

**Deansboro Congregational
United Church of Christ**

PO Box 276
Deansboro, NY 13328



Christian Education Annual Report 2023

Christian Education includes teaching the Lord's word to both adults and children. We are pleased to provide an update to the whole congregation of our church's efforts in 2023.

Sunday School was held as often as possible each Sunday during regular services. The children looked at parables found in the New Testament, including familiar ones such as The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matt. 7:24-27) where we tried to build small houses on a pile of salt and The Parable of Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-33) where we tried to grow mustard seeds.

As we started the new school year in September, we decided to pursue object lessons. We particularly like the edible variety so we have embarked on lessons using apples (did you know that apples grown from apple seeds are not exactly like the apples they came from?), Hershey's bars (even when the "heat" of life starts to make us "melty", God brings us back when we stand firm in our faith), tangerines (Being thankful is kind of magical. When you give thanks to God, he gives more back to you), and sugar cookies (flour, sugar and butter are three distinct cookie ingredients but when put together they are a wonderful cookie – just like the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are a powerful trinity in our faith). Occasionally, we'll have a non-edible lesson such as our lesson on spoons (God spoons out our blessings so we always have what we can deal with, without making a huge mess.) We have many more of these fun lessons ahead and are looking forward to Twix bars, M&Ms, Oreos, Twizzlers, Cheese, and Popcorn along with eggs, seeds, paper cups, clothesline, and even a Tupperware container!

In 2023, we continued to care for the world around us with School Kits and Health Kits for Church World Service. Our generous Church Family once again supported our drive to collect items for these kits. We sent 29 School Kits and 26 Health and Hygiene Kits for distribution. We were finally able to host our Spaghetti Supper again which helped us purchase supplies for kits. In addition, we used some of our proceeds to donate items from Heifer in honor of Reverend Lawton at Christmas – bees and chicks!

In addition to Sunday School, Rev. Lawton led bible studies. We offered Bible Study during Lent, in the fall, and during Advent. We offered the Advent study following the church service finding others were able to join in for the study. We also offered a different type of study that included hiking/walking incorporated with meditation options.

We would like to remind everyone that all children in our Church Family and the community are welcome at Sunday School. The same is true for Bible Studies – help us spread the word throughout our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy Sehn & Alice Yoxall

**Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me." –
John 7:16**