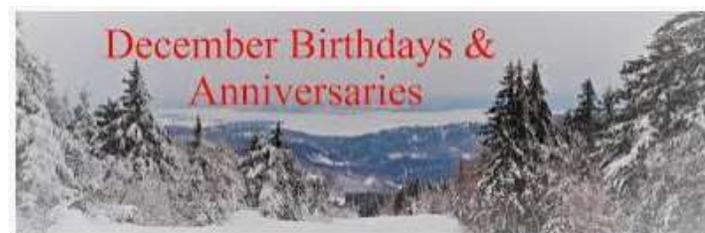


# Collamer United Church Circuit Rider

## December 2021



- Wed. 01 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.  
 Fri. 03 **Brown Memorial Meal Preparation**  
 Sun. 07 Morning Worship - Rev. Ed Veaudry  
 Communion  
**Brown Memorial Meal 2:00 p.m.**  
 Mon. 08 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.  
 Sun. 12 Morning Worship - Rev. Ed Veaudry  
 Mon. 13 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.  
 Sun. 19 Morning Worship - Rev. Ed Veaudry  
**Mission Sunday (See Missions Report)**  
 Mon. 20 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.  
 Fri. 24 **Christmas Eve (See Worship Report)**  
**Sat. 25 Christmas Day**  
 Sun. 26 Morning Worship - Rev. Lauren Swanson  
 Mon. 27 Al-Anon 7:30 p.m.  
 Wed. 29 CUC Board 6:00 p.m.



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

- 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  
**Mickey & Jean Lorber** - at home, 7529 Meadow  
 Wood Dr., N. Syracuse, NY 13212– **SPECIAL PRAYERS  
 PLEASE!**  
**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 back  
 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 Drive,  
 East Syracuse, NY 13057  
**Savanna Colabufo** – at home - 4296 Seeber Road,  
 Canastota, NY 13032  
**Courtney Clark** – at home - 4296 Seeber Road,  
 Canastota, NY 13032

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

## A Message From Pastor Ed



Advent Season is upon us.

Advent is a Latin word meaning “coming”. It’s a period of special preparation where prayer, penance, and fasting are appropriate, and it’s more of a joyous season compared to Lent.

This is a season of preparation, as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child. What are some of the ways you prepare?

There are many things we do to prepare for this season. Grocery lists, gift lists, mountains of delicious food, wrapped presents, and stockings stuffed. But what are some ways we can spiritually prepare for Christmas? Do we even think about this?

What are your best hopes for this Advent and Christmas season? Imagine that it's Epiphany (January 6), and you are reflecting on all that happened up till then, what would have you expected to happen? What will it take on your part to make it all happen? Where did you expect to meet Jesus in this season? Where did God come to meet you in your daily life?

At the heart of Christmas is the simple truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ, and in coming into our lives, saves us from sin and death by reconciling us to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation of Jesus' coming ... and our watchful, hopeful, waiting for his appearing. So, as you use your imagination to reflect on this season from the yet unwritten future story of your life, consider how God is preparing you now to meet Jesus in the days and weeks ahead. Expect to meet Jesus. Keep awake and alert for signs of God's kingdom. Keep faith in God's presence in all situations. Keep hope that God brings good out of evil. At the same time, though, expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of the meeting.

- A Message from Pastor Ed Continued -

We may discover by January 6 that our best hopes for the season failed to come about. We will fail to do the stuff we want to do, and we will find ourselves doing things we never anticipated doing. We may discover that everything that could go wrong did go wrong. And yet, if we enter this season open to God's will and movement in our lives -- like Mary and Joseph and John and Isaiah -- we may also discover on January 6, that God came into our lives in the most amazing, unexpected and life-changing ways.

After all, maybe our best hopes for this season have nothing to do with decorations or presents or even family gatherings, but instead our prayers are answered when by God's grace, love and mercy we find that God's kingdom has come among us, and God's will has been done for us, as well as in and through us.

We have a lot planned during worship in the next month here at Collamer United Church. It is my prayer for you, that God uses each Sunday on our calendar to strengthen your faith and deepen your love for God.

Invite your friends to join you. After all, you never know how God might work through your kindness and compassion to answer your neighbors' prayers and fulfilling their best hopes for this month.

My last Sunday behind the pulpit will be December 19<sup>th</sup>. As snowbirds we are leaving for Florida until the middle of April. The love and kindness you have given to me, and Jeri has been overwhelming. We have been truly blessed to be part of your wonderful family of faith. HOWEVER! 😊 we won't be absent from you. Jeri is in the process of transferring her membership to CUC.

We wish the very best during this Holy season, and our prayers will be with you.

- A Message from Pastor Ed Continued -

MERRY CHRISTMAS

*May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;  
We go in Love, joy, and peace.  
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

Pastor Ed



CONGRATULATIONS  
SUSAN



A photo, taken by Susan O'Neill was chosen for the 2021 On My Own Time virtual exhibit. The photo, titled "At First Blush", was selected for the exhibition by local arts professionals. This annual program, put on by CNY ARTS, part of the Everson Art Museum in Syracuse, is a venue for amateur artists from Central New York and the Mohawk Valley. The picture was taken on 7th Lake, in the Adirondack Mountains. The link to view the exhibition is <https://www.artsteps.com/view/6167580ed992a990bc30be74>



As you may or may not know, Janet Krak and Dick Gilkey were recently engaged to "never" marry. On October 31, 2021, after the worship service, we had a surprise reception in the Narthex to congratulate them. We are thrilled that they have found love and companionship within our church family!



