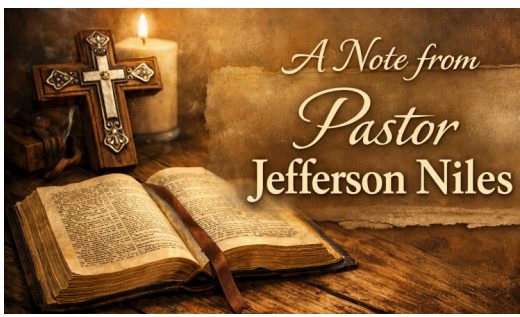




Pastoral Letter for September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to commend this September newsletter to you. I trust you find it informative, enlightening, and uplifting.

First, a big thanks to Deb and Mike Irwin and the several volunteers for pulling off a hugely successful rummage sale. Thank you for your hard work, long hours, and excellent organization. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to its success. Your dedication is a blessing to our church family and community.

Mark your calendars now for our next big event, the Fall Fest on Saturday, October 3rd. We will need many hands to make it another joyful day of fundraising, fellowship and outreach.

We pray for the success of our students as they return to school or college following the summer break. We also extend our best wishes to educators and all who serve in the education system. The work you do shapes minds and hearts, and we are grateful for you. Best wishes to those embarking on some new adventure.

We look forward to getting back to Sunday School on Sunday, September 13th. I am excited about this new season and am praying for growth in both numbers and faith. We can always use more Sunday School teachers and volunteers. If you feel called to help, please contact Sue Bonspille, Director of Christian Education. She would love to talk with you about how you can serve.

As summer gives way to fall, we welcome your service. There are many ways to use your gifts in this congregation. We have opportunities among the Trustees, in the Finance Team, the Worship Team, the Outreach Team, and the Tech Team. Please prayerfully consider in what areas you can volunteer to help build up the congregation. Whether you have an hour a month or a few hours a week, your time and talents make a difference.

As we look back on a summer filled with God's faithfulness, and look forward to all God has in store this fall, be encouraged. The same God who blessed our rummage sale, who walks with our students into new classrooms, and who calls us to serve together, is not finished with us yet. There is hope in every new season, and there is joy in doing this work side by side. I pray God's blessings on us as we move forward together this month. I pray we grow in faith, serve in love, and reflect Christ in all we do.

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

Lord,

There are prayers that never make it past our lips.

You know the names we cannot say, the situations we cannot explain, the tears we hide, and the hopes we are afraid to speak aloud.

Today, we place all of those unspoken prayers into Your hands.

Work where we cannot. Open doors that need to open. Close doors that need to remain closed. Bring peace where there is confusion and light where there is darkness.

We trust You with what we cannot fix ourselves.

Amen.

Gracious God,

We lift up everyone who is hurting today, whether their pain is physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Bring healing where healing is needed. Give doctors, nurses, caregivers, and loved ones wisdom and strength. Give those who are waiting for answers the courage to keep going.

And when healing does not come in the way we hoped, surround us with Your comfort and remind us that Your presence never leaves us.

Amen.

Lord,

Please watch over our families today. Protect the people we love, guide their decisions, strengthen their relationships, and bring peace into homes where there may be worry or conflict.

For those separated from loved ones, bring comfort. For families struggling to understand one another, bring patience and forgiveness. For those who have lost someone they love, bring comfort to the empty places in their hearts.

Keep our families close to You and remind us never to take the gift of one another for granted.

Amen.

Dear God,

My mind is full of things I cannot control. I worry about tomorrow, about the people I love, about decisions I have to make, and about things I cannot change.

Please quiet my heart. Help me remember that I do not have to carry everything by myself. Give me the wisdom to handle what I can and the faith to surrender what I cannot.

Let Your peace be greater than my fear.





SUNDAY SCHOOL AT CUMC

Sunday School is offered for children and youth **Pre-K through Grade 12**, September through June. Our program provides age-appropriate Bible lessons, stories, crafts, activities, videos, music, and take-home materials. Children also have opportunities to participate in Bell Choir and Cherub Choir. Adult Sunday School classes are also available, and nursery care is provided during Sunday worship.

