

Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

May 2026



- Sun. 03 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -**
Communion -50-Year Member Recognition
- Mon. 04 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
- Tues. 05 Blood Drive - First United Church**
- Fri. 08 Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Work Day**
- Sat. 09 Chicken & Biscuit Dinner - 4:30 p.m.**
First United Church Bazaar -
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Sun. 10 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m. -**
Mother's Day
- Mon. 11 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
- Wed. 13 Senior Luncheon - Bridgeport UMC**
- 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Sun. 17 Morning Worship 8:45 a.m.**
- Mon. 18 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.**
- Tues. 19 Master Gardeners**
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Sun. 24 Worship Service 8:45 a.m. -**
Pentecost - Wear Red!
- Mon. 25 Memorial Day**
Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 27 CUC Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**

**Happy Birthday and
 Anniversary to...**



- 02 - Amy Caldeira
- 03 - Judy Schuyler
- 04 - Judy McCallops
- 08 - Donna Stanley
- 09 - Merle Oswald
- 16 - Ed Busco
- 25- Judy & Jim Schuyler (A)
- 29 - Grace Brignall

- Linda Oswald –at home, 8701 Knowledge Lane, Apt 116, Cicero, NY 13039 – SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 Helen Fischer – 105 Laurel Lane, Sayre, PA 18840-9194
 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
 Ryan Hill –at home – 7060 Cattleman’s Crossing Road, Cicero NY 13039
 JoAnn Tongue – 2 Sacketts Road, Central Square, NY 13036
 Doug Kliphon (and Sheri too) – 7088 Ferstler Road, Kirkville, NY 13082
 Sonny Ellis – 226 W. King Street, Jackson, TN 38301
 Lorraine Vollmer – 6564 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057
 Rev. Steve Deckard – 16353 Wallingford Ave N, Shoreline WA 98133
 Megan Wilbur - SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE!
 1500 Whispering Hills Road, Loris SC 29569
 Larry and Louise Claflin – 2001 Tweed Court, Leesburg, FL 34788
 Grace Brignall -7220 E. Genesee St., Apt. 225, Fayetteville, NY 13066.
 Gill Laroche – recovering from knee replacement surgery – 6660 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057
 Pat Pease – 530 N. Central Ave., Apt. 2, Minoa, NY 13116

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



How easy it is to forget nature is outside our door. During my seminary years, I remember how easy it was to forget the outside world existed, especially December-April.

Instead, I was pulled into my assignments: which paper I had to write; which sermon I had to proofread; which ordination paperwork I had to turn in at a certain time; cooking a quick Trader Joe's microwave meal so I could get to Chapel. It was undeniably fun; but I also lost the opportunity to engage with the world around me, especially during the winter.

I find something similar here in Syracuse: it's just hard to remember what's around us during the cold months. It'd be one thing if we remembered the outside world while acknowledging it was covered in snow. Wonderful locations like Green Lakes State Park and Onondaga Lake Park are always there, even if they're hidden for a bit, waiting to resurface. Instead, we just forget they're there altogether. We curl up inside, assuming our world only extends as far as our front door.

So, when Spring rolls around, as it does now, we're not just stepping back outside; we're reminding ourselves a whole world exists! How insulated we've been.

It's a perfect metaphor for God's world: we get so wrapped up in our own lives; we forget to see the bigger picture. We don't even forget to see the forest for the trees; we just refuse to see beyond our own tree into the forest, the mountains, and the beach!

So, this Spring, let us acknowledge the work that we put in over the Winter. That we do not get this Great Outdoors without the winter hibernation. That we do not get our time in nature without rest. That, rather than condemn our cold and lonely winter, we embrace it alongside our warmer spring.

Let us see the bigger picture of God's Creation, and thrive in every season.

Amen, amen, and amen.

Pastor Eric



On Saturday, April 18th, the committee chairs from First United and Collamer United convened for a joint committee workshop in our Fellowship Hall. The event began at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, donuts, and introductions among the 21 attendees. Joan O'Donnell from First United and Karen Brignall from Collamer United provided an informative overview of the histories of our two churches, both of which originally consisted of two separate congregations.

