



# Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

June, 2021

## Upcoming Events:

June 6: UMCOR Sunday

Month of July: Christmas in July

July 17: Red Cross Blood Drive at Covenant  
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Oct. 23: Project 216 Food Packing Event

## Looking for a way to serve others?

Donate blood at Covenant's upcoming  
blood drive on

**July 17 from 8:00-12:30**

When you donate blood you may be helping cancer patients, trauma patients, burn patients, those with chronic diseases and others.

Ready to Help Save a Life?

[Click here](#) or contact Gina

Loomis thru the church office at 489-1888.

[Learn more at redcrossblood.org](#)



## Helping Lincoln School prepare for the 2021-2022 school year

Watch for news about a work day sometime in July to cut car tags, cut ribbons, count Lincoln coins and more to help Lincoln School's staff prepare for the new school year. If you'd like to be added to an email distribution list to be notified when opportunities come up to help at Lincoln, email Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com)



## Did you know Covenant has a team that visits local businesses monthly?

In 2017 a new ministry of the church was started which focused on being outwardly missional toward businesses that are geographically Covenant's neighbors. The intent is to do monthly visits to show Covenant cares for them in tangible ways.

This team, the **Neighborhood Kindness Team**, led by Gina Loomis, visits 17 businesses with monthly gifts such as small baskets with Chap Sticks and the message "We think you are the "BALM"". Gifts also include an offer to pray for businesses and their employees, and invitations to attend our church services, but more than anything the team wants to express care and love to them.

The team of 5 members wants to add more businesses and more team members. You can help with preparing gift items and/or making deliveries. If you're interested in learning more, contact Gina Loomis at [sam-gina@frontier.com](mailto:sam-gina@frontier.com).



## UMCOR SUNDAY is Sunday, June 6

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization operated under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Your giving to UMCOR SUNDAY is what allows UMCOR to act as the hands and feet of Christ's church, helping the most vulnerable in their darkest days - assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need without regard to race, religion or gender.

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events - to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help & hope for those left most vulnerable. They provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.

UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. Because you give, when the next crisis occurs, UMCOR will respond!

**Will you help meet the needs of the men, women and children in communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster by giving generously on UMCOR SUNDAY?**



**UMCOR SUNDAY offerings cover administrative costs through the year so 100% of designated donations go to those who need them most.**

If writing a check, indicate "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line.

To learn more about UMCOR visit: [umcor.org](http://umcor.org)



## Have you ever wanted to go on an out-of-country mission trip?

In 2016 Covenant sent a team to Guatemala and is considering sending a team again in 2022 or 2023 if there is an interest shown by members of the congregation.

Mission Guatemala, Inc., was founded by Tom Heaton, a United Methodist pastor, in 2009 to help the poor of Guatemala. Their mission is to help meet the basic needs and improve the quality of life of under-served Guatemalan people through health, education, and nutrition initiatives and meaningful missionary service.

To learn more visit [missionguatemala.com](http://missionguatemala.com)

**Interested in learning more about joining a team to serve in Guatemala?**

**Contact Pastor Chris thru the church office at 489-1888 or by email at [leadpastor@covenantumc.net](mailto:leadpastor@covenantumc.net)**

**Mission & Outreach Team's Four Focuses: Local - Lincoln Elementary School, The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission and Inasmuch Ministry ; International - Life for Children Ministry in Kenya**



Founded in 1972, the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

You can make a difference by participating in **Bowl for Kids' Sake**



Form a 5-person team - ANYONE can join your team. Each participant is asked to raise \$100/person or \$500/team. Reach your goal and win cool prizes.

**Every dollar raised will benefit kids right here in our community!**

To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters or to register for "Bowl for Kids' Sake" visit [www.bbbsnei.org](http://www.bbbsnei.org)

Questions? Contact Dametria Refner at [dametria.refner@bbbsnei.org](mailto:dametria.refner@bbbsnei.org) or 260-456-1600 x2229.

**What a FUN & EASY one-time volunteer opportunity to help ignite the potential of children in our community!**

Introducing 3 Ways to Play!		
At the Lanes	Outdoors	Virtual
Thunderbowl #1 June 12 or June 26	Parkview Field - June 19	June 24 6:00-8:00 pm
CrazyPinz June 8-10 or June 15-16		

**ASSOCIATED CHURCHES'  
FATHERS DAY 5K  
Saturday, June 19**



Celebrate Father's Day weekend by running with or in honor of your father, grandfather, or father-figure.

The walk, run or ruck will circle around Lakeside Park.

Proceeds benefit Associated Churches' programs, Military Families and A Baby's Closet.