Throughout the year, our Sunday School participates in special activities including

- ◆ **Trunk or Treat**
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Basket food collection**
- ◆ **All Around Christmas**
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School**

Interested in enrolling your child? Come join us any Sunday morning or contact our Sunday School Superintendent, **Sue Bonspille @ 315-420-2101**. You may also contact the church office at office@ciceroumcchurch.org.





EVEN THE DEER NEEDS GOD

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.”

Psalms 42:1

A beautiful visitor recently wandered into God's Garden, and it brought to mind this familiar verse.

The deer came looking for what it needed: nourishment, water, shelter, and peace.

And perhaps that's the little reminder God was giving us that day.

Even the deer knows where to go when it is thirsty.

How often do we wander through life searching for peace, comfort, hope, and something to fill the emptiness inside us?

Just as the deer searches for water, **our souls thirst for God.**

God's Garden may have welcomed a deer that day, but perhaps the deer was also reminding us that **God's house is a place where the thirsty can come, the weary can rest, and hungry hearts can be fed.**

Come as you are.
Come thirsty.
Come searching.
Come home.

“My soul thirsts for God.”

Psalms 42:2



THE CANTEEN IS COMING BACK!

CICERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VOLUNTEERS HELP FEED LOCAL TEENS

The new school year means the return of **The CanTeen**, and Cicero United Methodist Church is excited to continue helping provide meals for teens in our community!

First CanTeen: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Our **food sign-up begins Sunday, August 23**, in the **Welcome Center**.

We need volunteers to:

- Donate food
- Help serve
- Help prepare or organize meals



Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference!

WHAT IS THE CANTEEN?

The CanTeen is a **safe and welcoming place for students in 8th through 12th grade**. Teens can come for a meal, relax, play games, spend time with friends, get help with homework, meet caring adults, and find guidance and encouragement.

The CanTeen also provides educational programs, mentors, life-skills activities, community service opportunities, and presentations about topics important to teens, including relationships, substance awareness, college planning, and job skills.

Everyone is welcome.

The CanTeen serves approximately **600 unique teens each year**, giving young people a positive place to belong, connect, and make good choices.

WHY WE HELP

Sometimes ministry looks like a sermon.

Sometimes it looks like **a hot meal, a friendly smile, and a safe place to belong.**

By volunteering, we are showing local teens that **they matter, they are welcome, and their community cares about them.**

JOIN US!

Sign up in the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, August 23.

Bring a dish. Give your time. Lend a hand.

Together, we can help feed more than hungry stomachs. We can help feed hope. ☺

Cicero United Methodist Church



🌻 September 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, September 16, 2026

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Our Gathering Returns To

🌻 **Cicero United Methodist Church** 🌻

**8416 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





The Collamer United Church is very pleased to announce that it will, once again, hold its annual rummage sale on ...

*Friday, September 18 from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M.
Saturday, September 19 from 9 A.M. until 3 P.M.*

It will be held at Vollmer's Greenhouse across from the cemetery on Route 298 in Collamer (2 miles East of Carrier Circle; or ½ mile West of Exit 7 off from Route 481).

This "GIGANTIC" and "AWESOME" sale will offer a wide variety of great bargains from nearly new to nearly antique.

There will also be a food counter and a bake sale so shoppers can snack while searching for treasures.





JOIN US FOR

Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL



BEGINNING
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13



6:30–8:00
PM



Come for conversation.
Stay for fellowship.



Explore Scripture, ask questions,
share your thoughts, and discover
how faith connects with
everyday life.



You don't have to know
all the answers.

*You just have to be willing
to join the conversation.*



ALL ARE WELCOME.

Come as you are. Bring a friend.

SAVE **THE** DATE!

— ★ ★ ★ *Please join us* ★ ★ ★ —

AT THE
SYRACUSE AIRPORT
ON
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

to greet the Veterans on the
Honor Flight as they return
from Washington, D.C.



Our own *John Ruckdeschel*
will be on the trip!



We will also be writing
notes of greeting and thanks
that will be given to the Veterans.

