would like to schedule a meeting with him, please contact the church office.

## HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS DONATION BOX

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

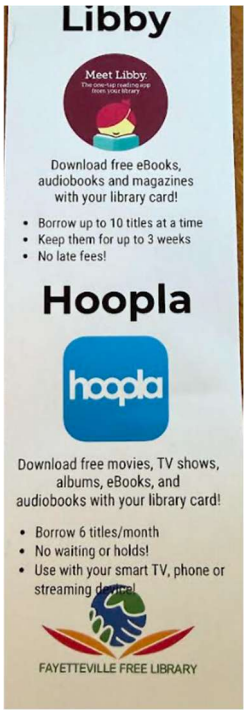
**http://www.radafundraising.com** select Support New Fundraiser, enter Collamer United Church

## *Fellowship Hall Rental*

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

The deadline for any items for the next Circuit Rider is November 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.

## *Fayetteville Free Library*




## *Bottles & Cans*

We have an arrangement with ESM Bottle Return, located on Arterial Road in Lyncourt. They will provide our Church the redemption money from the returns. You may also put your bottles and cans in the container in the lower entrance of the church.

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

# POINSETTIAS

## The cost of each plant is $8.00

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

**DEADLINE DATE IS NOV.8** please give completed forms to Leslie

PLANT GIVEN BY: _____

PLANT GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____

_____

PLANT GIVEN IN HONOR OF: _____

_____