Education Committee/Faith Formation Annual Report 2023

This year, Faith Formation has continued to evolve into a family and activity oriented program while trying to build on and strengthen old and new relationships.

In January of this year, $521.50 was sent to UNICEF following a successful Apple Crisp

Sale and Trick or Treat for UNICEF from the fall. Tracy Koutonen again coordinated the sale of Pecans at Christmas with $544 raised to support the Faith Formation Program. Thank you, everyone!

A game night was held in January and then began the months long project of cleaning out the rooms at the Parish House/Community Building. As much as possible was sold, given away, or donated. A plan was developed and space was provided in order to keep supplies, curriculum and all important and relevant items for the program in the Church. Many thanks to all who helped with this overwhelming endeavor.

Under the leadership of Yvonne Long, Faith Formation has continued to bring our children, youth and families together. Favorite activities and traditions have been incorporated. The annual trip to Hollis Hills Farm reminds us all of the blessings of our wonderful farmers, animals, food, and natural resources while focusing on Heifer International and their mission to improve the lives of people of need around the world. We celebrate that we are Disciples of Jesus!

On Mother’s Day, our kids participated in bringing information about the efforts of Heifer to the congregation along with presenting readings, music and flowers in honor of all Mothers.

Other activities included hosting coffee hour and pancake breakfast. The Quarter Tube was filled several times in donation to Heifer.

This fall included our annual and crowd favorite Apple Crisp Sale with proceeds going to support UNICEF. A group hiked Mount Wachusett in October and in November, a team again came forward to rake the leaves at the Parsonage. Tracy Koutonen headed another successful Pecan Sale which continues to support our program. Thanks to anyone who was involved in making, baking, raking, selling, ordering or contributing in any way! Amounts are still being calculated.

Most recently in December, an enjoyable game night took place, the Heifer Living Gift Market was held, and Faith Formation donated gifts through the school “Angels” for children in need in our own community.

In the next months, our children and families will participate in new ways in the services and in continuing with a focus on missions. We look forward to new experiences and opportunities to develop relationships and celebrate those involved in helping UPL make a difference!