Participants then split into groups by committee to exchange ideas and discuss objectives. Following a lunch of pizza and salad, everyone reconvened to share insights gained and to consider future collaborations. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to foster new relationships and explore fresh approaches to serve our congregations, community, and God.

~Submitted by Judi Parker

April 2026 Staff-Parish Relations Report

I'm pleased to report that our SPRC team members are Jeannine Parks, Judy McCallops, Judi Parker, Jim Schuyler and myself! We look forward to working together on your behalf.

On Sunday, April 19, surveys were handed out to regular attendees to ask for feedback on several questions to help assess our ability to meet your needs. Quite a few surveys have already been returned. We thank you! If you are still working on your responses, please finish up soon then mail the survey back in the self-addressed stamped envelope so we can incorporate your responses in our work. Thank you!

These are exciting times to be a part of this community of faith!

Respectfully submitted,
~ Connie Oliver

April 2026 Worship Report

- Worship Report Continued -



Maundy Thursday was observed with us and members of First United Church in the CUC fellowship hall with a soup supper provided by Connie Oliver and Leslie DuMond. Nineteen attended the candlelit service, featuring scripture readings, extinguishing candles, and communion in remembrance of the Last Supper, led by Pastor Adamcik.

Even though Easter Sunday was cool and rainy, the day remained heartfelt and joyful for us and our guests. The celebrations began with a “son”rise service at 7:00 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall, attended by nine early risers. After both services, everyone enjoyed a coffee hour with pastries and special “He is Risen” donuts. Our 8:45 a.m. service was made even more special by a baby’s soft cooing and a five-year-old sharing their thoughts about the holiday. Vibrant flowers chosen by the congregation decorated the sanctuary, complementing the beautifully adorned rugged cross. Communion was served to 37 by Elders Judi Parker and Connie Oliver, using a lovely new chalice donated by Debbie Lanty. Pastor Eric’s sermon, “*Surprise!*”, focused on God’s unexpected act—Christ’s resurrection—and highlighted how Mary and Mary were the first to witness the Risen Christ, making it a truly surprising event!

On April 12th, Pastor Eric shared some highlights of his trip to Lake Tahoe for the Emerging Leaders Conference, sharing photos and stories. His sermon, “*Journey > Destination*”, focused on the growth and experiences that we gain along our journey toward the hope found in Jesus Christ rather than just the final outcome. The journey encourages us to be present and learn from our challenges, which shapes us to be more Christlike.

Pastor Eric's April 19 message, “*Rinse and Repeat*”, connected with 1 John 2:7-14. The passage shows how the old commandment is renewed (rinsed and repeated) into a new commandment being fulfilled in Christ’s teachings, urging us to live in truth and love, moving from darkness to light. We should keep learning, share what we know, encourage others and continue to “rinse and repeat” this knowledge.

On April 26, Pastor Eric delivered a sermon entitled “*Attitude of Gratitude*”, emphasizing its importance in our lives. The liturgy reading was Acts 2:43-47, which describes the apostles selling and distributing their possessions to support those in need. This message encourages us to consider how we can assist others by parting with items that are unnecessary for ourselves. While we express gratitude for what God has provided, it is essential to reflect on how we utilize our time beyond church and whether we embody an attitude of gratitude in our daily lives.

Respectfully submitted,
~ Judi Parker

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Results



Our first Chicken and Biscuit dinner of the year was held on April 11. The weather was cooperative, which added to our great success! We had many first-time people come through the line. We served about 130 dinners, earning a profit of \$2,070. Coordinating the event takes considerable effort; as usual, Pam Laroche did an outstanding job overseeing the kitchen operations. We appreciate everyone who donated, baked, cut, peeled, stirred, and cleaned. Thanks to Leslie for overseeing the advertising and to all who helped spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors. Leslie DuMond and Judi Parker provided lunch on prep day, and we had a special treat from Ginnie and Ed Busco...ice cream sundaes!

