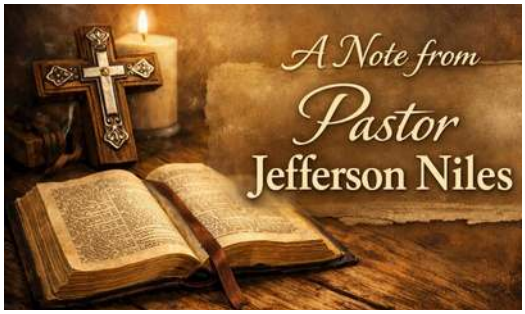


Pastoral Letter for November 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and King. As I write for this Thanksgiving issue of our newsletter, my heart is full of gratitude for each of you and for the faithful way our church family continues to love God and love one another.

As we look ahead to this month, I encourage each of you to exercise the privilege we have as citizens and vote in the upcoming midterm elections. As Christians, we know that our citizenship is in heaven, but we are also called to be good stewards and faithful neighbors here on earth. Voting is one tangible way we seek the welfare of our community and love our neighbors. I encourage you to pray, to seek wisdom from God's Word, to inform yourselves, and to make your voice heard at the polls.

November also calls us to honor those who have served. On Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women in our congregation and in our community who have worn the uniform of our nation. Your courage, sacrifice, and service have helped secure the freedoms we enjoy, including the freedom to gather and worship. To all our veterans and their families we say thank you. We are grateful for you, we pray for you and we honor you. We will have a special time of prayer for our veterans during worship on Sunday, November 8th.

This is the season of Thanksgiving. In a world that often feels anxious and divided, Thanksgiving reminds us to lift our eyes. Scripture tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Thankfulness is not just a feeling for when things go well - it is a discipline of faith that remembers God's goodness in every season. As you gather around tables this month, may your homes be filled with gratitude for the greatest gift of all - God's grace given to us in Christ.

I invite you to join us for our Fall/Advent Bible Study. This will be a six-week series from November 10 to December 15, 2026. There will be a morning session at 11:00 and one in the evening at 5:30 in the Spear Room. All are welcome to share in this Advent study.

Finally, my wife joins me in expressing deepest thanks to all of you for the lively and love-filled Pastor's Appreciation celebration on October 18th. The kind words, prayers, cards, flowers, and joyful fellowship were very meaningful to us. It is our honor to serve among you:

As we move toward the end of another year, I pray we finish well - with hearts fixed on Christ, encouraged by one another, and looking forward to all that God has in store for us.

With thanksgiving and love in Christ,

Jefferson Niles

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

Prayer Focus: SharingOurHearts

"Carryeachother'sburdens,andinthiswayyouwillfulfillthelaw of Christ."
Galatians6:2

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Our Church Family
Loving Lord, we thank You for bringing us together as one church family. Thank You for the hands that serve, the hearts that give, the voices that pray, and the countless acts of kindness that often go unseen. Bless our pastor, our volunteers, our congregation, and all those who work to make our church a place where Your love grows. Help us welcome others with open hearts, serve with willing hands, and continue to be a light of hope in our community. May everything we do bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Prayer for God's Blessings
Heavenly Father, we ask that You pour Your blessings upon us and those we hold dear. Bless our homes with peace, our hearts with hope, our families with love, and our community with compassion. Guide our steps when the path is uncertain, strengthen us when we are weary, and remind us that we are never alone. May Your grace surround us, Your wisdom lead us, and Your love shine through us in all that we do. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

A Prayer for Blessings, Peace, and Hope
Merciful God, we thank You for walking beside us through both joyful days and difficult moments. We are grateful for the blessings we can see and for the quiet ways You work in our lives that we may not always understand. We pray for those who are hurting, those who are lonely, those who are struggling, and those who need a reminder that they are loved. Bring healing to the sick, comfort to the grieving, strength to the weary, and hope to those facing uncertainty. Bless each person here today, and help us carry Your peace into the world. May we leave with thankful hearts, renewed faith, and a deeper desire to love one another as You have loved us. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen. 🌿

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing 🙏
Heavenly Father, thank You for Your endless love, Your daily blessings, and the gift of sharing life with those we love. Bless our families, guide our hearts, and fill our days with peace, joy, and gratitude. Help us be a blessing to others and shine Your light wherever we go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Country News

We celebrated Pastor Appreciation Sunday with 60+ people at God's Country Jamboree on Sunday, October 11th. We had cake and a thank you card signed by everyone for Pastor Niles. Joe Kramer spoke about how grateful we are for Pastor Niles leadership, charisma and his ability to speak from the heart and share God's word.

