

Church Chat  
Welcome Spring  
March 2026

Dear Friends,

As we flip the calendar to March 2026, I want to take a moment to welcome you to this new month filled with promise and renewal. With the arrival of March comes the reminder that change is in the air – the clocks will spring forward, and so will our spirits as we bid farewell to winter and welcome the warmth of spring.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities we have prepared to deepen our experience this season. Join us for our Tuesday Bible study, where we are sharing in a study by Max Lucado entitled: He Chose The Nails. Through this study we are exploring the gifts that God has given to show His love for us. In addition, there is the Wednesday evening women's book study, another great way to connect with others and grow in your understanding of God's truth.

In this spring newsletter, you will find updates on our community events, ways to get involved, and stories of faith and perseverance. I trust you find it inspiring and informative. From our upcoming community outreach initiatives to the latest news about our Sunday School and Youth Group, there is something for everyone.

As we look ahead, let us remain faithful and steadfast in our walk with God. I pray this season of Lent will be a time of spiritual growth and renewal for everyone. Let us continue to support one another, lift each other up, and shine the light of Christ in our community.

In closing, I want to remind you that you are not alone on this journey. We are a family, and we are here to support and love one another. If there is anything we can do to serve you, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jefferson C Niles".

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

**Easter Flowers**

Yes, it's time to begin thinking ahead to Easter Sunday! Each year, the Worship Team partners with Hafner's to offer an opportunity to purchase and dedicate Easter plants in memory of loved ones who have passed or in honor of those you wish to celebrate. This year, we are pleased to offer four choices: **Fancy Tri-Color Easter Mums (\$10), Easter Lilies (\$10), Tulips (\$9), and Hyacinths (\$9)**. Orders will be taken after worship services on **March 8** and **March 15**. **Please note:** quantities are limited, and if you would like a specific type of plant, please place your order by **March 8**. Your dedication helps beautify our sanctuary and continues a cherished Easter tradition within our church family. If you prefer you can fill out the form that is included in the Newsletter or fill out an order form in church

**- March 8th & 15th 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

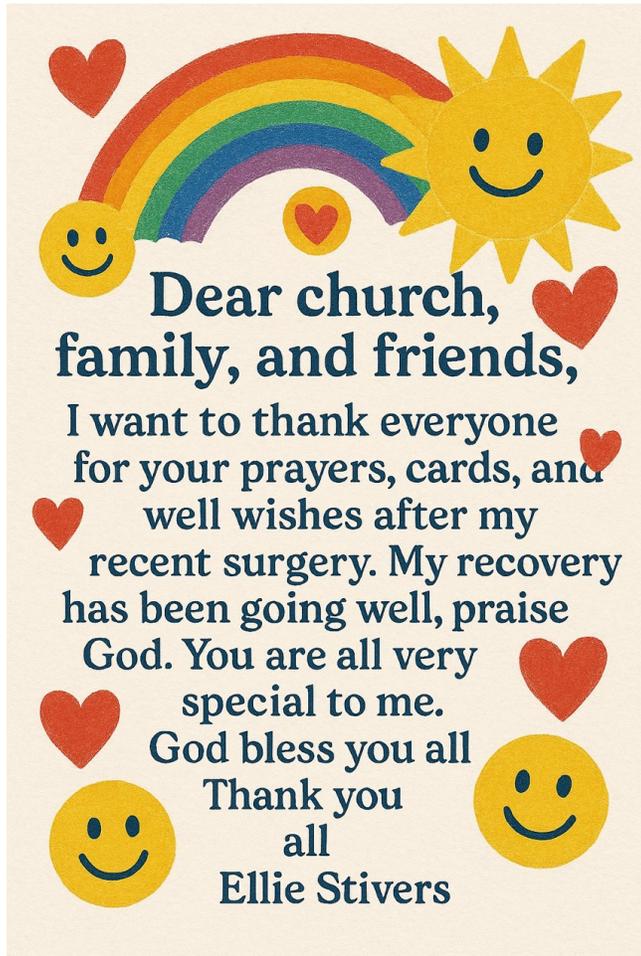
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Please drop off at the Flower Order table in the

**NARTHEX**. No orders will be taken after March 15, 2026

## Fuel Sunday

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! Spaghetti Dinner at Cicero United Methodist Church

Get ready for an evening of great food, fellowship, and fun!

 **Sunday, April 19**

Cicero United Methodist Church

Bring your appetite and your friends—  
**You won't want to miss this delicious community dinner!**

More details will be coming soon.  
but for now...

 **Just plan to be there and enjoy a wonderful meal together!**

Interested in helping with the dinner?  
We'd love an extra hand!