Let's show our gratitude and give our heroes
★ **A WELCOME HOME THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!** ★

— *Please watch for more details soon.* —



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.

Cicero United Methodist Church
8416 Brewerton Road
Cicero, NY 13039
315-699-2731



Love Grows Here

A 4-WEEK CHURCH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Join us beginning in

OCTOBER 2026!

As we grow together in faith, gratitude, and generosity,
your gifts help God's love take root in our church
and flourish in our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey!



CAMPAIGN GOAL: Help members understand stewardship as a joyful response to God's love. Emphasize that generosity, service, prayer, and financial giving are ways that God's love grows through the congregation and into the community.

CAMPAIGN MOTTO: *Love Grows Here:*
Growing in Faith, Growing in Generosity, Growing Together

4 WEEKS TO GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH, GRATITUDE, AND GENEROSITY!

WEEK 1

Love Takes Root



SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:30-31; John 15:5

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Each person writes down three blessings they are thankful for each day.

NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

"Love grows when gratitude takes root in our hearts. This week we celebrate God's abundant blessings and our response of thanksgiving."



WEEK 2

Love Grows Through Generosity



SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Perform one unexpected act of generosity during the week.

NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

"Love grows through generous hearts. Every gift, large or small, becomes a blessing that extends God's love beyond our walls."



WEEK 3

Love Grows Together



SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Invite one person to church or share your faith story.

NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

"Love grows when we grow together. Let's build each other up in faith and community."



WEEK 4

Love Bears Fruit



SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Pray about your gifts and how God is calling you to use them.

NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

"Love grows here because we grow together. Let's continue to build a church that reflects God's love to the world."



Your faithfulness plants seeds of love that will grow for generations.



TOGETHER, LET'S CONTINUE TO LET GOD'S LOVE GROW IN AND THROUGH US!



"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6





Illumination Station VBS 2026: A Bright and Joy-Filled Success

What an incredible week we had at **Cicero United Methodist Church** for **Illumination Station VBS 2026!**

Throughout the week, our children learned about the light of Jesus and what it means to let His light shine through us. With Bible stories, music, games, crafts, snacks, science, and plenty of laughter, every day brought something new and exciting.

Our crafts were a special part of the week. The children created **“Jesus Is the Light of the World” tea light candles, picture frames, and handprint lights**, giving them something special to take home while reminding them that they can be a light for others.

One of the highlights was our **Thursday Parents' Show**, where the children shared what they learned, sang, celebrated, and showed their families all the fun they had throughout the week. A special thank-you to our own **God's Country Band** for joining us and helping us **share the light of Jesus through music!**

But VBS wasn't only about learning and having fun. It was also about **helping others and being a light in our community.**

Our **“Kids Helping Kids”** mission project supporting **Erin's Angels** was a tremendous success! Together, our VBS children and families raised **\$560**, along with **more than 10 grocery bags of food**. What a wonderful example of how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference!

We are incredibly grateful to all the children, families, volunteers, and everyone who helped make **Illumination Station VBS 2026** such a success.

Most importantly, we hope our children remember:

Jesus is the Light of the World, and we can shine His light wherever we go.

Thank you for making this such a bright, joyful, and meaningful week!

We'll see you all next year! Until then, keep shining!



SAVE the DATE!

Come and be honored
as our Cicero United Methodist
church family

Celebrates YOU!



2027 CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON



JANUARY 10, 2027

Come and be honored as our
Cicero United Methodist church family
celebrates **YOU!**



**DIRECTLY AFTER
WORSHIP**

Starting at
11:00 / 11:30 AM



FELLOWSHIP HALL

CICERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RSVP by DECEMBER 1, 2026

TO MARY SLACK NOLAN OR SUE BONSPILLE



315-699-2731



Office@ciceroumchurch.org





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!



God's Country News

65 people worshipped together at God's Country Jamboree on Sunday 08/23 with music, laughter and fellowship. We watched the country music video called Where I Find God by Larry Fleet. A link for this video can be found on our Facebook page. The lyrics describe how he found God in the little things and how you can talk to God anywhere, anytime. We should look for God in the quiet stillness. Pastor Niles pointed out the lyrics that say "I didn't feel worth saving". Even if we are at rock bottom, with mercy and grace and the goodness of God we can be saved. He lifted up 3 things gleaned from the song.

