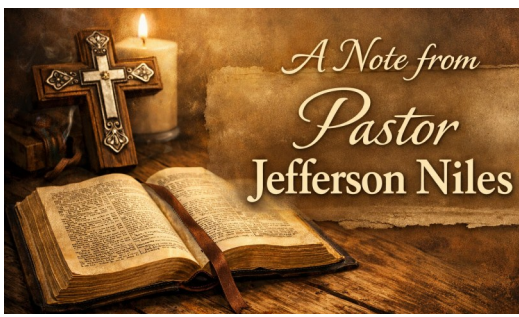




Pastoral Letter for August 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I commend this newsletter to all of you, trusting that you will find the articles and other contents both interesting and helpful as we journey together in faith this month.

It is hard to believe how quickly we have come to the eighth month of the year. Summer seems to be passing like a flash. We are grateful that even in its swift passage, we have been blessed with moments of deep joy and grace.

We give thanks for the baptisms celebrated in July, for the fun times and learning of Vacation Bible School, and for the many other events that have brought our church family together. Each gathering has been a reminder of God's presence among us and the gift we have in one another.

Looking ahead, this month brings our rummage sale and another God's Country Jamboree. I look forward to the camaraderie, fellowship, and excitement that always surrounds these events. These wonderful events do not happen on their own, so I am grateful to all who work diligently to plan, prepare, and execute the activities of this congregation. Your hands and hearts and hard work make ministry and all events possible.

I trust that we will all continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer in these remaining weeks. As we journey on, I also want to offer a special prayer and blessing for any among us moving on to a new adventure or stepping into a new experience. I pray God will grant you success, wisdom, and grace as you navigate the path before you.

I remain very concerned about our national affairs and join you in praying for an end to war and for diplomacy and peace to prevail. Let us also continue to pray for those who live in areas prone to hurricanes, and for those living in the aftermath of natural disasters, that they will receive the help and relief they need.

On a joyful note: Our Administrative Assistant, Mary, will be celebrating a special milestone on August 16th - 50 years. Let us help make this a special time for her and show our appreciation for her faithful service.

God bless you all in this month ahead.

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



Prayer Focus: Sharing Our Hearts

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

Beginning with our **September Newsletter**, we are excited to introduce a new section called **Prayer Focus**, a place where our church family can come together in prayer, encouragement, and thanksgiving.

Do you have a prayer request? Has God answered a prayer in your life? Is there someone who could use the support of our church family? We invite you to share your joys, concerns, praises, and prayer needs with us.

Whether you're asking for prayers for yourself, a loved one, a difficult situation, healing, guidance, or simply giving thanks for God's blessings, we would be honored to include your request.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please send your prayer requests or praises to:

Office@ciceroumchurch.org

Deadline: No later than the **17th of each month** to be included in that month's newsletter.

YOUR PRIVACY MATTERS

You may choose to:

- **Include your name** with your submission, or
- **Remain anonymous.**

If you would like your name withheld, please let us know when you submit your request. We will gladly honor your wishes.

Prayer is one of the greatest gifts we can offer one another. Together, let us celebrate God's faithfulness, lift one another through life's challenges, and strengthen our church family through the power of prayer.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
James 5:16

Dear Lord, I thank You for another day. Guide my steps, strengthen my heart, and grant me wisdom to make the right decisions. May Your peace fill my soul, and may Your grace guide me through every moment today. Amen.



"Dear God, give strength and patience to my loved ones as they support me through my health journey. Surround them with Your love and comfort. Amen."

 www.prayerfor.com

DEAR GOD

When life doesn't feel fair, please make crooked ways straight, remove the wrong people and arrange things in my favor.



Thank You

We are still overwhelmed by all the loving attention we received.
So many people to thank - those who organized, those who
provided the luncheon, presented gifts, and those who
spoke such kind words.

We are very humbled and grateful to all.

God bless the entire congregation of
Cicero United Methodist Church.

You are special and will always have a special place in our hearts.