We sang some fun songs like "The End of the Line" by the Traveling Wilburys and "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing". The band had previously performed these songs on International Play Music on the Porch Day, on August 29th. A day set aside to play music, and this year's theme was Play for Peace.

Pastor Niles was able to relax and enjoy the service while Karen Love gave the message. It was based on the song "He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother" recorded by the Hollies. Karen sang the song with Joe on the harmonica and they sounded great! She spoke about the song's origin and the meaning behind the lyrics. The phrase was popularized by Boys Town, a children's home founded by Father Edward Flanagan. He witnessed a young boy carrying a smaller boy who had polio. When asked if he was too heavy, the boy replied "he ain't heavy, father, he's my brother". The motto symbolizes caring for others, especially those facing challenges, without seeing it as a burden. Scripture teaches that true happiness is found in serving others, Psalm 41:1 Blessed are those who care for the weak. The meaning behind the song is universal. It speaks to the idea that we are all connected and that we all have a responsibility to help one another.

We watched a special music video in honor of the late Dolly Parton, the Queen of Country. The video featured the song "Put a Little Love in Your Heart". Dolly spent her life spreading love and kindness through her music and philanthropy. Looking back it seems as though we had this awesome theme of kindness and love running through the service. Amen!

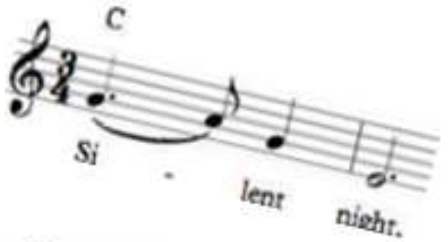
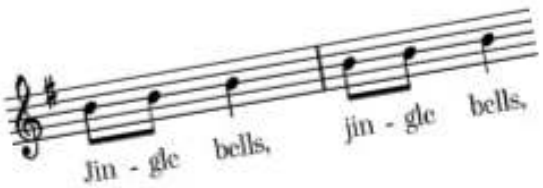
Our next service is our annual Christmas Party! December 13th at 5:30.
Stay tuned for more details. Y'all come back now ya hear!

God's Country Jamboree Christmas Party!

Sunday
December 13, 2026
5:30-7:30 PM

Serving Soup & Chili

Join us in singing your favorite Christmas carols with God's Country Ramblers



Cicero United Methodist Church
8416 Brewerton Rd, Cicero, NY

Finance Corner: October 2026

Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Stewardship in a Season of Gratitude

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, our hearts naturally turn toward gratitude—for God’s faithfulness, the people who shape our lives, and the blessings that sustain us day by day. In the church, this season invites us to reflect on how gratitude becomes more than a feeling. It becomes a way of living.

Stewardship grows out of thanksgiving. When we recognize that everything we have — our time, our abilities, our resources, our relationships — is a gift from God, giving becomes a joyful response rather than an obligation. It’s the natural overflow of a grateful heart. And stewardship is never just about money. Some of the most powerful acts of giving in a church family happen quietly: a meal delivered to someone recovering from surgery, a volunteer who shows up early to prepare the sanctuary, a member who prays faithfully for others, a person who listens with compassion when someone is hurting. These offerings of time, presence, and care are every bit as sacred as financial gifts.

Thanksgiving also reminds us that generosity shapes us. Each act of giving—whether it’s a donation, an hour of service, or a moment of kindness—shapes our hearts to look more like Christ’s. Stewardship becomes a spiritual practice, one that teaches us trust, deepens our compassion, and helps us see God’s abundance even in seasons of uncertainty.

As we celebrate this season, may we embrace stewardship as a grateful response to God’s goodness, a commitment to caring for one another, and a pathway toward spiritual growth. May our giving — in all its forms — reflect the One who has given us everything.

