

Church Chat
March 2025

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, as I present this March publication of our Church newsletter. I am delighted that you are taking the time to read this letter and the other contents of this spring and Lenten newsletter. We would appreciate your feedback about the newsletter and what you think we might do to improve it.

Allow me to extend a cordial invitation to our Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and other Lenten observances. We will offer a six-week Lenten Bible study using resources by Max Lucado, "In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land". Everyone is welcome to participate in this series from March 11 - April 15 either at 11:00 AM or 6:30 PM.

This month while observing Lent we will also welcome spring. With the arrival of spring there are certain changes that will be evident. Daylight hours will be longer, temperatures will steadily increase, the snow, which has really accumulated this year, will decrease and gradually melt, the trees will put out leaves, the grass will grow, the birds and animals will be seen a lot more, and even we humans will appear to be different in dress and mood and activities. It is like everything is being renewed.

I find this a wonderful metaphor for the season of Lent, which is a forty day period of preparation before the Festival of the Resurrection. One of my favorite Bible verses is found in the prophecy of Isaiah. It reads:

"Come now, let us argue it out,
says the Lord:
If your sins are like scarlet,
will they become like snow?
If they are red like crimson,
will they become like wool?" (1:18).

We refer to Lent as a penitential season because it is a time when we are encouraged to ponder deeply and honestly how sin affects us and not only to feel or express sorrow but to repent and turn away from sin and live a life that is pleasing to God. In the verse quoted above, the prophet, who is God's spokesperson, tells the people that they can approach God, they can argue (in the sense of reason or talk it over) with God, and they can make atonement (often associated with cleansing or removal of impurities) with God. This is at the heart of the Lenten observance. Lent is a time to draw even closer to God in prayer and other spiritual disciplines. God is always ready to listen to us more than we are willing to come and listen to God. When we come to God in faith and penitence, God will transform our sin-stained lives and make us pure. Our sins, which are like scarlet, God can take away and make us like snow. Now that is impossible for us to do on our own, but with God it is possible that our sins that are red as crimson can become like wool.

As we experience the changing seasons around us, let us open our lives and avail ourselves to God so that we can know the positive, profound and powerful changes that take place in those who come to God.

Finally, [friends], rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
(2 Corinthians 13:11).

Jefferson Niles

Jefferson C. Niles, EdD, MAE, BA
Pastor
Email: pastor@ciceroumchurch.org

Easter Flower Orders - Yes - it's time to be thinking ahead to Easter Sunday. Each year the Worship Team connects with Hafner's to offer an opportunity to purchase and dedicate an Easter plant to loved ones who have passed or to those you wish to honor or celebrate. This year there are four choices: **Fancy three color Easter Mums \$10, Easter Lilies \$10, Tulips \$9, and Hyacinths \$9.** If you prefer you can fill out the form that is included in the Newsletter or fill out an order form in church - **March 23rd and March 30th are the days those forms will be included in the bulletin and a Worship Team member will be on hand to collect them.** **Questions: contact the Church Office or call Deb Irwin 315 727-0190/ email irwind0119@gmail.com**



Easter Flower Order

To help decorate the sanctuary for Easter

please indicate quantity:

- ___ Tulips \$9.00
- ___ Hyacinths \$9.00
- ___ Lilies \$10.00
- ___ Tri-Color Chrysanthemums \$10.00

___ I will pick up my plant after Easter Worship

___ Please donate my plant to someone who would enjoy it.

Name _____

DEDICATION:

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

In honor of _____

Please drop off at the Flower Order table in the

NARTHEX. No orders will be taken after March 30, 2025



Rummage Sale 2025 - WE'RE BACK!!

SAVE THE DATE! The sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, August 22nd and 23rd. We will begin accepting donations from July 28th through August 18th. If you're cleaning out, downsizing, or deciding what brings you joy, the Rummage Sale is a great opportunity to ensure your treasures find a good home. Consider sorting your items as you declutter—set aside a box for

clothes, one for housewares, and another for decor. Pre-sorting helps us tremendously during the busy weeks leading up to the sale!

This is a large event that uses nearly every space in our building, and it requires significant effort to organize. However, it's also a fantastic chance to come together as a church family! (Just ask anyone who has volunteered before!) While it is a busy time, it's filled with fun activities!

The preparation begins on July 28th and continues gradually until the sale. The final days leading up to the event, from August 18th to 21st, are what we call "crazy time," when everything comes together. There are virtually limitless opportunities for you to volunteer, and we truly need your help. We encourage every member of our church to consider how they can contribute to this effort. Stay tuned for more details about how you can join our team and be part of the fun! If you have any questions, please call the Irwins: Mike at 315 727-9483 or Deb at 315 727-0190, or email us at mirwin1220@gmail.com.