**Contact Sue B. at 315-420-2101**

## Summer Camp 2026

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

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

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





# Holy Week

## Schedule

Maundy Thursday Fellowship  
Meal and Service

THURSDAY  
APRIL 2, 2026  
6:30 PM

Prayer Vigil

8 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY  
TO 7 PM GOOD FRIDAY,  
WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL OR  
AT HOME  
SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

Good Friday Service

FRIDAY  
APRIL 3, 2026  
7:00 PM

Holy Saturday

DAY OF REFLECTION, SILENCE, AND  
WAITING, MARKING THE TIME BETWEEN  
THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL OF JESUS  
AND HIS RESURRECTION ON EASTER  
SUNDAY.

Easter Sunday

APRIL 5, 2026  
6:30 AM - SONRISE SERVICE  
8:30 AM - WORSHIP  
11:00 AM - WORSHIP  
ALL ARE WELCOME



**EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 5, 2026**

**6:30 AM "SON" RISE SERVICE**

**8:30 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

**11:00 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**"EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIVE GRACE OF GOD.  
JOIN US THIS EASTER AS WE CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE  
OF THE RESURRECTION.**

**FROM THE EARLY LIGHT OF SUNRISE TO OUR  
CONCLUDING CELEBRATION, WE WELCOME YOU TO FIND  
YOUR PLACE AMONG US."**



# MEMORY CAFÉ Gathering

**For Individuals Living with Alzheimer's or Dementia & Their Caregivers**

 **March 18, 2026**

 **10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

 **8416 Brewerton Road Cicero, NY 13039**

## **A Special Gathering Just for You**

Please join us for a joyful and relaxing Memory Café Gathering—a comfortable space created for people living with Alzheimer's or dementia and their caregivers. Enjoy companionship, music, laughter, and a lite bite and snacks.

## **Event Highlights**

 Social hour with friendly conversations in a welcoming, judgment-free space.

## **Live Entertainment**

Light, uplifting performances everyone can enjoy.

## **Lite Bites and Snacks**

Enjoy food —no work, no cleanup, just togetherness.

## **Supportive Community**

Connect with others who understand the journey.

## **Who's Welcome?**

Individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia  
Caregivers, support partners, family members.

This gathering is for those walking the journey of memory loss together.

 Come for the community. Stay for the smiles. Leave refreshed.

Contact: Mike White at 607-423-0672 or email [Office@ciceroumchurch.org](mailto:Office@ciceroumchurch.org).



# Memory Cafe Volunteers and Entertainers Needed



## 🎵 Entertainment Needed

Do you sing, play an instrument, perform magic, tell stories, or have a gentle, uplifting talent to share?

We'd love to feature you!

Performances are light, positive, and 30 minutes or less.

## 🍴 Cafe Volunteers

We are also looking for friendly helpers to assist with:

- Greeting attendees
- Serving lite snack items
- Setting up / cleaning up
- Socializing with guests

Creating a warm, supportive environment

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring joy and connection to a community that benefits  deeply from it.

📞 Your time and talents truly make a difference.

To volunteer or learn more, please contact: Mike White 607-423-0672

Office@ciceroumchurch.org  
8416 Brewerton Road,  
Cicero NY 13039



## God's Country News

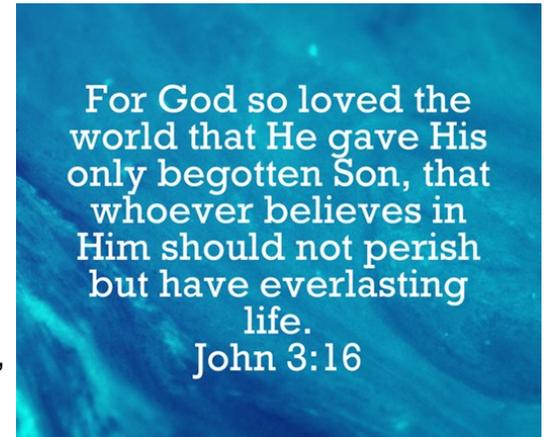
46 people attended God's Country Jamboree on Sunday, February 15th. We celebrated Valentine's Day with many love songs including Crazy by Patsy Cline and an Elvis medley. Our Valentine jokes were well received especially with Bill on the drums "ba-dum-ching"!

We watched an awesome music video "3:16" by Anne Wilson. One of the most quoted verses in the bible, this verse is the core message of Christianity, describing God's immense love and the promise of eternal life for those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Niles described how love is found around our church, on the front sign "Faith, Hope & Love" on the billboard "God is Love" and in our vision statement "Love Grows Here" He reminded us of God's greatest gift of love, his Son Jesus Christ, also provides Hope and Grace as written in the song's lyrics. He gave us 3 things to remember about God's Love:

1. God's love is universal, for all people.
2. God's love is sacrificial, he gave his only son.
3. God's love leads to life eternal, for those who believe.