Notes from the Finance Team – During our October Stewardship Campaign, you should have received a statement from our Financial Secretary, Leah Robinson. This statement shows your current monetary contributions from January through September 2026 for your reference.

We have offered Online Giving for several years and will continue to provide this option, but we will be switching from EasyTithe to Breeze/Tithely as our service provider. While change is never easy, this will save the church money on service fees and simplify our bookkeeping. We will keep you posted when this change takes effect so you can update your giving information and avoid any interruptions.

Blessings to all,
Barbara Forleo, Finance Chairperson

ATTENTION ALL ELVES:

The Giving Tree for Brown Memorial church will soon be up in the sanctuary. If you are able, please take a star, purchase that gift, and return it unwrapped by

Sunday, Dec. 6.

As you may remember, Brown offers life skills classes, and participants earn points for completion. They use the points to "purchase" these gifts there in mid-December.

Please help us make Christmas a little merrier for one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country.

Please contact Diane Ilacqua with any questions.

OUTREACH COAT, HAT & GLOVE DRIVE

Help us keep local children warm this winter!

We are collecting new boys' and girls' coats in sizes 6/7, 8, and 10/12, along with hats and gloves.

Please donate by Sunday, November 1.

Collection box under the coat rack.

Let's help local children stay warm, comfortable, and cared for as the cold weather arrives. Thank you for sharing God's love in such a practical way!

Please join

Pastor Niles

for a

Fall/ Advent Bible study series

from **November 10 - December 15, 2026,**
11:00 AM and 5:30 PM
in the Spear Room

Carol's MEMORY CAFÉ

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

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon - Cicero United Methodist Church - 8416 Brewerton Road, Cicero, NY 13039

A Special Gathering Filled with Gratitude

As the leaveschangeandweenterthe seasonofThanksgiving,weinviteyoutojoinusfor a warm and welcoming Memory Café gathering.

Enjoy a morning of friendship, laughter, music, and meaningful moments in a comfortable, supportive space where everyone belongs. Whether you are living with memory loss or caring for someone who is, you are welcome here.

What Awaits You?

Friendly Fellowship

Share smiles, conversation, and the comfort of being together.

Music & Entertainment

Enjoy uplifting music and moments that warm the heart.

Light Bites & Refreshments

Enjoy a little something to eat, with no work or cleanup required.

Connection & Community

Meet others who understand the journey and discover that you are not alone.

Who's Welcome?

