



Church Chat  
May 2025

Dear Friends

It is my delight to greet you in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior. I pray that you will have joy because in God's great mercy we have been given new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). This month's publication of the Newsletter comes in the spirit of peace and with the grace of the Risen Christ. We trust that you will be encouraged and edified.

May is a month when I remember some significant persons and events. First, I remember my father, Collins C. Niles, and offer a brief tribute to him. He was born on May 2, 1936, a few months before Pope Francis who died the day after the celebration of the Festival of Resurrection. My father died on February 18, 2021 just as we were coming out of the Covid pandemic. He was a devoted husband and father, a dedicated member of the Church, and a devout Christian. I remember my father as a man of many skills and one who was good at coming up with solutions to problems. He was persistent, patient, and a pragmatist. I thank God for my father's example and how he helped to shape and guide my life.

Secondly, in this month of May we remember our Methodist heritage. It was May 24, 1738 when John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, had what is known as his Aldersgate experience. This was a pivotal moment in Wesley's life and remains an important date in the history of Methodism. In addition, his younger brother, Charles Wesley, had a similar spiritual experience a few days earlier on May 21, 1738 that profoundly influenced the direction of his life. Some of the great hymns of Methodism were composed to mark the experiences of the Wesley brothers. Two of those hymns are: Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin, known as the Wesleys' Conversion hymn, and the other, And Can It Be That I Should Gain. So as we remember our Methodist founders, John and Charles Wesley, and celebrate our heritage, let us pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, for renewal, revival and restoration.

Finally, on the last Monday of May we will observe Memorial Day as we remember those who died in the military in service to the country. They made the ultimate sacrifice and it is fitting that we honor their service and sacrifice. Here is a quote from Charlie Dent that's appropriate for our Memorial Day observance: "Freedom does not come without a price. We may sometimes take for granted the many liberties we enjoy in America, but they have all been earned through the ultimate sacrifice paid by so many of the members of our armed forces".

So let us remember. I am always struck by how many times in the Bible we find admonitions to remember. A key example is found in Deuteronomy where the Israelites are told not to forget the Lord. Here is an important verse from that chapter: "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

When each succeeding generation remembers the teachings, example and sacrifice of those who have gone before it leads to gratitude, success, and a life of faithfulness and fulfillment.

God bless you,

Jefferson C. Niles, EdD, MAE, BA  
Pastor  
Email: [pastor@ciceroumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@ciceroumchurch.org)

**Alive Wesleyan Church**

# **FLEA MARKET CHICKEN BBQ**

**\$1 Hot Dogs**

**Live Bands**

Discover treasures and great deals

**SATURDAY, MAY 3 FROM 10 AM -3 PM**



*The Collamer United Church is very pleased to announce that it will present a public*

***DINE-IN***

*Chicken & Biscuit Dinner*

*On Saturday, May 10, 2025.*

*Serving will be from 4:30 P.M. through approximately 6:15 P.M.*

*The church is located at 6865 Fly Road in Collamer (East Syracuse), just South of the intersection of Fly Road and Route 298 (about 2 miles East of Carrier Circle, or take Exit 7 off from Route 481).*

*This delicious in-house full-service family style chicken dinner will include homemade biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh cooked vegetables, brown breads, and dessert, including pies! Tickets may be purchased at the door. Take-outs will also be available.*

*Collamer Church is well-known for its great cooks.*

*Tickets may be purchased at the door.*

*\$15.00 for ALL adults*

*\$6.00 for children under 10*

*(We apologize but we cannot accept credit cards)*

# Golden Christian Luncheon

May 18, 2025 Noon  
Fellowship Hall

Golden Christians, we are looking forward to honoring and celebrating YOU and sharing Jesus' Love with YOU at Our Golden Christian Luncheon on May 18, 2025! Please RSVP by May 5, 2025 by following the directions on the bottom of your invitation!



## Lawn Care - Grounds Care Volunteer Opportunity

For many years, dedicated volunteers have been maintaining and mowing the church and parsonage lawns, saving the church thousands of dollars each year. This year, we are looking for additional volunteers to help with lawn care.