**Where:** Associated Churches, 602 E. Wayne St.

**When:** Saturday, June 19 Check-In at 7:30am;  
5K starts at 8:30; Free Kid's Fun Run at 8:15

**Individual Pricing:**

- \* Advanced registration: free to age 9; \$20 for ages 10-15, and \$25 for ages 16 & older.
- \* Late Registration: \$35 beginning Mon., June 15

**To learn more or register:** [runsignup.com/FD5K](http://runsignup.com/FD5K)



**"Goodbye Lesson Plans,  
Hello Suntan"**

A fun gift from Covenant for each staff member at Lincoln School to show we care for them and pray their summer is full of joy, love, fun and a chance to recharge for the new school year.



**Looking ahead:  
During the month of July Covenant will be collecting:**

- ⇒ Monetary donations to raise funds for a Project 216 food packing event on Saturday, October 23 to help feed starving children with nutritious food
- ⇒ Deodorant and sanitizing wipes for the people served by the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission



**Covenant's Fish Fry Report**



- A huge THANK YOU to Gina & Sam Loomis for taking on the responsibility of running a different kind of fish fry this year!
- Many thanks for those who stepped up to help and for those who purchased meals!
- **The good news is: Covenant donated \$905 to Habitat for Humanity with this event!**

**Study Connection Tutoring is back this fall!**



The particulars are being worked out with Study Connection but at this time there will be tutoring of students from Lincoln School at Covenant on Wednesday afternoons (3:15-4:45). Students will be bussed from the school and tutors will meet with their student for about an hour!

**How can you make a difference in the life of a child?**

- **Be a tutor or tutor sub:** if you're interested in finding out more contact Rita Spears at [ritasparspt@gmail.com](mailto:ritasparspt@gmail.com)
- **Co-chair the leadership of this program** with Rita Spears

**You can make a difference in how a child does in school!**



## Caleb & Amy Cox's Adventures in ministry with Cru (received 5/25)



"How will anyone go and tell them without being sent?" - Romans 10:5

One of the things we Cru staff love to do is sending students. Sometimes that looks like sending them on a mission trip but more often than not, it's training them to be sent to reach their peers. This year we have had the privilege of training countless students in evangelism and specific ways to share their faith, especially in groups and spheres that they are already apart of. For Caleb that has meant training students on the football, track, baseball, and basketball teams to do team outreaches.

However for me (Amy), one of the students it has been the most fun to help send is Anisha. This year, I have been discipling



One of our weekly outreaches with the girls' soccer team.

Anisha. As part of this discipleship, we talked through ways she can reach her peers and people around her. She is on the track team so she thought it would be cool to do a track outreach with her peers. Anisha invited her friends from the track team to come to an optional Cru meeting after practice. Each week about 14 of her track friends came to hear more about Jesus and eat pizza. We trained her how to share her testimony as well as the gospel. Over the next month, Anisha shared these things with her track friends each week. While Anisha is overall fairly shy, she shared with boldness and confidence. When sharing the gospel, she asked each of her friends whether or not they wanted to start a relationship with Jesus. Three of them prayed to receive Christ!

We are excited to continue meeting with the girls from the track team in the fall and go deeper into what it means to follow Jesus. While Anisha graduates this year, I have no doubt that God has used her presence with her friends to help impact their lives for all of eternity!

As always thank you for your partnership with us as we partner with student leaders reaching their friends with the gospel.

### PAST

Praise God for the boys' football, track, baseball, and basketball outreaches and the girls' track & soccer outreaches, and for the students leading them. We have seen countless students start a relationship with Jesus through these outreaches!

### PRESENT

Praise God for the end of the school year and all He has done in the lives of students in Dallas, especially in light of the COVID challenges

### FUTURE

Pray for us this summer as we take a Cru seminary class & lead students on a summer mission to Ocean City, N.J.

[Caleb.Cox@cru.org](mailto:Caleb.Cox@cru.org)

(256) 258-9537

[Amy.Palmer@cru.org](mailto:Amy.Palmer@cru.org)

(260) 704-8753

5000 K Ave, Apt 3427

Plano, TX 75074

[give.cru.org/0864190](http://give.cru.org/0864190)

Covenant helps to support Caleb & Amy and their ministry by sending them \$415 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget. Your donations to the church budget make this possible - thank you!



(The following was received from Life for Children Ministry and was copied just as it was sent to us.)

### LIFE FOR CHILDREN WELFARE - ORPHANS SPONSORED BY COVENANT UMC

When the first case of covid 19 was announced in Kenya last year, The Government announced all schools and public places to be closed indefinitely to control the further spread of the infection. School going children were forced to stay at home for a period of nine months. We thank God that people adhered with the measures put in place to prevent the further spread of the disease and the infection curve went down. Early this year, the Kenyan Government and the ministry of education allowed school to be reopened for the learning process to continue. Even though the long holiday affected the learning system of the educations, students resumed back for their classes early this year and they have already learnt for the past three months. At the moment they are on holiday before they resumed back to school for their final term. Through your sponsorship and prayers, we have not had any bad report from the orphans or their guardians. They benefited with Sanitizers, hand washing equipments, face masks and nutritional support. May almighty God bless you!

