



Dear Friends

I greet you with the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and invite you to enjoy this Thanksgiving publication of the newsletter. "Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 106:1)

November holds a special place in my heart. There are a few important days this month and two of these are very special and personal. Our daughter, and first child, was born on the 6th and my younger brother, who died twenty-three years ago, was born on the 14th. I have other close relatives and friends who celebrate their birthday in November and as we observe Thanksgiving Day, I give thanks for them and what they each mean to me.

At the writing of this letter we are a few days away from Election Day (November 5th) and will have to await the results before we know who will be the President and Vice President for the next four years and the individuals who will serve in the House and Senate. Whatever happens, whoever is elected, it is my prayer that we can come together as a country, mend the fences and work together in the best interest of all.

As we come to this second to last month of 2024, whatever you decide to do on Thanksgiving Day think on the words of the Psalmist: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds" (Psalm 9:1).

This has been a challenging year for many people who have experienced hardship, suffering, loss and pain due to wars, hurricanes and other natural disasters. We still do not know how things will go for what is left of this year. So many unknowns. One proverb puts it like this, "There is nothing certain, but the uncertain".

In Psalm 9 the Psalmist is thankful and proclaims the wonderful deeds of the Lord. We should note that life was not always easy for David, the composer of this Psalm. He writes about what happened to his enemies and how God protected him. The Psalmist goes on to declare, "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you" (vv 9, 10).

I encourage you then to have a thankful attitude and take time to consider the wonderful deeds of the Lord. No matter the circumstances in which you find yourself, do not forsake the Lord but keep on trusting and seeking the Lord who will never forsake us.

God bless you

Jefferson C. Niles, EdD, MAE, BA

Handwritten signature of Jefferson C. Niles

Pastor

Email: [pastor@ciceroumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@ciceroumchurch.org)

Time flies! It's that time of year again for the Brown UMC Giving Tree!

On November 10th, the tree will be set up in the sanctuary and ready to receive gifts. If you're one of the generous individuals who buys gifts throughout the year, we invite you to participate.

The recipients of these gifts aren't simply receiving handouts. They earn points through programs and classes and work at Brown UMC. A 'store' is established in the church where individuals can use their earned points to "purchase" gifts.

Please remember that the Brown neighborhood is one of the poorest areas in the United States.

If you are unfamiliar with the process, don't worry, it's quite simple: take a star from the tree, buy the gift listed on the star, and return it to the tree unwrapped by December 8th.

The last day to return gifts is Sunday, December 8th. Santa's helpers will pack and deliver the gifts to Brown later that week. We have been running this project for over 30 years, and it is one of the best ways we reach out to those in need. This long-standing initiative has made a significant difference in our community. Please help if you can; no gift is too small.

If you have any questions, please see Donnie Nugent.



### \*\*Christmas Cookie Sale\*\*

Beginning November 10th, a sign-up sheet for pre-sale cookies will be in the Fellowship Hall. Various sizes will be available, and pickup will be on December 8th after the church service. If you want to donate cookies, please call Pat Michael at 315-436-5959.



### Fall Clean Up

November 9th, 9 AM: The CUMC church family will hold their annual fall cleanup around the church. Please join us for this service as we prepare for winter by tidying up and ensuring everything is ready for the colder months. We appreciate your help!



### Advent Bible Study

November 19th to December 10th

In the Spear Room

11:00 AM and 6:30 PM

All are Welcome

# Thank You Pastor

The work you have done for this congregation has truly been a blessing. I am praising God to be so blessed as to have a shepherd who loves his flock this much.



Heavenly Father,

Today, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the steadfast leadership of our beloved pastors. Like Moses leading Israel, our pastors guides us through the wilderness of life, tirelessly pointing us toward Your eternal promise. We thank You for their wisdom, rooted in Your Word, and their unshakeable faith, which anchors our community in love and grace.

Thank You for the courage You have instilled in them, as they face challenges with a David-like faith, inspiring us to trust in Your higher plan. For their sacrificial love, mirroring Jesus' own, which seeks not self-glory but earnestly desires our growth and well-being—Lord, we are incredibly thankful.

Bless them, Lord, with Your peace that transcends understanding, and renew their spirit each day. May Your strength be their comfort, Your Word their guide, and Your love their constant companion. As they pour out their hearts, let them be replenished tenfold, reflecting Your divine generosity.

Amen.



Blessing Box for all to use: Take what you need and give what you can. Our new box is a symbol of our inclusive community, offering assistance to anyone who needs food or other items. Please feel free to help yourself and drop off items when you can. Food insecurity is a real problem, but in our community, everyone is welcome and cared for. This Box is for Cicero United Methodist Church families, friends, and neighbors, or anyone who comes into our church in need. If you need something, please help yourself. If you have more than you need, please feel free to share, as you never know the struggles of our friends and families in our own church home.