Volunteers are encouraged to commit to mowing and assisting with lawn care for either one month or just a few weeks. A trustee will provide training on how to operate the John Deere mower and the weed eater.

If you find this opportunity inspiring, please reach out to Mike Janisch or Mary, our Office Administrative Assistant, at 315-699-2731. Thank you for your support!



## Finance Team

We are a church full of wonderfully talented people. We are blessed to have people who have a natural ability to do a wide variety of things such as teach, organize events, cook, listen to others, or share their wisdom of years. We are a very giving congregation. We share our talents and our monetary gifts. Thank you for doing both!

Recently your gifts have made it possible to repair the ceiling near the narthex. Our parsonage urgently needed to have the hot water heater replaced. The church refrigerator has succumbed to years of good use, it is being replaced.

We not only care for our place of worship and the pastor's home but our community. Our Lenten Offering this year has been designated to "Will's Angels". You have raised \$3600, with more expected. We will gladly accept more offerings to help this organization.

You will see special envelopes in the pews during the month of May for Native American Ministries Sunday. This reminds us of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans in our society. This special offering supports Native American outreach across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. For more information on this check out the United Methodist website - [umc.org](http://umc.org).

**A TREASURER HUNT!!** The finance team is looking for someone who is interested in helping our treasurer - Deb Popp. Please contact Deb for questions.

**Financial Tip:** A fundamental financial tip is to create and follow a budget. Track your income and expenses. Identify areas where you can cut spending and allocate money towards needs, wants and savings. A budget is a crucial step in managing your money and achieving your long range financial goals.

Luke 14:28 " Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"

Thank you for all your gifts and talents!





# God's Country Jamboree

**Sunday**  
**June 8, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**

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



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

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## God's Country News

On April 13th, 48 people attended God's Country Jamboree. We celebrated Palm Sunday and the anticipation of Holy Week and Easter. We watched the music video "The Cross" by Anne Wilson. The lyrics tell us that when you doubt yourself, your faults, and your sins, all you have to do is turn to the cross. Pastor Niles expanded on this message of the power of the cross by sharing parts of the Easter story from the Book of Luke. He told us how Holy Week began with hope and celebration of Jesus on Palm Sunday and ended with a travesty of justice. On Good Friday, the man on the cross next to Jesus cried out, "Remember me," and Jesus told him they would meet in paradise today. We can all be saved from our sins and have eternal life with God because Jesus died for us on the cross. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". When you look at the beautiful cross in the fellowship hall window and the many other crosses around the church, we should stop and remember and be thankful for this amazing gift of God's grace. Our next service will be June 8, 2025. Remember to wear your cowboy hat and bring a friend. Y'all come back now ya hear!



Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, reached out, called, or sent cards during my recent surgery. I'm happy to share that the surgery was a great success, and I am on my way to a full recovery. Your support has truly helped me through this time. I also want to extend my gratitude to Joe for being a big help. I appreciate you all so much.

Your sister in Christ,  
Pat Michael





**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 per person

\$950.00 double

\$250.00 deposit needed ASAP.

Don't miss out on this fantastic trip!



### **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 up-state 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! UNY Conference camp information- [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org) Click on ministries and then Camp and Retreat

#### **Camp Websites**

[www.skyfarmcamp.org](http://www.skyfarmcamp.org)

[www.skylakecenter.org](http://www.skylakecenter.org)

[www.aldersgateny.org](http://www.aldersgateny.org)

[www.asburyuny.org](http://www.asburyuny.org)