(Turn to page 4 to read specific descriptions of how 6 of the children Covenant supports are doing.)



## Covenant, you are supporting these orphans and others through your generous gifts:

**FELIX OCHIENG OYUGI is in grade 8:** Felix has grown a tall young boy; he is in good health together with his family members. He just sat for his grade eight final examination Kenya certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and he scored 309 marks out of 500. This is an average performance that is going to enable him join one of the best schools in the county. Felix wishes to join Mbale high school for his secondary learning. He wants to continue putting more effort in his education and proceed to a public university. His relatives and family are all in good health and are doing fine. Felix and his family benefited with a facemask and sanitizers. May God continue blessing you as you prayerfully sponsor orphans and needy families.



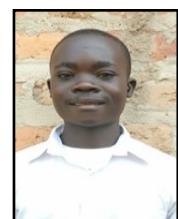
**ALLAN OKOTH is in grade 7:** Allan is in good health together with his family members, this family benefited with a new house late last year when their house was destroyed with heavy rains. They are now living in a big and spacious house through Life for children welfare support. Allan is in grade seven at St. Antony Wachara Christian School. He is an average boy academically and in his last examination he scored 310 out of 500 marks. This is an average performance even though he can achieve much better than this next time. Through your sponsorship we believe that Allan is going to make it in his education and achieve his dream career of becoming a Doctor. Allan's sister has not yet reported to collage yet, she is trusting God that he will report in September this year God willing. Thank you Covenant UMC for sponsoring Allan.

**CYNTHIA AJWANG is in grade 3:** Cynthia is a young beautiful girl. Cynthia is an average student academically. In her last examination: Cynthia scored above average and was recommended well by her class teacher. Being that she is still young, she is not sure of what she wants to become when she grows up, she talks of being a pilot and a Doctor. We pray and believe that her dreams are valid and that she would settle in one ambition and build on it. During her free time, Cynthia likes playing ball games with her friends. She too helps her mother with light household chores while not at school. We thank you Covenant church for accepting to sponsor Cynthia and other needy children through Life for children Ministry.



**MARY GORRETY is in grade 8:** Mary Gorrety has maintained her character of being polite; she is a growing to be a lady with few words and an introvert in nature. Mary sat for her grade eight National Examinations early this year, their results are already out and she managed to score 272 marks out of 500. This is an average performance which is going to secure her a chance in one of the best schools. Even though there was the outbreak of the Covid 19 which affected learning in Kenya, Mary still managed to appear among the averagely performed pupils. We are proud of her and wish her all the best. It's so sad that in 2019 Mary engaged herself in early premarital sex which results to her becoming pregnant. She dropped out of school for a while to give birth but unfortunately her baby died shortly after being born. This is when Mary approached our office again to be given second chance as she has learnt her lessons. Being one of our own and still a vulnerable girl we did not hesitate and allowed her continue with her education. She proved us right when her results were out and we are still optimistic that she will be successful in life. We still love her and wish her all the best. Thank you Covenant UMC for your continuous support to Mary Gorrety. God bless you.

**BENSON OCHIENG OGUOK is in grade 7:** Benson Ochieng is in grade seven at a school called Wagai Primary school. He is a determined boy and a regular boy at school. Benson is looking forward when he will finish his primary learning and join secondary school just like most of his friends. He will be sitting for his examination in the month of March next year before he joins secondary school. Benson wishes to score average marks to enable him join the best schools within the county. We are optimistic with him that he can make it , In his last examination, Benson scored 251 out of 500 marks. This is an average performance and clear evidence that he is a capable boy academically. His father and his other siblings are all doing fine and are in good health. At this season they are working on their farms to earn them food for family consumption. Thank you Covenant UMC for walking with Benson Oguok to this far. We are still looking forward for better life ahead and make him independent through your prayers and support.



**SAM OMONDI is in grade 4:** Sam is growing a tall boy; he was recruited in the program when he was very tiny and in nursery school. I thank God for him when I see him growing. Sam is now in grade four and he is doing fine health wise and academically. He is showing a great improvement in his academics and he can now write sponsor letter very well with readable English. Initially, the Kenyan System of education was that pupils in primary school will study for eight years before they proceed to secondary school where they take four years and later join university for another four years. None the less the Government decided to change this system, Sam and all grade four pupil are the first lot to embrace this change. They will take six years in primary school and six years in Secondary school. This means that Sam is now remaining with two years to finish his primary level. His grandmother and grandfather are doing fine even though they are having old age health complications. We still thank God for them and standing with Sam when he was left alone when his parents died. Thank you Covenant UMC your sponsorship and prayers has built a lot of impact not only to Sam but to other vulnerable orphans too.

Covenant supports these and 10 other children by sending \$975 per month (\$65/child). The support includes food, healthcare, clothing, schooling and the teaching of Christian principles. If you'd like to help change HIV/Aids orphans' lives donate to Covenant and indicate Life for Children Ministry on the check memo line.