1 Peter 4:10

*"Each of you should use whatever gifts
you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace
in its various forms."*



*Thank you.
Tari and Kaz Otabara*

LOVING BOLDLY

LOVING BOLDLY BLOG SERIES

UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE AND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fH28dosz50a69jgle3IKt-fu3wNm25JGh22v6hJIBFZUODYoNFNCTDNRUFIJQk5CMFo3STM5UDJEtY4u>

*Loving Boldly is a new blog series that highlights how individuals and congregations across Upper New York are living out The United Methodist Church's vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**. Across Upper New York, individuals and congregations are answering that question every day through acts of compassion, hospitality, generosity, and faith.*

How is your congregation, ministry, or community living out Upper New York's vision to love boldly? Whether it's an unexpected encounter, a creative ministry, a meaningful act of compassion, or a story of lives being transformed, we'd love to hear how the Holy Spirit is at work in your corner of the conference. Share your story so others can be inspired to follow where love leads.





HELP FILL THE SCHOOL BUS!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE BEGINS AUGUST 9!

A new school year is just around the corner, and together we can help local students start the year with confidence and the tools they need to succeed!

The Outreach Team is collecting new school supplies from **August 9 through August 30.**

Every donation, big or small, makes a meaningful difference in the life of a child. ❤️



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

-  Pens
-  Two-Pocket Folders
-  Glue Sticks
-  Pencils
-  Composition Notebooks
-  Crayons
-  One-Subject Notebooks



Simply place your donated supplies in the school bus located near the church office **by August 30.**

Whether you donate one pack of pencils or fill an entire backpack, your kindness helps equip students for a successful school year. ❤️

Thank you for being the

➤ *Hands and Feet of Christ* ➤

by investing in the children of our community! ❤️

CICERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OUTREACH TEAM



MORE THAN JUST A SONG

Have you ever noticed that if someone starts singing **"Amazing Grace,"** half the room quietly joins in? Music has a way of reaching our hearts before our minds even catch up. It can bring smiles, happy tears, and treasured memories in just a few notes.



In church, music is far more than a beautiful melody. It is worship, prayer, and praise wrapped in song. Throughout the Bible, music has always been part of God's story. David sang psalms, angels celebrated Christ's birth with songs, and believers were encouraged to sing hymns that glorify God and encourage one another.

Let's be honest... not everyone sings like an angel! Some of us make a joyful noise that keeps the choir on their toes. The wonderful thing is that God isn't listening for perfection. He's listening for our hearts.

Every hymn, anthem, and chorus prepares us to hear God's Word, strengthens our faith, and reminds us that we worship together as one family. So the next time the music begins, don't think of it as what happens before the sermon. It is part of the sermon. Lift your voice, open your heart, and remember...

when God's people sing together, heaven smiles.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day."

A Special Thank You to Mega Bubble Man!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Jim Livi, the Mega Bubble Man**, for bringing smiles, laughter, and a sense of wonder to our Carol's Memory Café. His interactive bubble show delighted our guests living with dementia and Alzheimer's, as well as their caregivers, creating joyful moments that were shared by all. Thank you, Jim, for reminding us that happiness, imagination, and simple pleasures truly have no age limit. <https://www.megabubbleman.com/>



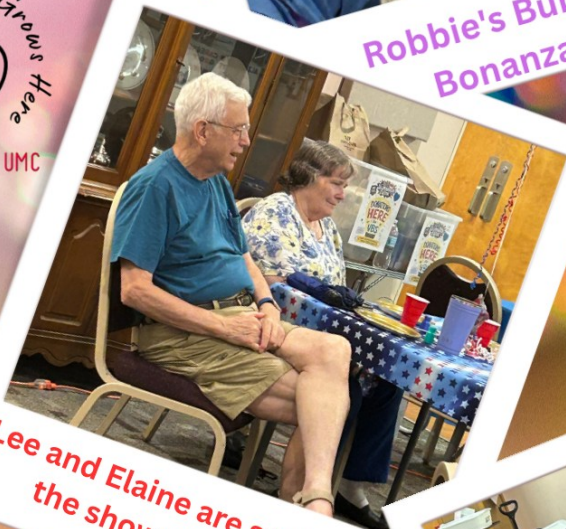
Bubbles galore!



Robbie's Bubble Bonanza!



July's Café Extravaganza with the Bubbly Bubble Man!



Lee and Elaine are soaking up the show vibes! 🐦🌟



Learning Adventures



Les is about to host his very first Bubble Bash!



WHAT A THRILL!



🌻 August Gathering

A welcoming gathering for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, along with their families, friends, and caregivers.

Join us for a relaxing morning filled with conversation, music, laughter, light refreshments, and meaningful connections.