Your donations to the Blessing Box have a direct and immediate impact on our community. Every item you contribute goes directly to those in need within Cicero United Methodist Church and our neighbors.

While food is always in demand, the Blessing Box also needs items like soap, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, baby wipes, and cleaning supplies. Anything you use in your home, someone in need could probably use as well.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity in contributing to the Blessing Box, and we also want to remind those in need that it's okay to accept help. May God bless you all and be with you in your struggles and your acts of kindness.

**“Gracious God, Fill my heart with compassion for those who are suffering. Help me see the world through Your eyes and extend my hand to those in need. Let Your love flow through me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”**

Compassion is the driving force behind many acts of giving. This prayer seeks to deepen our empathy for those facing hardships.

# HOMESPUN TREASURES



**11/1/24 10AM-4PM AND  
11/2/24 10AM-2PM**

Cicero United Methodist Church  
8416 Brewerton Road

**Come shop for unique crafts & treats!**



## **United Methodist Women**

Election Day Bake Sale, a significant event hosted by the United Methodist Women, is a testament to our community's spirit. UMW is looking for any and all homemade goodies, especially pies, but also cookies, cakes, muffins, breads, or any other baked goods that may be your specialty. Your participation is crucial to the success of this event. Sign up sheet in Welcome Center. Please sign as soon as possible to ensure we have enough baked goods for the sale.

On Sale Day, November 5th, we will come together for a day of fun and community spirit. Thank you for your help and baking expertise. With your contributions, this fundraising event is sure to be a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Thank you!*

## United Methodist Church

10/07/24

**13**

Total Number of Donors

**0**

First Time Donors

**8**

Type O Donors

**14**

Units Collected

**One single blood donation can help save more than one life.  
Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission!**

# God's Country Jamboree

**Sunday December 8, 2024  
6:00 PM**

***Featuring  
God's Country Ramblers***



**Cicero United Methodist Church  
8416 Brewerton Rd, Cicero, NY**

God's Country News

54 people attended God's Country Jamboree Tribute to Johnny Cash on October 13th. We enjoyed listening to Pastor Jefferson on trumpet and Ken Hinman on Trombone for Ring of Fire! Everyone loved Joe Kramer's rendition of One Piece at Time. We enjoyed singing Folsom Prison Blues and both Bill & Mike's guitar solos were on point. In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month each member of the band told what they appreciated about Pastor Jefferson. They spoke about his musical talent and his support for God's Country. They said he was kind and friendly and enjoyed his messages. Shaun Harrington told us the history of Pastor Appreciation Month which was established in 1992 by the organization Focus on Family First. The call to honor the contributions of pastoral leaders can be traced back to Paul, who advised congregations to honor the elders who managed the affairs of the church especially those whose work is preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 5:17). We should continually thank the Pastor for his work and always keep him in our prayers. Our next service will be our Christmas service on December 8th Ye-Haw! Remember to wear your cowboy hat or Santa hat and bring a friend. Y'all come back now ya hear!



**\*\*UNICEF Sunday\*\***

UNICEF Sunday, a day of great significance, was celebrated on October 27th. I hope everyone enjoyed the delightful treats from the bake sale. A heartfelt thank you to our diligent students and teachers, especially Sarah's 4th and 5th graders, for their delicious Sweet Treat sale. The total donations will be announced soon. I extend my gratitude to the congregation for their unwavering support in our children's mission to serve the Lord.

**\*\*Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive\*\***

The Sunday School classes, along with the congregation, will be collecting food items for Thanksgiving baskets. Drop-off spots will be available throughout the Sunday School area. We encourage Sunday School children to bring their donations to the classrooms and witness our food donations grow. Our goal is to help make Thanksgiving easier for many families. Below are the dates and items needed:

- **\*\*October 27th:\*\*** Canned fruits or vegetables, cranberry sauce
- **\*\*November 3rd:\*\*** Canned pie filling and pie crust
- **\*\*November 10th:\*\*** Dry goods such as stuffing, pasta, rice, and instant potatoes
- **\*\*November 17th:\*\*** Basket fillers like peanut butter, tuna, and spaghetti sauce

If you or someone you know needs a food basket, please contact Sue Bonspille at 315-420-2101 or the church office at 315-699-2731.

Additionally, on November 10th and 17th, we will celebrate "White Gift Sunday." We will collect monetary donations on these days to help purchase perishables to complete the food baskets.

**\*\*Mission Work\*\***

Mission work in Sunday School is an exciting experience for our youth and the adults who support them. The Christian love shared through collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets or baking for UNICEF is truly gratifying. Our Sunday School area has ongoing mission work, so please stay tuned for ways to get involved.