Our next dinner will take place on Saturday, May 9!

Respectfully submitted,
~ Judi Parker

**CONGRATULATIONS
50 - YEAR MEMBERS
2026**



Spring has returned and with it comes time to honor our active 50-year members. Unfortunately, Lois Hale Klein passed away. With 74 years at the time of her death, she was the longest serving member. She is greatly missed. On a happier note, we welcome three new members to the group. . . Ed Eggert, Mary Jane and Joe Molina.

<i>Karen Brizee Brignall</i>	73 years
<i>Patricia Wright Pease</i>	71 years
<i>Elaine Maxwell Keyes</i>	69 years
<i>Janet Galster Krak</i>	68 years
<i>Gloria Rushey Kyser</i>	67 years
<i>Donna Hill Stanley</i>	66 years
<i>Virginia Hopkins</i>	66 years
<i>Marie Freebern Czajak</i>	66 years
<i>Jean Oswald Lorber</i>	64 years
<i>Judith Warner Schuyler</i>	64 years
<i>Carol Temple Turnbull</i>	64 years
<i>Wayne Brignall</i>	63 years
<i>Judy Fitzgerald Beeman McCallops</i>	62 years
<i>David Vollmer</i>	61 years
<i>Sheri Waite Kliphon</i>	51 years
<i>James Schuyler</i>	51 years
<i>Edward Eggert</i>	50 years
<i>Mary Jane Whedon Molina</i>	50 years
<i>Joseph Molina</i>	50 years

Congratulations to them and all others on the list. Please join us on May 3 to celebrate.



In June, we would like to recognize any high school or college graduates who are members, relatives of members, or friends of the Collamer United Church. If you know of anyone that will be graduating with the Class of 2026 in May or June, please contact the Church office to let us know.

**March Monthly Senior Luncheon at
Bridgeport UMC**



Five members of CUC, Leslie DuMond, Judy McCallops, Merle Oswald, Judi Parker and Valerie Warfield attended the Young at Heart Senior Luncheon at Bridgeport United Methodist Church on April 8th.

Diane Taylor welcomed the group and we welcomed Diane and Art back from their winter in Florida! It was noted that BUMC will be holding a flower fundraiser. <http://BridgeportNYUMC.fpfundraising.com>. Pastor Omar was away and lay minister Shirley Pease did a devotional by reading John 12:1-8 and talked about what to focus on during the week after Easter, focusing on service and discipleship.

Diane Taylor read a story concerning the origin of Easter and then led us in an Easter quiz. Gifts were given to those with the most correct answers.

Shirley Pease then did a blessing of the food. We enjoyed a wonderful meal of baked chicken, dressing, macaroni & cheese, green beans, corn, and rolls. Pineapple upside down cake and chocolate cake were served for dessert.

Representatives of Bankers Life made a presentation concerning the services they offer, including Medicare plans, assisted care coverage, and investments.

Once, again, it was an enjoyable afternoon with our friends at BUMC!

The next senior luncheon is **Wednesday, May 13**. The Mana Choir will be singing. Please let Leslie know if you will be attending. She will RSVP on behalf of CUC. Please join us!

~Submitted by Leslie DuMond





by Merle Oswald

May Missions

SUNNYSIDE CARE CENTER

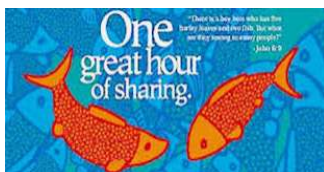


On April 6, Merle Oswald delivered the items collected for Sunnyside Care Center.

Adopt-A-Highway



On Sunday, April 26, following the worship service, we picked up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road up to the Thruway Bridge. Georgia Clifford, Jodi Jones, Connie Oliver, and Judy and Jim Schuyler participated. The brave souls cleaned up deer carcass! Thank you Georgia for heading up this mission project!



For April, \$175 was collected for One Great Hour of Sharing.