Whether you're living with memory loss or supporting someone you love, you'll find a place where everyone is valued, understood, and welcomed with open hearts.

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

August's Location is

🌻 **Cicero Fire Station** 🌻

8377 Brewerton Road

Cicero, NY 13039

What You'll Enjoy

💛 Friendly Conversation

Build meaningful friendships in a caring environment.

🎵 Music & Favorite Memories

Enjoy familiar songs that bring smiles and spark treasured memories.

☕ Light Refreshments

Coffee, snacks, and good company.

👉 Caregiver Support

Share experiences, encouragement, and helpful resources.

❤️ Meaningful Connections

Because every story matters.

"Together we create moments of joy, comfort, friendship, and hope."

Mike White | 607-423-0672 | Carolismemorycarecafe@gmail.com





SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

TEACHERS, CO-TEACHERS, & SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
needed to teach tiny humans about Jesus. ♥

Let the
little children
come to me...

Matthew 19:14



We need caring adults to help teach our littlest disciples about Jesus through Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and love. ♥

WHY SERVE? ♥

- † Help shape young hearts for Christ
- † Make a lasting difference in a child's faith journey
- † Share your God-given talents
- † Build meaningful relationships with children and families
- † Have fun while serving the Lord!



Do You Have a Heart for Children?

Do You Have a Gift to Share?

Our Sunday School ministry is growing, and we are looking for **Teachers, Co-Teachers, and Substitute Teachers** who would love to help our tiny humans learn about the love of Jesus!

You don't need to be a Bible scholar. You simply need a willing heart and a desire to help children grow in their faith. ♥

God Gives Each of Us Special Gifts...

Maybe your gift is:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Storytelling | Patience & Kindness |
| Arts & Crafts | Creativity & Imagination |
| Music & Singing | Building Relationships |
| Encouragement | Sharing God's Love |

Whether you can teach every week, assist a teacher, or be available as a substitute, there is a place for you in this ministry.

INTERESTED? ♥



Contact Sue B.
315-420-2101

OR



Contact the
Church Office
315-699-2731



Share Your Gifts. Share God's Love. Change a Child's Life. ♥

Cicero United Methodist Church
Love Grows Here ♥ +

Teaching tiny humans
about a very BIG God!





UNY Opportunity Scan

Summer 2026

Each quarter, UNY's **New Faith Communities and Innovation Initiative** offers a brief scan of ministry opportunities and resources, designed to spark experiments in your congregation and support leaders who are exploring new ways of being church.

This summer, experiment with low-stakes, high-grace opportunities that help people laugh together, build trust, and imagine what God might be doing next.

Free Resource

Explore Season of Play, a free four-week worship series designed for July, August, or September.

The series invites congregations to expect "laughter, low stakes, and high grace" and includes preaching resources, liturgy, children's moments, small group guides, daily scripture readings, graphics, and sermon-free Sunday ideas.

The four weeks include:

- Play & the Gift of God's Delight
- Out of Survival Mode
- Masterclass for a Stuck Church
- Joy in the Wild



See full worship series at: <https://breakthroughseries.org/series/seasonofplay>

Create a No-Pressure Sunday

Replace one regularly scheduled activity with a playful alternative.

Try:

- A church picnic
- Intergenerational scavenger hunt
- Outdoor worship and ice cream
- Storytelling around a campfire

Focus less on production and more on participation. Ask participants:
What brings you joy this summer?

Take Your Leadership Team Out to Play

Skip one meeting this summer.

Instead of gathering around an agenda, gather around an experience.

Go to karaoke. Play mini golf. Visit a baseball game. Try an escape room. Share wings at a local restaurant.

Keep it simple: no planning, no hidden agenda.
Just enjoy being together.

IT TAKES A CHURCH TO RUN A RUMMAGE SALE!

OUR RUMMAGE SALE IS A BIG DEAL!

Lots of people look for it every year and making it happen takes a lot of us working together.

Bottom line – we need everyone to play a part! 



The opportunities to help are nearly endless. Whether you have a few hours or can help more, there is a place for you!

.....



STOP BY THE WELCOME CENTER AND SIGN UP!

A list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions will be available, along with sign-up sheets for each area.

Questions?

Deb Irwin

 (315) 727-0190
(call or text)

 irwind0119@gmail.com

OR

Mike Irwin

 (315) 727-9483

 mirwin1220@aol.com



THANK YOU for helping make this much-loved community event a success!