Be sure and check out the God's Country Rambler's Facebook page. Like, follow and share with your friends! You can find the link to this month's video there. Our next service will be April 12, 2025. Remember to wear your cowboy hat and bring a friend. Y'all come back now ya hear!



"3:16" by Anne Wilson

Some say they're nothing but numbers, next to words that don't mean anything. Oh, but I found the TRUTH and a friend like no other, the moment I read 3:16.

Some say it's old-time religion, for the led-astray fools who believe. Oh, but I found the HOPE that my lost soul was missing, the moment I read 3:16.

For God so loved, how can it be, that He sent His son to die for me? My shame is gone, my sin washed clean and I owe it all to 3:16.

Some say you have to be perfect, because nothing in this life is free. Oh, but I found the GRACE I know I don't deserve, the moment I read 3:16.

For God so loved, how can it be, that He sent His son to die for me? My shame is gone, my sin washed clean and I owe it all to 3:16.

So lay down your burdens, you're broken, lift up your eyes and see. A Savior with arms stretched wide open, on a cross meant for you and for me. Oh, thank God for 3:16.

For God so loved, how can it be, that He sent His son to die for me? My shame is gone, my sin washed clean and I owe it all to 3:16. And I owe it all to 3:16. Oh, thank God for 3:16.



# God's Country Jamboree

**Sunday**  
**April 12, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**

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



Cicero United Methodist Church  
8416 Brewerton Rd, Cicero, NY

 **CONFIRMATION 2026**

Our Confirmation class will begin their journey of faith with their mentors on **February 22nd**. Please keep these young disciples in your prayers as they take this important step. The Confirmation experience begins in **September**, led by Sunday School teachers **Stephanie Lotts** and **Alyssa Dunsmoor**, guiding students through the **Book of Luke** from September through June. With the support of caring adult mentors and teen co-mentors, confirmands will discern whether they wish to join the church on Confirmation Sunday, **October 4th**.  
*If you have not yet completed Confirmation and wish to join, you are welcome!*

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 **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — Illumination Station**

Beat the winter blues by looking ahead to our summer VBS adventure!

**July 27 – 31 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Ages **3 through 6th grade**

**Theme:** *Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*

**Scripture:** *John 8:12* — “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Join us for **Illumination Station**, where kids explore how light brightens, reveals, and reflects God’s truth. It will be the **brightest week of the year!**

Volunteers needed!

Planning Meetings Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

Questions or sign-ups? Contact **Sue Bonspille: 315-420-2101**

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 **ALL AROUND EASTER**

From **February 15th to March 29th**, our Sunday School classes will journey through the final days of Jesus’ life — from Palm Sunday to the Last Supper, the Garden, and the Cross — culminating in the joy of His **Resurrection**.

A heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated teachers for guiding our children through this meaningful series!

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 **MARCH 8 — SPRING AHEAD!**

Don’t forget to **set your clocks forward BY ONE hour**.

Wear your **PJs to church** and place your **cereal order!**

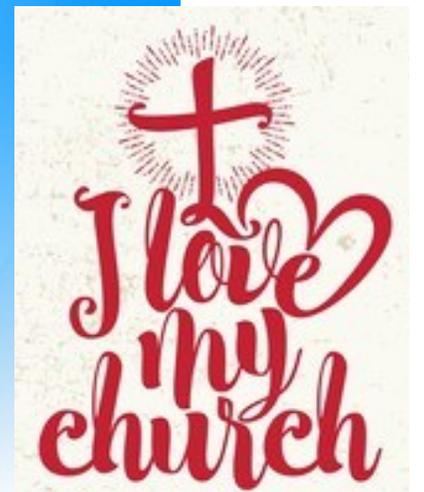


PIC • COLLAGE

## A Prayer for the Families & Children of Our Church

Heavenly Father, Bless the families and kids of our church who enjoyed an afternoon of sleing to begin the Lenten season. Keep them safe, and may they be drawn ever closer to you through this time of reflection and preparation Amen.





## WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a sacred season of forty days when we, as followers of Christ, take time to reflect, pray, and draw closer to God. In the Methodist tradition, Lent invites us into a journey of grace—one shaped not by guilt or obligation, but by God’s loving call to grow, deepen, and renew our faith. It is a time to remember the life and ministry of Jesus, to practice spiritual disciplines, and to make room in our hearts for God to do something new. Through prayer, worship, and intentional living, Lent becomes a gentle pathway that guides us toward Easter’s hope and resurrection joy.