2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1  <b>6 Community Outreach</b>  6:30 Education Team	2	3
4 Native American Sunday  9:30 Worship  Will's Angel Gift Presentation	5	6	7 10 Forever Young  7 Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Meeting	8  2 Bereavement  6:30 Long Range Planning	9	10
11  Mother's Day  9:30 Worship (Baptism)	12  <b>6:30 Worship Team</b>	13  10:30 AM Cicero Christian Sisters	14	15	16  Set up GCL	17  Set up GCL
18  9:30 Worship  Methodist Heritage Sunday  12 Golden Christian Lunch	19	20	21  1 Forever Young Celebration of Methodist Heritage  6:30 Trustees	22  <b>Upper New York Annual Conference (On center)</b>	23  <b>Upper New York Annual Conference (On center)</b>	24  <b>Upper New York Annual Conference ends</b>  Aldersgate Day
25 Memorial Day Sunday  9:30 Worship (Baptism)	26  Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28  <b>6 Finance Team</b>	29	30  Newsletter Emailed and Mailed	31  9 Faith Breakfast



## OVERVIEW

# WELCOME TO THE WEST



## YEE-HAW!

Howdy, partners!

Look to your left—do you see the cattle over yonder stampeding across the plains? Look to your right—can your eyes make out the sun-covered buttes of the desert? Look behind you—the brand-new transcontinental railroad is rumbling along the tracks! From the Badlands of South Dakota to the high peaks of the Rockies, there is wonder to be discovered everywhere we turn in the Old West!

Join us as we gallop through the wonder-filled West, where our friends at Wonder Junction will teach us about the grandest wonder of all—Jesus Christ. Each day, we'll dig deeper into who this awe-inspiring Jesus is, answering questions such as:

- What amazing things happened surrounding Jesus' birth?
- What was Jesus like as a child and teen?
- What wonders occurred during Jesus' ministry years?
- How were Jesus' death and resurrection like no other?
- What should we be doing as we wait for Jesus' return?

Wonder and amazement await us each day at Wonder Junction, where kids will gather at the **All Aboard Assembly**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a mission moment, and prayer.

Then we're off to rotate through five fun sites:

**High Point Bible Time**, where God's Word is taught in creative, hands-on ways.

**Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts**, where kids get their hands dirty as they make crafts and explore God's world through science experiments.

**Sweet Sadie's Snacks**, where kids munch on some downright tasty home-cooked vittles.

**Gallop'n' Gabe's Games**, the rambunctious rec time where kids might just get plumb tucked out.

**Miss Millie's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses**, where kids sing songs, learn their memory verses, or go

in-depth with the mission moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund.

Finally, everyone is rounded up to head back to the **All Aboard Assembly** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama that highlights the shenanigans of two bumbling bandits who are transformed after learning about the wonderful life of Jesus Christ.

So dust off your boots, grab your bandana, and get ready for a rootin' tootin' good ol' time at Wonder Junction!

### Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people. From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be softhearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator, and Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, we don't want to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun.

Yee-Haw! Overview • 7

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it. May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!



The best part about our mission trip is that I got to meet some awesome people from another church, got closer to our youth group, and, most importantly, felt more connected to God. One moment that really stuck with me was helping a lady find shoes- we gave her many options, and even though she picked a pair that wasn't the nicest, she told us she was already so grateful for everything. It put things into perspective. Ivy Paye



The mission trip we went on was one of the best experiences I've ever had! I loved being able to help people in need and serve the community of Virginia Beach. I also really enjoyed all the fun activities we did as a youth group - they brought us closer together and made the trip even more meaningful. Cooper Tackman



The trip was about getting closer to God by making a positive impact through our mission work. It felt amazing to know that our help made a difference in the community. I'm so grateful for the experience and the friendships I made during the trip! Mira Prodanov



**This mission trip changed me in ways I didn't expect. It deepened my friendships, strengthened my faith in God, and opened my heart even more to the needs of others. Whether serving the homeless, sharing memories with the youth group at the beach, or simply being present with God's people, every moment was a reminder of the hope that exists even in small acts of love. I left feeling more grateful, more grounded, and more determined to live a life of kindness and purpose. Christian Kahrs**



**I felt truly blessed to come into their church community and connect with their pastors, friends, and youth. Even though we were there to do work, I really felt their love because of how much they spoiled us with different breakfasts and activities every day. Aila Paye**



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8416 Brewerton Road  
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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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