Just a reminder: the Bears you see on the windowsills in the Sanctuary have been designated as Prayer Bears. Each bear is tagged with a message that reminds us that God loves and cares for each of us. If you know someone who could use a bit of love and encouragement, please feel free to take a bear and give it to them. If you have some Bears at home that you would like to donate, you can leave them in the box in the Narthex. They will be cleaned, tagged, and added to the collection of bears waiting to find a new home and fulfill their purpose. For more information, please call Deb Irwin at 315 727-0190 or email irwind0119@gmail.com



Thank You for Saving Jars!

I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has saved jam and pickle jars and donated them in the Welcome Center. Jars have become quite expensive, and I truly appreciate every single one that you bring back. Your contributions make it possible for me to continue jamming and pickling. If you have any jars and are unsure whether I can use them, please feel free to bring them in! I'm happy to take any jars you offer. If I can't use them myself, I will pass them along to someone who can. Also, I haven't come across a label yet that I couldn't get cleaned off! Thank you once again for your support!

Deb Irwin 315 272-0190
or irwind0119@gmail.com

Summer Camp 2025

It's that time of year when we start planning for summer! Have you considered sending your children, grandchildren, or neighbors to church camp? There are four Methodist camps in upstate New York, each offering different programs and retreats for our youth. We have found that those who attend church camps often return excited with many stories to share about their experiences.

This year, thanks to the generosity of many contributors, campership funds are available to cover 50% of the cost for attending summer church camps. We encourage you to think about sending a child to camp this summer. For additional information or if you have any questions, please reach out to a member of our Christian Education Team or Mike Janisch at 315-663-6126. We look forward to hearing from you!



Camp Websites

www.skyfarmcamp.org

www.skylakecenter.org

www.aldersgateny.org

www.asburyuny.org

UNY Conference camp information- www.unyumc.org

Click on ministries and then Camp and Retreat

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - 2025

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If you're feeling down because of the snow and cold, think warm and happy thoughts about our upcoming Vacation Bible School planning! Our Vacation Bible School will run from July 21st to 25th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. All children between the ages of 3 and 6th grade are invited. Yee-Haw, we will be headed out west ya'll! More information to follow. Please sign up to help us have fun. Our meetings will be on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions or want to sign up, please see or call Sue Bonspille at 315- 420-2101. Look for more information about our fun and exciting VBS program coming soon.



ALL AROUND EASTER

Our classes will participate in Sunday school adventures weekly as they follow Jesus's adventures during his last days on earth. We will look forward to Palm Sunday, His last supper, and spend time with Him in the garden. We will learn that His sacrifice on the cross, although sad, was His Father's plan to set us free from our sins. And again, we look forward to His RESURRECTION! Thank you, Sunday school teachers, for making this program possible for our children! This program will run from March 9th to April 13th.

MARCH 9TH - SPRING AHEAD

Remember to set your clocks an hour ahead on March 9th! Also, you can wear your PJs to church and put your cereal order in, too!

Play, pray, and grow with us in Sunday School, and make a joyful noise to the Lord too!

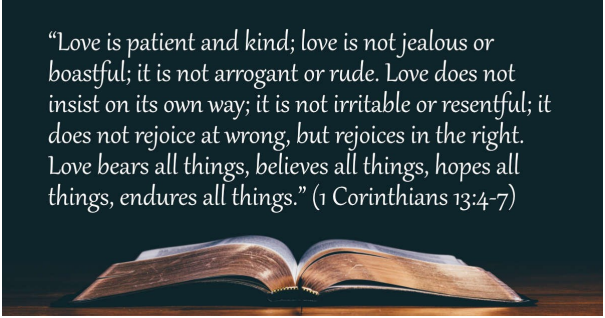
Fuel Sunday is back for winter! On the 2nd Sunday of March, we will observe Fuel Sunday. You will find envelopes labeled “Fuel Sunday” in the pews. We would greatly appreciate any contributions you can make to help offset our utility costs this winter. You can mark your check as “Fuel Sunday” and place it in the collection plate. If you use online banking, you can select “Fuel Sunday” to make your contribution. Thank you for your support! The Finance Team



Save the Date:
Golden Christian Luncheon
“Your Stories of Jesus”
You can share your favorite bible, worship,
or Sunday school story.

May 18, 2025

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)





**LANCASTER, PA BUS TRIP
SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER
June 3-6, 2025**

The trip includes transportation and lodging, with three breakfasts, dinners, shows, driver gratuity, and more.

Cicero United Methodist Church Caring Support Group sponsors the trip.
For more information, contact Mary Alice Scheel at 315-699-7181.

The cost is \$875.00, double per person.
\$950.00 Single
A \$250.00 deposit
needed ASAP.

Ash Wednesday Luncheon at Noon

Ash Wednesday Worship

On March 5th there will be two Worship Services. 1 PM and 7 PM, respectively.