• CICERO UMC • RUMMAGE SALE — 2026 —

The Time Has Come!

SALE DAY FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST
8:00 – 4:00

SALE DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND
9:00 – 11:00

11:00 – NOON – Bag Sale

Donation Collection Begins

AUGUST 3rd

Decluttering? Think of Us!

• WE ACCEPT:



Clothing & Shoes



Jewelry & Home Decor



Electronics & Housewares



Books, Toys & Tools



• WE CANNOT ACCEPT:



No China Cabinets



No Mattresses



No Console TVs



No Car Seats



• VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! •

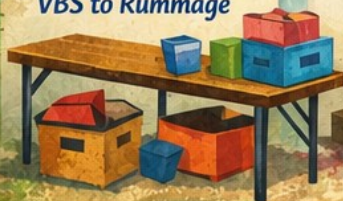
90+ VOLUNTEERS LAST YEAR!

• SETUP DAY •

Sunday, August 2

After Church

VBS to Rummage



• SORTING BEGINS •

August 3 – Sale Week

Help Needed Daily!



• CRUNCH WEEK •

August 17 – 20

All Hands on Deck!



• CLEAN-UP DAY •

**After the Sale
August 22**

*Restoring for
Sunday Services*



• Questions? •

Call Mike: 315-727-9483 or Deb: 315-727-0190

◆ *Together, We Make This A Success! Thank You!* ◆





Brewerton
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Use your gifts.
Make a difference.*

MUSICIAN NEEDED!

PAID, PART-TIME POSITION



We are looking for an anointed and dedicated musician (Keyboard/Organ or other instrument) to join our worship team.

IF YOU HAVE:



A PASSION
for Music



A HEART
to Serve



A DESIRE
*to be part of a
spirit-filled worship
experience*

Then we invite you
to apply and share your gifts and talent
with our church family!



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED,
PLEASE CONTACT

JEAN WHITTAKER

✉ jean.h.whittaker@gmail.com

We can't wait to make music and ministry together!





LANCASTER, PA BUS TRIP
SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER
November 10 –11, 2026

Trip includes transportation and lodging, with one breakfast, one dinners, 2 shows: Joshua, American Theater Christmas Shows, driver gratuity, tips, luggage, and more time allows on over night trips.

***limited seating sign up now**

The trip is sponsored by Cicero United Methodist Church Caring Support Group. For more information contact Mary Alice Scheel at 315-699-7181.

Cost is \$425.00 per double per person. \$525.00 Single
\$100 deposit
needed ASAP.

Don't miss out on this fantastic trip!

2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 9:30 Worship VBS Sunday	3 Begin taking Rummage Sale Donations	4 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong	5 Guild Meeting 10 Forever Young 7 Alzheimer's Dementia Meeting	6 2 Bereavement 6 Community Outreach	7	8
9 9:30 Worship	10 5:30 Worship Team	11 10:30 Cicero Christian Sisters 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong	12 9 am Quilt Guild	13 6 PM Education Team	14	15
16 9:30 Worship	17 6:30 SPRC	18 Rummage Sale Tent Set UP 6:30 –7:30 Bike Safety Boy Scouts and Cicero PD (back of lot)	19 10:30 –12:00 Memory Café Gathering is at Cicero Fire Station 2	20	21 Rummage Sale 8 AM to 4 PM	22 9 AM– Noon 11 AM– Noon BAG SALE
23 9:30 Worship 6 PM God's Country Jamboree	24	25	26 6 Finance Team 6:30 Trustees	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship Long Range Planning after Worship	31					



SAVE
— THE —
Date

..... THE 2ND ANNUAL

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
10 AM - 3 PM



**FOOD
TRUCKS**



**CRAFT
SHOW**



MUSIC



**BAKE
SALE**



**BOUNCE
HOUSE**



**CHILDREN'S
GAMES**

AND A FEW NEW ITEMS.

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.

*See Jan Cerimeli
for more details.*



Cicero United Methodist Church

8416 Brewerton Road

Cicero, NY 13039

Phone: 315-699-2731

Website:

www.ciceroumchurch.org

E-mail:

Office@ciceroumchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 am to 2 pm



Cicero United Methodist Church

8416 Brewerton Rd

Cicero, NY 13039