In April, we collected 16 bags of sugar and 18 bags of flour. They were dedicated by Pastor Eric on April 26 and delivered to St. Matthew's Food Pantry by Merle Oswald on Monday, April 27.



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:

May: Dish soap



June: Cereal

July: Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels,

napkins) and salt and pepper

September: Liquid laundry detergent

October: Boxed stuffing

November: Liquid hand soap.

December: Shampoo and conditioner (men's and women's)

We continue to collect cardboard egg cartons. Please note that the food pantry can only use cartons holding a dozen eggs.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 18, 2026 CUC BOARD MEETING

This regular meeting of the Board of the Collamer United Church was called to order on March 18, 2026, at 6:03 p.m. in the Collamer United Church lounge. Elder Valerie Warfield opened the meeting with prayer and Elder Pamela Laroche served as moderator.

MINUTES: A motion was properly made by Elder Merle Oswald and seconded by Elder Connie Oliver to approve the regular Session minutes of February 25, 2026. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Elder Pamela Laroche presented the financial reports of the church for the month of February 2026. A motion was made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Valerie Warfield to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2026. Motion passed.

VITAL STATISTICS: Georgia Clifford was ordained as an Elder on February 15, 2026.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Adamcik was ill and unable to attend. He advised he will be attending an Emerging Leaders Cohort that will gather March 22-25, 2026, in Lake Tahoe. This is presented by Auburn Seminary. There will be no cost to the church. During this time away, Elder Lynn Jacques will provide pulpit supply and will lead the Bible study on March 22.

He will also be attending other conferences in the first half of 2026, including the following: May 18 – 22, Early Ministry Institute hosted by the Synod of the Northeast, will take place in Silver Bay, New York. June 22 – July 2, General Assembly, hosted by PCUSA General Assembly, will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lynn Jacques will provide pulpit supply on May 24 and June 28. Registration fees will be split between the two churches.

The Annual Conference of the United Methodists of Upper New York will take place on May 28 – 30 at the Oncenter. It has been determined that attendance at this conference by Rev. Adamcik is not a valuable use of his time because he cannot vote.

Rev. Adamcik located a refurbished computer through Best Buy. This is being sold through a third party. First United is working on setting up tax exempt status with this seller. Once the purchase has been completed, we will reimburse them for half of the cost.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Dave Vollmer has plowed the parking lot as needed. Ginnie Busco is continuing to do weekly cleaning.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

Cooney Air Conditioning and Heating was advised that the Board approved its proposal for replacement of the boiler system and is currently waiting for parts. The installation will be scheduled soon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: We are continuing to study the book *Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar. The study will conclude March 29. Attendance has been great and good discussions have been taking place. A sympathy card was sent to Christy Knowlton.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM: Elder Valerie Warfield reported a Membership Committee meeting was held on March 15. She is working on letters to be sent to members and others that we have not seen in a while.

She sent an email to Anna Bhanduriga-Clickenger to let her know that it was a joy to see her and her beautiful baby in church. She let her know that should she and her husband decide to have Mirra baptized, that Collamer United Church would be proud to have the opportunity to baptize her.

Amy Calderia reached out to the ESM School District and asked if they could/would advertise our Chicken and Biscuit Dinners on their electric board in front of the Kinnie Street School, they will let her know if that can happen. She also volunteered to help with the picture directory.

Karen Bignall has provided information about the 50-year member celebration. It was suggested that this take place on May 3. Marie Czajak has offered to pick up a cake for the celebration. Upon motion made by Elder Leslie DuMond and seconded by Elder Georgia Clifford, it was determined that the 50-Year member celebration will take place on May 3. Motion passed.

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

St. Matthews Food Pantry – During March, we collected two boxes and two bags of food and 71 egg cartons for St. Matthew's food pantry. For April, we will collect flour and sugar for St. Matthew's food pantry.

American Heart Association- During February, we collected \$100 for the American Heart Association.