Bible Study

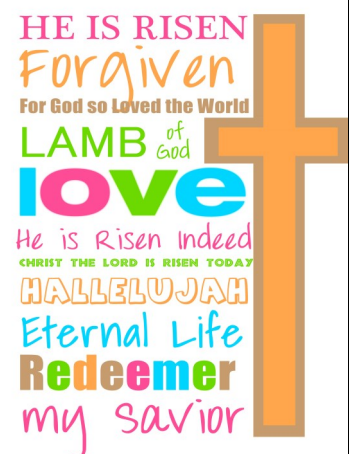
The Lenten Bible Study Series will occur from March 11 to April 15, 2025, at 11 AM and 6:30 PM.

Lenten Offering

We want to invite you to participate in our Lenten Sacrificial Offering. The idea is to set aside one dollar for each of the forty days of Lent. The total amount raised will be donated to a charitable organization, agency, or program that serves the needs of youth and less fortunate people in our community.

Easter Sunday Services

6 AM Sunrise Worship
9 AM Easter Worship
11 AM Easter Worship



Lent

2025

first day of lent: 03/05/2025

Do something
NICE
for a teacher
or pastor.

Make a cross
with things you
find in
nature. *two*

Read a Bible
story or book. **3**



Play your
favorite game
with someone.

four

5

Give
someone
a hug.



NO
sweets
today!

six

7

Learn an
Easter song.



8

Make a
cottonball
lamb & think
about how Jesus is
the Lamb of God.



9

Give away something
to someone.

Help
someone
today.

ten

Draw or
decorate
colorful
Easter eggs. **11**



Surprise someone
with a **SPECIAL
NOTE.**

12



13

Draw a
picture
with chalk
outside.

14
Pray for
someone.



**GIVE
SOMEONE A
COMPLIMENT.**

15

16

Help with
yardwork or
pick up a piece
of litter.



twenty

seventeen
Share a meal
with someone.

Perform
a random
act of
KINDNESS.

18

Download
Easter
coloring
pages, print
and color.

19



Tell God what
you are
thankful for.

LIST

reasons why you love Easter.

twenty one



22
Draw or purchase an Easter Lily for a friend.

twenty three

Read John 13:1-17 and wash someone's feet.

Have a palm parade around your home.

twenty four

FORGIVE

someone for something they did to you.

twenty six

Talk to someone or think about why we celebrate Easter.

27

Read about Good Friday.
(John 19:16-37)

Go on a nature scavenger hunt & find things that remind you of Jesus.



25

Draw an Easter picture for your family.

thirty

Make something for someone.

Go on a walk or bike ride & pray for your neighbors.



28

Collect items in a basket that remind you of Easter.

29



31

Play stack the Peeps.

(See who can stack the most Peeps in a minute.)



32

thirty six

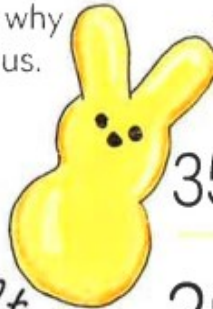
GIVE UP
Something for the day.

thirty three

Play a game in the dark with flashlights.

Tell someone why you love Jesus.

34



35

Make an Easter card.

37

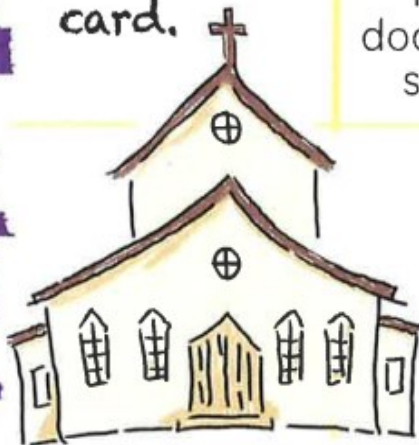
thirty eight

Hold the door open for someone.

39

Read about Jesus' resurrection.

(Matthew 28;
Mark 16;
Luke 24;
John 20)



Attend an Easter service.

Cicero United Methodist Church
8416 Brewerton Road
Cicero NY 13039
Admin_Asst@ciceroumchurch.org
315-699-2731



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship	3 6 PM Boy Scouts	4 10:30 AM Cicero Christian Sisters 10 AM Forever Young	5 Lunch @ Noon Ash Wednesday Worship 1 PM & 7 PM	6 2 PM Bereavement 6 PM Community Outreach	7	8
9 Daylight Savings PJ Day 9:30 AM Worship Lent 1	10 6 PM Boy Scouts	11 11 AM and 6:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship Lent 2	17 St. Patrick's Day 6 PM Boy Scouts	18 11 AM and 6:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	19 6PM Finance Team	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship Lent 3 30 Lent 4	24 6 PM Boy Scouts 316 PM Boy Scouts	25 11 AM and 6:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	26 6:30 PM Trustees Meeting	27	28	29 9 AM Faith Breakfast

Cicero United Methodist Church
8416 Brewerton Road
Cicero, NY 13039
Phone: 315-699-2731
Website:
www.ciceroumchurch.org
E-mail:
Admin_Asst@ciceroumchurch.org

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

Sunday Services:
9:30 AM



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