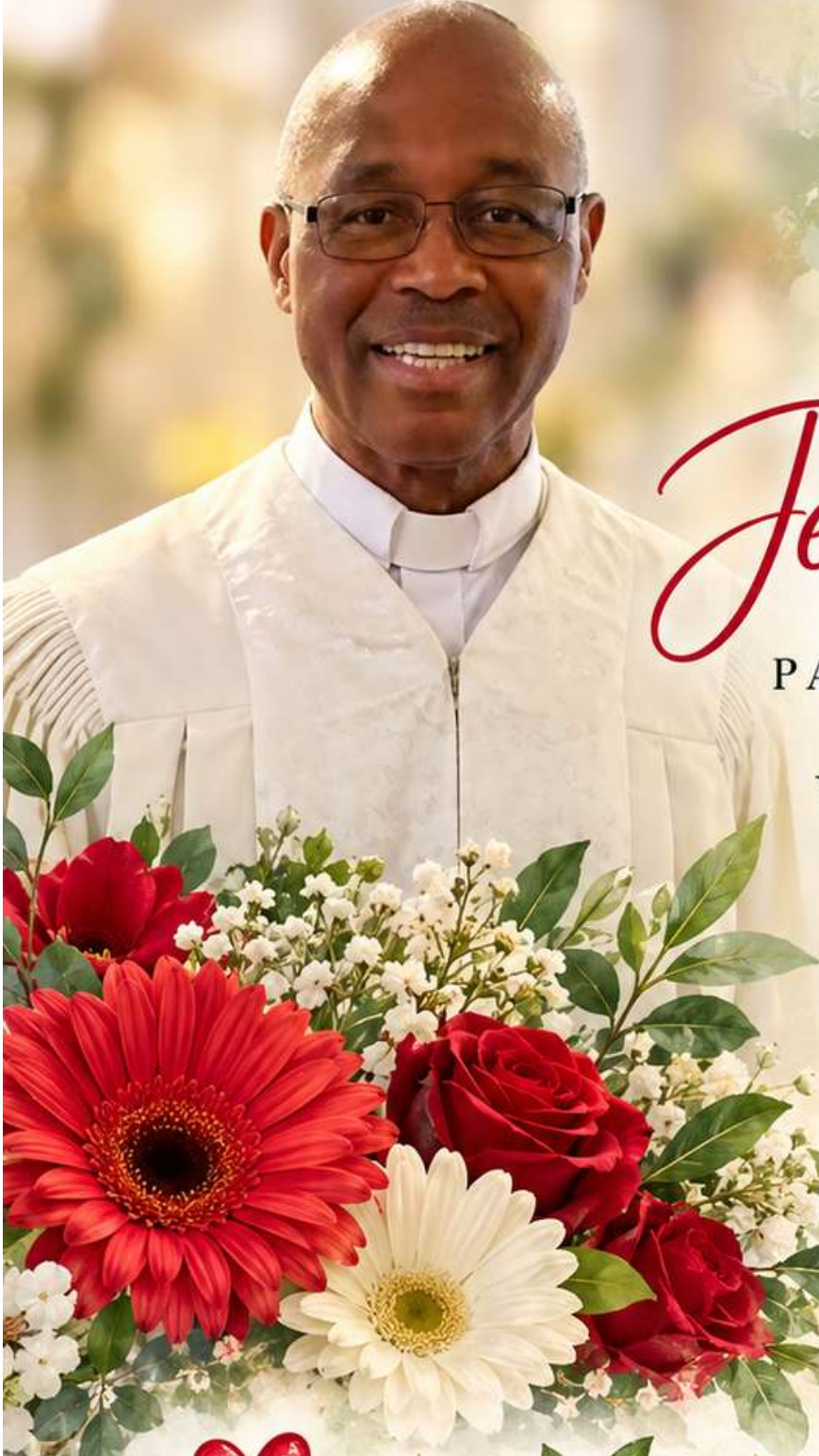
Individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia, caregivers, family members, and support partners.

This Thanksgiving season, let's celebrate the blessings found in friendship, kindness, and time spent together.

Come for the community. Stay for the smiles. Leave with a grateful heart.

Love Grows Here
Cicero UMC

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



Love Grows Here
Cicero UMC

Reverend Jefferson Niles

PASTOR APPRECIATION

We are so grateful for your faithful service, your compassionate heart, and the countless ways you share God's love with our church, our community, your family, and even strangers. Your selfless giving, willingness to listen, and genuine care for others are a true blessing to all who know you.

A HEART for God's People

A SERVANT in Ministry

A GUIDE in Faith

A LIGHT in Our Community

Thank You, Pastor,

for being a reflection of Christ's love and for all the ways you help God's love grow here.

Love Grows Here

Pastor Appreciation

Thank You for Helping Love Grow!

Cicero United Methodist Church

Love Grows Here

LOVE GROWS HERE: A CELEBRATION OF PASTOR JEFFERSON NILES ❤️🌱

Our Pastor Appreciation Luncheon was a beautiful reminder of what makes Cicero United Methodist Church so special. On October 18, our congregation came together to share a meal, enjoy fellowship, and celebrate Pastor Jefferson Niles and the many ways he gives of himself to our church family. The room was filled with wonderful food, laughter, kindness, and, most importantly, love. It was a blessing to pause our busy lives and show appreciation for someone who spends so much of his time caring for others.

In my tribute to Pastor, I shared how much he has taught me over the years about grace, patience, faith, and truly seeing people beyond what is immediately in front of us. His 36 years of ministry are reflected not in boasting or demands, but in the quiet, consistent way he serves. From worship and baptisms to visiting our homebound members and bringing them Communion, from supporting our children and youth to walking alongside families during their most difficult moments, Pastor leads with a gentle spirit and a genuinely kind heart. Personally, I am grateful for the five years I have worked beside him. He has encouraged me, helped me find my place in ministry, and reminded me that even the work behind the scenes is an opportunity to share God's love. I am blessed to have him as our pastor, my boss, and my friend. Pastor, we hope you felt just how deeply you are appreciated!