1. God can be found in ordinary experiences more than the extra ordinary.
2. We don't need a dramatic revelation, Elijah heard God in the quiet stillness, not in the wind or fire or earthquake.
3. We should embrace the ordinary. Every day, everywhere, at home or work or in nature we can find God. Amen.

God's Country Ramblers will be performing at the CUMC Fall Festival on Saturday 10/03/26. Hope to see you there!

Our next service is October 11th. Remember to wear your cowboy hat and bring a friend.

Y'all come back now ya hear!



CICERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love Grows Here

GREATER SYRACUSE

CROP HUNGER WALK 2026

OCTOBER 4 AT NOON

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them – and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

*Let's walk.
Let's give.
Let's make
a difference.*



JOIN US AT NOON!

**Willow Bay at
Onondaga Lake Park**
106 Lake Drive
Liverpool, NY 13088 USA
[Google Maps](#)

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

2025 TOP TEAMS – THANK YOU!

1		Reformed Church of Syracuse	\$2,525
2		Isaiah's Table Syracuse	\$890
3		Pebble Hill Presbyterian	\$575
4		St. Michael's Lutheran Church – Syracuse, NY	\$460
5		Cicero UMC <i>We were a Top 10 team in 2025!</i>	\$447
6		Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Fayetteville, NY	\$360
7		Immanuel United Methodist – Camillus, NY	\$200
8		United We Walk – REUC/FCC	\$155



Want to be part of a group?

Check out the list of teams already started – or create your own!

WANT TO BE PART OF OUR GROUP?



Contact
Sue Bonspille

OR



Email Mary at
office@ciceroumchurch.org
to sign up.

OR



Or meet us there
the day of the walk!



TOGETHER, WE CAN END HUNGER
One Step at a Time.



LEARN MORE OR REGISTER TODAY: events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks

2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Guild Meeting</i> <i>10 Forever Young</i> <i>7 Alzheimer's Dementia Meeting</i>	3 <i>2 Bereavement</i> <i>5:30 Community Outreach</i>	4	5
6 <i>9:30 Worship</i>	7 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	8 <i>11 Bridge</i> <i>12 Mahjong</i> <i>3 Canteen</i> <i>7 Boy Scouts</i>	9 <i>9 am Quilt Guild</i> <i>1030 Memorial Committee</i>	10	11	12 <i>Honor Flight</i> <i>9 Cropper Circle</i>
13 <i>9:30 Worship</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Kick Off and Ice Cream Social</i>	14 <i>6:30 SPRC</i> <i>6.30 Cub Scouts</i>	15 <i>10:30 Cicero Christian Sisters</i> <i>11 Bridge</i> <i>12 Mahjong</i> <i>7 Boy Scouts</i>	16 <i>10:30 –12:00 Carol's Memory Care Café</i>	17 <i>6 PM Education Team</i>	18	19
20 <i>9:30 Worship</i>	21 <i>6.30 Cub Scouts</i>	22 <i>11 Bridge</i> <i>12 Mahjong</i> <i>7 Boy Scouts</i>	23 <i>6 Finance Team</i> <i>6:30 Trustees</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>9:30 Worship</i>	28 <i>6.30 Cub Scouts</i>	29 <i>11 Bridge</i> <i>12 Mahjong</i> <i>7 Boy Scouts</i>	30			



CUMC TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR A **SPOOKTACULAR** AFTERNOON!

== **SAVE THE DATE!** ==

**OCTOBER
24, 2026**

2-4 PM



**8416 BREWERTON ROAD
IN THE PARKING LOT**



**MUSIC, SNACKS,
GAMES & MORE!**



TO SUPPORT THE EVENT,
WE NEED VEHICLES!

CONTACT SUE BONSPILLE
AT 315-420-2101 OR
MARY AT 315-699-2731
TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE.

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED!



**LIVE AT THE
TRUNK OR TREAT!**

HOSTED BY THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



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