**\*\*Christmas Pageant\*\***

From October 27th to December 7th, rehearsals for our Christmas Pageant will take place before Sunday School at 9:00 AM. The music session will be held towards the end of Sunday School, allowing parents to enjoy a few moments of coffee in the Welcome Center while they wait. We look forward to your active participation in this festive event.

**\*\*December 10th:\*\* Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 4:00 PM**

As you explore our church, you will find many mission projects available for donations. However, please remember that you are not obligated to contribute to all of them. Only donate to the ones that resonate with your heart when you are able. Thank you from the Sunday School department for your ongoing love and support in all we do. Remember, there is always room for you to pray, play, and grow with us in Sunday School.

Yours in Christ,  
Sue Bonspille



Cicero United Methodist Church's Crop Walk raised over \$700.00  
Congratulations and Thank You to all who attended and donated!



**CUMC**  
**CROP WALK**  
**2024**

PIC • COLLAGE

Forever Young will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day potluck luncheon at noon on November 20, 2024. Please bring a dish to share, and if willing, share a personal story of gratitude.



Save the Date: December 31, 2024, for the Forever Young New Year's Eve Celebration! This year, we are traveling to Spain to celebrate. Gather at 4:30 PM, eat at 5:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share—everyone is welcome!

### 2024 Confirmands and their Sponsors

*“Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”  
– Philipians 4:6-7*





*Heavenly Father,*

*We come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the brave men and women who have served our nations with honor and sacrifice. Today, we especially hold our veterans in our hearts, seeking Your divine grace and renewal for their weary souls.*

*Lord, we pray that You would be their guiding light out of the darkness, the gentle rain that nourishes their spirits, bringing forth a new spring of hope and joy in their lives. Like the dawn that follows the darkest night, may Your love bring them into a season of renewal where peace blossoms within their hearts.*

*Wrap Your comforting arms around them, O God, and dispel the shadows of despair with Your radiant light. Grant them strength and resilience as they walk the path of healing. May they find solace in Your presence, knowing they are never alone in their journey.*

*Lead us, as their community, to be instruments of Your peace and love. Help us to offer unwavering support, understanding, and kindness to our veterans, acknowledging their sacrifices through our actions and words.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*



# 2024 November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All St. Day.  Homespun Treasure	2  Homespun Treasure
3 Daylight Savings Ends Food Drive 9 AM Pageant Rehearsal	4 <b>Ad Council</b> 6:30 <b>Missions</b>  7 Troop 117	5 <i>Election Bake Sale</i>  <i>Election</i>  NO SCHOOL	6 9 Quilt Guild  10 Forever Young  5:45 Music Team 6 Finance Team	7  <b>2 Bereavement</b>  <b>6 Community Outreach</b>	8	9
10 9 AM Pageant Rehearsal White Gift 4-6 MYF Meeting Youth Room	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>  7 Troop 117	12 10:30 AM Cicero Christian Sisters  11 Bridge  2 Mahjong 6:30 117 Cub Pack	13 Guild Commit- tee Meeting  Memorial Committee 10  5:45 Music Team  Finance 6 PM	14  <b>LRP 6:30</b>    Sanctuary Cleaning	15	16    9 Cropper Circle
17  White Gift 9 AM Pageant Rehearsal	18 <b>6:30 SPRC</b> <b>Spear Rm</b>  7 Troop 117	19  11 Bridge 12 Mahjong  Advent Bible Study 11 & 6:30 Spear Room  6:30 117 Cub Pack	20 Forever Young Noon Pot Luck  5:45 Music Team  7 PM Boy Scout Committee  6:30 Education Team	21  Worship Team  6:30 Trustees  Sanctuary Cleaning	22	23    9 Faith Breakfast
24 <b>Thanksgiving Basket Deliveries</b> 9 AM Pageant Rehearsal	25 <b>Basket Delivery</b>  7 Troop 117	26 <b>Basket Delivery</b> 11 Bridge  12 Mahjong  <b>9 am Folding</b> Advent Bible Study 11 & 6:30 Spear  6:30 117 Cub Pack	27 9 Quilt Guild   <b>Newsletter Email</b>	28  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	29  <b>Office Closed</b>	30



Cicero United Methodist Church  
8416 Brewerton Road  
Cicero, NY 13039  
Phone: 315-699-2731  
Website:  
[www.ciceroumchurch.org](http://www.ciceroumchurch.org)  
E-mail:  
[Admin\\_Asst@ciceroumchurch.org](mailto:Admin_Asst@ciceroumchurch.org)

Church Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 am to 2 pm

Sunday Services:  
9:30 AM



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