A special thank-you to the hands and hearts behind the day!
Events like this do not simply happen. Behind every decorated table, every dish served, and every detail that comes together is a great deal of planning, preparation, hard work, and willing hands. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sue and Larry Bonspille, Carl Chamberlin, Barb and Mike Carpenter, Max and Matt, Pam G., Dorcas, Norm Barkley, Mike Irwin, Jan Cerimeli, and Sue Werner. Thank you for helping with setup, cleanup, taking things down, and all the countless tasks that made the day possible.

A very special thank-you to Sue Werner, who quite literally took the calls, made the calls, helped work through the details, and served as my sounding board and source of guidance throughout the three weeks of planning. Having someone beside you who is willing to listen, problem-solve, and help carry the load is a blessing beyond words. I am so grateful for every one of you. Your time and hard work did not go unnoticed, and neither did the love you put into making this celebration special.

And, of course, thank you to everyone who brought a dish, dessert, or something to contribute to the luncheon. Every offering, big or small, helped make the day feel like a true family gathering. With our kitchen water situation limiting what we could do, we had to adjust, improvise, and work around some unexpected challenges. But we did it! We came together, found a way, and made the day happen. That is what a church family does.

As I reflect on the luncheon, I am reminded that Love Grows Here is more than a vision or a phrase we print in our newsletter. It is found in the people who show up early, stay late, lend a hand, bring a favorite recipe, make a phone call, offer encouragement, and quietly take care of the things that need to be done. It grows in our willingness to serve one another and in the grace we extend along the way.

I am truly thankful, grateful, and blessed to be part of this congregation. Thank you for helping make Pastor Appreciation a day filled with love, fellowship, and the kind of memories that remind us why we do what we do. May we continue to grow together in faith, serve with willing hearts, and show Pastor Jefferson, one another, and our community that LOVE GROWS HERE!

Sharing the Blessing of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time to gather around the table, give thanks for our blessings, and share with others.

Our Sunday School is continuing that spirit of giving by coming together to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for families in our community who may be experiencing a time of need.

These baskets are more than just food.

They are a reminder to families that they are cared for, supported, and remembered during the holiday season.

Our hope is to make it possible for any family who needs a

little extra help to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with dignity and joy.

This special ministry is made possible through the generosity of our church family and Sunday School classes.

Every can, box, bag, and monetary gift contributes to something much bigger—a Thanksgiving table filled with food and a family feeling the warmth of their community.

We invite everyone to join us in this effort. Give what you can, encourage others to participate, and help us spread the blessing beyond the walls of our church. Together, we can make

Thanksgiving a little brighter for families who need a helping hand.

Because when we share our blessings, there is always enough room at the table.

Cicero UMC

Cicero MYF Group

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

CHILI Fundraiser

$12 PER MEAL

Meal includes Chili with Cornbread and a Cookie.

PRE-ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Quantity: ☐ x $12 = $ _____

MEAL DATE / PICKUP

Sunday, November 15TH

at Cicero United Methodist Church
8416 Brewerton Road
Between 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Orders that are unable to be picked up on this date will be stored for pickup the following week.

MAKE A WISH

KARATE JOHN'S

CICERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAIL CALL

A Heartfelt Thank You from Honor Flight Veterans

September 2026 • Syracuse Honor Flight Mission 25

Your kindness made these veterans feel loved and welcomed home.

Our church members and friends took time to write cards for the Syracuse Honor Flight "Mail Call." Two veterans wrote back to share just how much those messages meant to them.

BOB CULLEN

Henderson, New York

"When I opened my mail bag and found your cards, I was thunderstruck." Bob shared that visiting the monuments in Washington, D.C. was powerful, and your messages reminded him that the legacy of service lives on in the hearts of people who continue to support veterans. He has tucked your cards into his memory book and will look back on them often.

MYKEL L. ROOD

U.S. Marine Corps

"It means so much to hear from folks I don't even know thanking me for my service." Mykel wrote about how difficult his Vietnam tour was at first, and how he and his fellow Marines settled into doing their job without fear, knowing God had His powerful hand on them. He closed by reminding us what an amazing God we serve.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Your words were more than cards. They were a warm welcome home, a reminder that their service is remembered, and a blessing that reached across miles and years. Thank you for helping our veterans feel seen, appreciated, and surrounded by love.

