

# Happy Birthday

## January

8th	Wayne Brignall
11th	Tim Vollmer
18th	Monique Laroche Kocienski
20th	Keith Brignall
24th	Dick Gilkey
26th	Shirley Soergel
26th	Jessica Vollmer



### What's new in Tech & Media???

After much consideration and prayer, we have decided to forego live streaming for now. The expense would be too great at this time, our equipment would need to be updated and some new equipment purchased as well. After this past year, with not being able to hold events to generate funds, it is not a wise decision.

Submitted by  
Jessica Vollmer  
Tech&Media Chairperson

### Special Holiday Time Planned

We are meeting in the Church parking lot  
on December 20th, 2020 at 10 AM

Anyone who is interested in coming to  
sing some Christmas carols and ringing  
the bells, please join us.

### Membership & Evangelism

Membership has remained very quiet during this uncertain time. There have been notes and cards sent out to members and friends to let them know they are prayed for and missed.

As Thanksgiving approached, we received our usual gift from CORE Credit Union of a dinner to share. We are truly blessed to have them as neighbors and friends to CUC. A big Thank You goes out to them, their gift meant a lot to the recipient.

With Christmas quickly approaching, the Membership & Evangelism would like to wish everyone a very Safe Holiday. May it be a time to reflect on God's goodness to us each and every day. Many Blessing to all.

Respectfully submitted by Marie Czajak

### We have lost our Anna Stevenson...

On December 3rd, 2020 Anna Stevenson (93) was lost due to a short battle with COVID-19. She is survived by her three daughters, Dolores Stevenson, Diane Stevenson and Donna Nitzke, two grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was a founding member of the East Syracuse Meals on Wheels Service.

She was a long time member of Collamer United Church for 65 years.

You will be missed Anna but you can bet that God opened the gates up wide for your homecoming..



Anna Stevenson in happier times.



# January 2021 Circuit Rider



## Newsletter Postage

Postage for this newsletter was generously provided by Nancy Kolod. **At this time, we are no longer requesting any more postage funds.**

### **We are still transitioning...**

**We are transitioning our Circuit Rider to e-mail distribution. Please provide your email address to our email.**

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

**Deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is January 21, 2021. Thank you for your cooperation on meeting this deadline.**

**We are currently seeking a temporary piano / organ player for our Sunday Services.**

**If you have these skills or know someone who would be perfect for this opening please contact the church ASAP. 315-463-4939 Thank you.**



## IN NEED OF PRAYER AT THIS TIME ...

**Darlene Hicks: ALS**

**Ginny Hopkins: at home, 7851 State Route 48, Apt. 305, Kirkville, NY 13082. Undergoing treatment for a cancerous breast tumor.**

**John Oswald: recuperating at home, 7832 Bull St, Bridgeport, NY 13030**

**Linda Oswald: at home, 5501 Legionaire Dr, Apt. 206, Cicero, NY 13039**

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

**Don Turnbull: at home, 6655 Temple Dr., E Syracuse 13057 (*prayers for Carol too*)**

**Joan & Dexter Vosbury: at home**

**Mickey & Jean Lorber: at home, 7529 Meadow Wood Dr, N Syracuse, NY 13212**

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

**Karen Johnson: at home, 3045 Sabre Dr, Sumter, SC 29153**

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



## December 2020 Worship Committee Report



We have certainly had an unusual year, and are saddened to have felt it prudent to temporarily close for in-person worship. Although the board will not be meeting in December, we continue to monitor the local situation and will move ahead with re-gathering as soon as possible. Rev. Lauren Swanson is 'on deck' for the month of January, and is as eager to be with us as we are to be together again.

While the Christmas season may look different this year, **'the reason for the season' hasn't changed!** Christmas is the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus, God's entry into the world in human form. The photo of Mary holding baby Jesus was taken during the First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia's recent filming of their Christmas pageant. (Photo by Kelly Hyatt, shared in Presbytery Matters e-letter)<sup>1</sup>.

To quote from the same e-letter, Karen Chamis, our Resource Presbyter, wrote *"... we're adapting our traditions as best as we are able to accommodate smaller tables and fewer options. We're already grieving not gathering in candlelight to hear the story and to sing words that have become sacred. We wonder if it will feel like Christmas."*

*"Years ago, a young pastor was faced with a similar challenge. The organ had been damaged and would not be available for Christmas Eve, so he asked someone to write a piece for two voices and guitar. This decision wasn't just non-traditional. At that time, guitar had not been approved for worship, so being the crafty church leaders that they were, they elected to offer this new hymn at the very end of the service. This beloved hymn was created because two people of faith realized that they could not celebrate Christmas in a way that had been the tradition of their community.... and they found a way to still bring meaning and joy to that night. The result, Silent Night, has been a gift to all of us for over 200 years."*

*"Like Gruber and Mohr who wrote Silent Night, we will adapt to this difficult new reality out of necessity. We figure out how to tell the Christmas story on Zoom or Facebook, and we will sing beloved carols in our pajamas. We will do this because even though the world has changed, our Savior has not."*<sup>2</sup>

**Join us in the parking lot at 10 o'clock Sunday, December 20** to hear the bells ring, and sing along with a few carols. Perhaps we will have a few other bits to share, too. We hope to see you!

May your Advent season, Christmas and New Year continue to overflow with gratitude and blessings.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Heidt-Oliver

<sup>1,2</sup> Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery "Presbytery Matters" weekly e-letter dated Dec 3, 2020

*As most of you know, we started collecting Christmas gifts for our two schools, Sunnyside Adult Home and Sunnyside Care Center. Due to Covid-19—the organizations opted to receive gift cards for everyone's safety. Lists for all of our Christmas missions were on our Mission Board until we closed on November 22, 2020. Anyone who would like to donate please contact Merle Oswald at 315-430-5106. All gifts and gift cards were due on Mission Saturday, December 12, 2020 between 11 AM and 1PM at the lower level of the church. Reported by Merle Oswald.*

## Mission News

### **Christian Education News**

After enjoying the holiday season, I hope all the children are doing well and looking forward to a better year in 2021.

When the kids return they will have a new Sunday School teacher. I have enjoyed teaching all of you. Wishing you all the best in the new year.

Submitted by Judith Parker

Christian Education Chairperson

***Important Notice for Collamer United  
Church Members***

**The Collamer United Church has set the date for the Annual  
Congregational Meeting for Sunday January 31, 2021  
immediately following the worship service.**

**If the Church is still closed on this date—alternative  
arrangements will be made.**