Sunnyside Care Center – During March, we are collecting the following items for Sunnyside Care Center: puzzle books (large print), crossword books (large print), word search books (large print), hand cream, body lotion, pencils with erasers, pens, and shoulder shawls. The deadline for collection is March 29.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

Adopt-A-Highway - On Sunday, April 26, following the worship service, we will pick up garbage from the corner of Route 298 and Fly Road to the Thruway Bridge. Elder Georgia Clifford will oversee this project. Please join us. It is always a good time and you never know what we will find!

Presbytery Check – We received a check in the amount of \$564.83 from the Presbytery for Mission Initiatives 2026.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS: Elder Connie Oliver reported that during last month's meeting, per page 3, section 5 B of our CUC By-laws, we should look for more committee members to meet the 5 - 9-member total. Per Rev. Wonderland, the committee members do not have to be a church member. We currently have 2 committee members for 2026. Judi Parker will remain on the committee, and Connie Oliver took Ed Busco's place. She will continue to look for others interested in serving. It was noted that the requirement that the committee include 5 – 9 is unrealistic. It was determined that 5 members would be sufficient. We will consider amending the By-laws to reflect this change and any other appropriate changes. They were last amended in 2019.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: Elder Leslie DuMond reported that during Lent, we are collecting donations for the Presbytery USA One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. She is also continuing efforts to rent the church kitchen and fellowship hall.

TECHNOLOGY: Elder Georgia Clifford reported the Facebook page and website continue to be updated on a regular basis. She suggested that we also post information relating to our various mission projects. We are working with First United to put together a shared Google calendar.

WORSHIP: Elder Judith Parker submitted a written report as follows:

On March 1, communion was served to a total of 29 individuals using the intinction method. Valerie Warfield and Judi Parker assisted in distributing communion during the service.

Lynn Jacques will provide pulpit supply on March 22, May 24, and June 28, all at our usual service time.

We are working on planning the special Lenten Services, including Maundy Thursday and the Easter "Son"rise and regular services.

OLD BUSINESS: Elder Leslie DuMond reported that on February 28, she met with Angela Cushing concerning use of the kitchen for a catering business, Cushing Family Farms Catering. They do not need to use the stove. They use a smoker. She is currently working on securing the required liability insurance naming the church as an insured and putting together the required paperwork.

- Board Meeting Minutes Continued -

We are continuing to work on updating the job descriptions for the committees and other positions at the church. Some comments and suggestions have been received. It was suggested that descriptions for the office secretary and music director also be included.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Merle Oswald reported that trash pick-up has been arranged for the four upcoming chicken and biscuit dinners.

The next meeting of the CUC Board will be April 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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.



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.

Reminder

Leslie DuMond

CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net.



The deadline for any items for the next Circuit Rider is May 26, 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. Also, if you are still receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail and would like to receive it via e-mail, please contact the church office.



<http://www.radafundraising.com>

select Support New Fundraiser, enter Collamer United Church

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.

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.

PLANET AID DONATION BOX



You may have noticed the yellow clothes and shoes donation box that arrived at Vollmer Farms last fall. Arrangements have now been made for CUC to benefit from those donations. Please drop off your donations to benefit our church!

Happy Mother's Day!

It's Mom's special day. Here are some hidden words that make us think of her.
The words can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.

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

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APPRECIATION
BREAKFAST
CANDY
COMFORT
FLOWERS
GIFT

GUIDANCE
HUGS
JOY
KISSES
LAUGHTER
LOVE

MOM
MOTHER
NURTURE
SHARE
TELEPHONE
THE BEST





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



Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Drive-Thru Only



Saturday, May 9, 2026

@ COLLAMER UNITED CHURCH

6865 FLY ROAD IN COLLAMER (315-463-4939)

Serving will start at 4:30 P.M.

***This delightful, home style chicken and biscuit dinner will include
mashed potatoes, gravy, freshly cooked vegetables, and delicious desserts.***

Tickets may be purchased upon arrival:

\$15.00 for ALL Adults; \$6.00 for Children 10 and under.

Sorry – we cannot accept credit cards.