## GROWING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Lent offers families a wonderful opportunity to nurture faith at home. Simple practices—like sharing a daily prayer, reading a short Scripture story, or choosing small acts of kindness—help children understand that Lent is about love in action. You might create a “Lenten kindness jar,” where each day a family member draws a simple way to bless someone else, or set aside a few minutes each evening to talk about where you saw God’s love that day. These little rhythms help kids learn that faith is lived, shared, and practiced together.

And for adults, participating alongside your children strengthens your own walk with God. When your family pauses, prays, listens, and serves together, your Lenten journey becomes richer and more meaningful. It isn’t about being perfect—it’s about opening your heart, slowing down enough to notice God’s presence, and choosing love again and again.

## LOVE GROWS HERE

As a church family, we celebrate that **Love Grows Here**—in our sanctuary, in our homes, and in the ways we care for one another. This Lent, may you find moments of quiet grace, opportunities to grow, and reminders that God’s love is always leading you forward. May this season help your family experience that love more deeply, and may it bloom in your hearts as we journey toward Easter together.



# Lenten Sacrificial Offering

We invite you to participate in our Lenten Sacrificial Offering by setting aside one dollar for each of the forty days of Lent.

This year, all funds collected will support Erin’s Angels, a local non-profit organization dedicated to ending child hunger in our community. More information about Erin’s Angels and additional ways to help will be shared in the coming weeks.

Shiela Dion will join us in Sunday, March 8th in Worship Service at 9:30 AM to share more information on Erin’s Angels.

# 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  9:30 Worship  11 MYF	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11 Pastor's Bible Study 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 117 Cub Pack	<b>4</b> <b>Guild Meeting</b>  <b>10 Forever Youn</b>  6:30 PM Women's Bible Study  <b>7 Alzheimer's Dementia Meeting</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>2 Bereavement</b> <b>6 Community Outreach</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> TOT Safe Sanctuary
<b>8</b> Turn Clock's Back PJ Day.  9:30 Worship	<b>9</b>  <b>6:30 SPRC</b>  7 Troop 117	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 Cicero Christian Sisters</b> 11 Pastor's Bible Study 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 117 Cub Pack	<b>11</b>  9 am Quilt Guild  5:45 Music Team  6:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Cropper Circle
<b>15</b>  9:30 Worship  11 MYF	<b>16</b>  7 Troop 117	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  11 Pastor's Bible Study 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 117 Cub Pack	<b>18</b> <b>10:30 AM –12:00 PM Memory Café Gathering</b>  <b>6 Finance Team</b>  5:45 Music Team  6:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b>  <b>6 Trustees</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  9:30 Worship	<b>23</b>  7 Troop 117	<b>24</b> 11 Pastor's Bible Study 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong 6:30 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 117 Cub Pack	<b>25</b>  9 Quilt Guild  5:45 Music Team 6:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  9:30 Worship Palm Sunday  11 MYF	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  11 Bridge 12 Mahjong 6:30 117 Cub Pack				

# 2026 Rummage Sale —

Love Grows Here

## 📅 SAVE THE DATE

The Rummage Sale is officially back for 2026!

📅 Friday & Saturday, August 21–22

We invite everyone to take part—donating, volunteering, or shopping!

## 📅 DONATION COLLECTION BEGINS AUGUST 3

As winter decluttering and spring cleaning begin, please think of the sale.

Your donations help make this event a success!

## ITEMS WE GLADLY ACCEPT

Clothing & shoes (all sizes, good condition)

Jewelry

Home décor & holiday items

Electronics (working)

Housewares

Crafts & office supplies

Linens

Books & puzzles

Toys

Hardware & tools

Garden & sporting goods

Frames & furniture

## ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT

China cabinets

Entertainment centers

Mattresses

Old console TVs

Children's car seats

## CONTACT INFORMATION

📞 Mike Irwin — 315-727-9483

📞 Deb Irwin — 315-727-0190

## 👥 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — OVER 90 LAST YEAR!

This year's schedule is tighter than usual—we need many hands!

Let's match last year's 90+ volunteers!

## 📅 IMPORTANT DATES & WORK DAYS

Sunday, August 2 — Setup after church (VBS transition)

August 3–20 — Sorting, organizing, deliveries, pricing

Crunch Week (August 17–20) — Extra help appreciated!

Saturday, August 22 — Full clean-up for Sunday worship

## 👥 HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate, sort, price, organize, lift, carry, or clean.

Please see Deb or Mike to volunteer.

Thank you for supporting the 2026 Rummage Sale!



**Cicero United Methodist Church**

8416 Brewerton Road

Cicero, NY 13039

Phone: 315-699-2731

Website:

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

E-mail:

[Office@ciceroumchurch.org](mailto:Office@ciceroumchurch.org)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Friday

8:00 am to 2 pm



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