



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

May 2022

Upcoming Events:

May 23: Drive Thru Fish Fry for Habitat
June 12: UMCOR Sunday
July: Christmas in July
October 22: Project 216 Food Packing Event



Thank you, Covenant!
As God as blessed you,
you have blessed others
with your Lenten Offering!

You donated....

1,094 pairs of underwear
(296 pairs from the preschool)
24 pairs of socks
18 men's t-shirts
5 girl's camis



Underwear

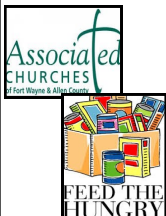
for the men, women and children
The Rescue Mission serves!

And you donated

\$6,277.00

to Associated Churches
Food Network so they can
purchase food in bulk
for our hungry neighbors.

For more information on
 Associated Churches Food Network
 see page 2



A prayer for the people of Ukraine

This intercessory prayer was
 written for World Day of Prayer
 by the women of England, Wales & Northern
 Ireland, on February 25, 2022:



*God of the past, the present and the future,
 Our thoughts and prayers are with
 our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and
 the surrounding countries in t
 heir fear and distress.*

*We pray too for all other regions of the
 world where there is conflict,
 unrest or oppression.*

*We pray that reconciliation will overcome
 hatred, peace will conquer war,
 hope will replace despair and that your
 plans for the region will be fulfilled.*

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen.



Drive-thru Fish Fry
Monday, May 23 from 4:00-7:00

Adam Fulton, has provided our fish fry dinners in
 the past and will once again provide Covenant
 with delicious meals for a drive-thru fish fry event. He will provide every-
 thing - all we need to do is provide volunteers the day of the event.

Each meal will cost \$12 & will include: Fish or Tenderloin, Coleslaw,
 Chips, Cookies, Tartar sauce & plastic ware

\$4.00 from each meal will be donated to Habitat for Humanity

The money donated to Habitat from this
 Drive-Thru Fish Fry will help families to break the
 cycle of poverty and build long term financial
 security. Habitat's affordable, no-profit house
 payments free up money for food, child care,
 medicine and other necessities.



How can you help?

- ⇒ Sign up to help! Contact Gina Loomis (church office 489-1888).
- ⇒ Spread the word to friends, co-workers, neighbors, & family

Habitat for Humanity:

- ⇒ is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization working in all 50
 states & in more than 70 countries.
- ⇒ has a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live
 believes everyone should have a decent, safe & affordable place
 to live

How does Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program work?

Those in need of decent, affordable housing apply with their local Habitat
 for Humanity. The selection committee uses 3 criteria:

- ⇒ The applicant's level of need.
- ⇒ Their willingness to partner with Habitat.
- ⇒ Their ability to repay a mortgage through an affordable payment
 plan.

Did you know?

- ⇒ Habitat's homebuyers invest hundreds of hours of their own labor,
 called sweat equity, working alongside volunteers
- ⇒ Habitat follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection - race
 nor religion is a factor.

How can YOU help Habitat?

- ⇒ Volunteer on a build site - no prior construction experience needed
- ⇒ Volunteer at the ReStore - located at 4747 Lima Road;
- ⇒ Donate and shop at the ReStore
- ⇒ Donate lunch - help feed volunteers who work on the build site

Visit habitatgfw.com to learn more.

Associated Churches Neighborhood Food Network



The Associated Churches Neighborhood Food Network offers families food once a month at no charge through a network of 25 local food pantries in churches and social agencies.

The Food Network is an "emergency food bank." The pantries provide a 5 day supply of food to prepare balanced and nutritious meals as recommended by the Department of Agriculture nutrition food chart.

Clients must abide by the following guidelines:

- Families are eligible for food once a month and must go to the Food Bank in the neighborhood in which they reside.
- 2 forms of identification are required to prove residence.

\$10 can feed a family of 4 for a week! To make a monetary donation write a check to Covenant and indicate "food bank" on the memo line.

If you prefer to donate food you purchase leave it at the Mission Collection Center and it will be taken to Associated Churches Food Bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. NO Glass containers - Donations must be non-perishables.

Questions about the food bank? Contact Carl Baker at carl.baker2@frontier.com

To learn more about Associated Churches and their programs visit associatedchurches.org



Bashor Children's Home - new buildings and a program for girls rescued from sex trafficking



Bashor Children's Home has opened a new residential program for teen-aged girls who've been trapped into sex trafficking. Victims cannot simply return home because, in many cases, family members were involved in trafficking. The people who sell them seem caring at first by housing and feeding them, but then they control the girls' access to phone, Internet, money and outside relationships.

Bashor's new treatment program is more than a shelter. Girls will stay 9-12 months or longer and receive intensive therapy for the trauma they've experienced. Once victims are ready to leave Bashor they could transition back to family members, if safe, or to foster families. Or, if they are close to age 18, they could move into an apartment.

The new program is also for girls who are at high risk of trafficking - girls who've lived in poverty, who've suffered abuse, who've seen a lot of family conflict or who've been a chronic runaway. Victims will be referred by Indiana's Department of Child Services or by juvenile courts and detention centers.

Bashor Children's Home New Girls Shelter:
a place where survivors of human trafficking find safety, self-improvement, and success.

3 new buildings
with more than
31,000 square

=

2 mirrored living units:
with open space, natural light,
multi-functional group room,
therapist on site, control
center, privilege room, personal
lockers, 15 private bedrooms.

+

Outdoor Space:
Recreation,
secure fencing,
video
monitoring

+

Support building:
Classrooms,
gym, counseling
rooms, calming
room, kitchen,
dining room

Please keep the girls in your

prayers:

Ramiah - Pray for my staff and give them real blessings. Pray for my family and give me strength.