LOVE GROWS HERE

Cicero United Methodist Church is grateful to everyone who helped make Mail Call meaningful.

With gratitude, from our church family

Our Confirmation Blessings

faith

diasen

frielie

grateful

PROVERBS 31:25

May God Bless You Always

Marion Congdon is 99 Beautiful YEARS YOUNG

What a Blessing You Are!

Your faith, kindness, wisdom and beautiful spirit have touched so many lives. You are a shining example of God's love, and we are so grateful for you.

A Birthday Blessing for You

May God continue to bless you with good health, peace, and joy. May His love surround you each day, His grace sustain you, and His blessings fill your life with happiness and contentment. You are a true gift from God, and we are thankful for you today and always.

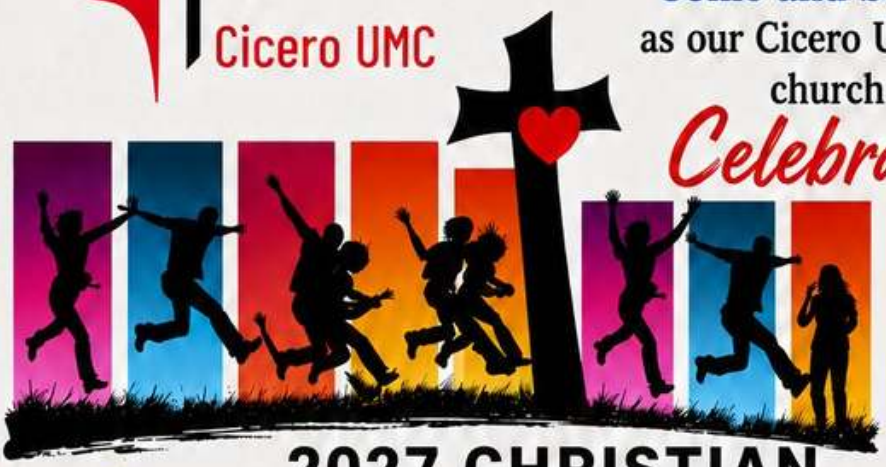
Happy 99th Birthday Marion!

Love Grows Here

Cicero UMC

SAVE the DATE!

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



CICERO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

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

CUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT SERIES

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

MESSIAH

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 1

7:30 p.m.

St. Mary of the Assumption
Church and Shrine
107 West Seventh Street

Oswego Festival Chorus

Oswego State Singers

The Laker Chorale

Ben May, conductor
with guest soloists and orchestra

FREE ADMISSION

Join us for an unforgettable concert featuring a great musical work from the Baroque era in the unparalleled acoustics at St. Mary.

OSWEGO
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

oswego.edu/music

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:3 All St. Sunday Fall Back Clacks 	2 5 7 Troop 117	3 11 Bridge 12 Mahjong Election Day 6am-9pm	4 9 am Quilt Guild 11 Fall Prevention 7 Altheimer's Dementia Meeting	5 2 Berevement 5:30 Community Outreach	6 5:30 KenPastor	7
8 9:30 Worship Veteran Honor 	9 7 Troop 117	10 Lancaster Trip 10:30 Cizaro Christian Sisters 11 Bridge 11 Fall Bible Stdy 12 Mahjong 5:30 FAll Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts	11 Veterans Day 9 AM Quilt Guild 	12	13 5:30 Ken Hinman	14
15 9:30 Worship	16 7 Troop 117 SPRC 6 PM	17 11 Bridge 11 Fall Bible Stdy 12 Mahjong 5:30 FAll Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout	18 10:30 -12:00 Carol's Memory Care Café 1 FINAL Fall Prevention	19 6PM Education Team	20 5:30 Ken Hinman	21 Charge Confrence Liverpool
22 9:30 Worship Thanksgiving Baskets Delivered	23 7Troop 117 Thanksgiving Baskets Delivered	24 11 Bridge 11 Fall Bible Stdy 12 Mahjong 5:30 FAll Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scout	25 9 Quilt Guild	26 Thanksgivng Office Closed 	27 5:30 Ken Hinman Thanksgivng Office Closed 	28
29 9:30 Worship Advent 1	30					

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