#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST CUC BOARD MEETING

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Board did not meet in November to approve the October Minutes. They will be published in the next newsletter.

## November 2021 Worship Report



Our November Worship services have been a wonderful continuation of the series Pastor Ed began in October. During our time together we also honored our Veterans, and celebrated Holy Communion twice - All Saints Day on November 7, and again on the 21st, for Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday in the annual liturgical calendar. Both services were extra special.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent (already!!). The sanctuary will be transformed for this special season, as we look forward to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, coming to earth in human form.

We have several local options for in-person worship on Christmas Eve.

**First United Church of East Syracuse** has extended an invitation to their 7 pm service. Christy will be playing, and Pastor Hayes will be in the pulpit. In the past they have sung several carols, listened to some special music and readings, yet we don't know the flow of this year's celebration. If you are interested in participating in the service, please see Connie.

Rev. Janet Gleason, of **Minoa United Methodist Church**, welcomes us to their service, also at 7 pm, which culminates with candles being lit, while singing Silent Night.

As we become aware of any services being live-streamed Christmas Eve, we will communicate that via our social media accounts, and announcements during Sunday service.

Please continue to pray for whomever God is calling to Collamer United and First United Church of East Syracuse.

As Pastor Ed shared in his "Walking First Class" message on Christ the King Sunday, let us become walkers (as opposed to being a 'weeder' or a 'wader'), and live out our faith as an

## - Worship Committee Report Continued -

example to others, striving to make disciples. May you have a blessed Advent season. See you in church!

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Oliver

## ***Serenity Memorial Garden Update!***



On November 9th, Kathy, the Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator, and John, a master gardener, met several garden committee members in the garden, to discuss the next phase of planting. The beautiful mums are now in the ground, and a toad seems willing to hibernate there, and watch over our space. Since the planting season is running out and the size of the trees we could more easily manage are not available, Aspinall's has planted a privacy fence of larger trees. They went in just before Thanksgiving! Each tree costs \$180 - if you wish to help defray the expense, please donate to the Memorial Garden fund, and mention what you want the donation to go towards in the memo line. For donations that cover the expense of a particular tree or shrub, we are looking into various options for a memorial marker on a stake to place near the item. During the winter months we ask that you ponder what in your garden may need splitting in the spring. If you have perennials to donate, please add the information to the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Using Cooperative Extension member's assistance, the committee will develop a design plan for the next phase.



# MISSIONS NEWS

## by Merle Oswald



Our Mission for October was to prepare 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 would like to recognize. 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. What a wonderful experience all around! See the pictures below!



## December Mission

### Christmas Cookies for our Homebound And Mission Sunday Reception



In December, we will be collecting Christmas cookies to package and deliver to our homebound members and friends. We will need lots and lots of cookies! A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Narthex. After the worship service on Sunday, December 19, 2021, there will be a fellowship celebration with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We will also need cookies to serve during the reception.



**-Mission News Continued-**



We will once again be purchasing Christmas gifts for children enrolled in local schools. We will actually be purchasing gifts and not gift cards this year. The gift lists have been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. It includes gift requests for five children. The deadline for collection of gifts is December 19, 2021.

We will also be purchasing gifts for residents of the Sunnyside Care Center. The list of items requested will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex in the near future.

**Brown Memorial United Methodist Church**



Once again, we will be providing and serving a community dinner at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 5, 2021. We will serve baked ziti along with salad and Italian bread. We will put the baked ziti together on Friday morning, December 3. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex with items needed to prepare the dinner. Monetary donations are also appreciated. We will also be looking for volunteers to help serve the meal at Brown. This has been a very worthwhile and meaningful experience in the past. Please join us!

**-Mission News Continued-**

**Women's Opportunity Center**



**We recently delivered to the Women's Opportunity Center in Liverpool several bags of women's professional clothing, shoes and purses left over from our rummage sale. Those items were valued by the organization at \$830. Wow!!**

**St. Matthews Food Pantry**



In November, we collected 5 boxes and 1 bag of food that were delivered to St. Matthews Food Pantry by Pat Pease.

The Food Pantry advised us that it expects an increased need for food items for Christmas dinners. Since we are not doing the reverse Advent calendar food collection this year, we would ask that you please consider donating to the St. Matthews Food Pantry instead.



# Building and Maintenance Report



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. I 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 (we are still waiting for a delivery date) and lighting installed in the garden.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Vollmer



We continue to be in need of liturgists, ushers, and people to do general cleaning at the church. Pastor Ed is willing to read all of the scriptures unless the liturgist lets him know they are willing to read one, or both, passages. Please sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact the church office to volunteer.

## BOTTLE & 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.



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



The deadline for any items for the upcoming Circuit Rider is December 27, 2021. 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](mailto:CollamerUnitedChurch@verizon.net)

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

## 2022 PLEDGE CARDS



We would greatly appreciate it if you would return your pledge cards for 2022 as soon as possible. It is important that we have this information prior to starting the budget process in December.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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