Anna - Pray for God to keep me on the right path towards God, and for me getting out of placements

Kay - Pray for me to have a good court, and for Kelsey, Kary, and Polly

Sienna - Pray for me to never ever forget how blessed I am and to stay humble.

Jamie - Pray for my dad's health

Leona - Pray for me to have a good visit with my Granny B on Easter, and to get an Easter basket

Jada - Pray for my friend who has been having seizures again, for him to feel better and to take his meds.

To help financially support this program: Write a check to Covenant and indicate Bashor Homes on the memo line

Donate through Covenant's website choosing Bashor Homes designated fund

Visit bashor.org to make a donation and to learn more

\$349 was given at the Redeem (Offering) Experiential Worship Table at the Maundy Thursday Service for this ministry.

An update on UMCOR support for Ukraine:



⇒ How is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responding?

UMCOR's work in Ukraine is being funded with gifts to Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations - Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia - to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence. In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and Human Rights League. These grants are providing transportation assistance, humanitarian supplies such as food, water, clothing, shelter and medication, as well as legal services and safe spaces for women, children & those with disabilities. UMCOR is in continuous dialogue with UMC entities and other partners throughout Europe to identify additional ways to assist. The situation in Eastern and Central Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead.

⇒ How can YOU support those still in Ukraine and those fleeing the violence?

At this time, all gifts to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance will be used to assist those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence to neighboring nations. Donate through:

- * Covenant - write a check to Covenant, indicate "UMCOR Advance #982450-Ukraine" on the memo line
- Covenant's online giving by choosing UMCOR as the designated account
- * donate online at umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450
- * donate by a toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174

⇒ Will UMCOR be sending kits and other supplies?

UMCOR does not ship relief kits or other supplies internationally. While the need is great and it is tempting to assist by shipping clothes, shoes and diapers, the cost is high. Instead, we encourage you to help us assist our partners in securing supplies in Europe. This is less costly than shipping supplies, helps local economies and ensures that materials received are the materials needed at any given time. Your gift will allow us to procure materials and supplies locally.

⇒ Can you volunteer?

UMCOR does not recruit international volunteers to assist in emergencies globally. Instead, they work with partners who employ people or recruit volunteers locally. They need to devote themselves to assisting refugees and their immediate needs, not to the logistic and linguistic needs of volunteers.



THE NEW TREASURE HOUSE IS OPEN!

It's almost across the street from Covenant at 10202 Coldwater Road with hours Wednesday - Saturday from 10 - 4. Temporarily, donations can be dropped off at the front entrance and a member of the team will help you curbside.



Treasure House Thrift Store is a ministry of The Rescue Mission and is a great place to get deals on gently used clothing, home accessories and furniture.

Treasure House also raises funds for the Rescue Mission, creates vocational training opportunities, and provides clothing and goods to help people overcome homelessness. By donating to Treasure House or making purchases there, you help the Rescue Mission change lives.

Hello Covenant United Methodist Church,

Thank you for all of your continued support for teachers and students at Lincoln Elementary. We are so thankful for the notes, monthly surprises, meals, and most importantly prayers from all of you.



There are 650 students at Lincoln, making it the largest elementary in Fort Wayne Community Schools. We have a diverse population of learners who come through our doors with a smile on their faces every day. They work hard to become the best students they can be.

Thank you for your support of our students, teachers and families. Partnerships like yours allow students and staff to look forward to coming to work every day.

J.R. Ankenbruck, Principal



The Miller Clan

News from Mason & Claire Miller (rec'd April 18, 2022)



Mason and I spent time over Easter weekend with a friend we've both loved for almost a decade now. We were reflecting on who we were when we met versus who we are now because of the changes we've experienced and the lives we've lived. For us: marriage, the call to the mission field, living abroad, pregnancy, miscarriages, the loss of Hudson, parenting, Covid, abruptly moving back, and now heading back to Kenya. With all the changes, the thing that stands out most to me is this: doubting, questioning, and uncertainty used to feel scary and like a mountain to be climbed; *now, they feel like welcoming moments to step into divine dialogue with the God who promises to be WITH.* With us in the fear. With us in the loss. With us in the hurting. With us in the questioning. A God who is big enough for our pondering and searching hearts and who stays steadfast when we move. When we lost Hudson, so much of what we "knew" was in question, and it felt isolating and confusing. We've seen our students in those same positions as they wrestle and wonder about the realities of God as they navigate hardships. We used to try and provide answers for them, which isn't bad, but sometimes can be a cop out for the discomfort of the unknown. I think we are returning a lot more equipped to sit in the discomfort of the unknowns with a position of peace that comes from the ever-present comfort of the one known: *God promises to never leave us, never forsake us, and always be with us.*

We have really felt God's "with-us-ness" this month as we have continued support raising for all of our needs in Kenya. Because of things like Nairobi being a big city with relatively similar costs of living, visas being expensive, the costs of flight and trainings being quite a bit, we are tempted to look at the amount we need to live on and say "how?!" But when we step into God's peace that is ever with us, we can faithfully trust and believe that He'll make a way. We are currently at 43% of our monthly needs and 80% of our one time needs being met—praise God!

Please join us in praying for perseverance to continue reaching out to potential support team members and for boldness to ask for people to join our team. For God to open doors for conversations and partnerships!

Thank you so much for following our journey and believing with us for all of our fundraising to be complete by the time we leave for Kenya this fall so that we don't have to continue support raising for the 2.5 years we are overseas. *We believe that will truly allow us to fully invest in our students as we walk with them through life's uncertainties, reminding them that God is always near, always pursuing them, always with them.*

If you want to know more about our ministry, how to give, or what your giving goes toward, please don't hesitate to email us (mason.miller@blueskykenya.org) so we can schedule a meeting with you!

To join our support team, please [click here](#).

Thankful for you all,
Miller clan



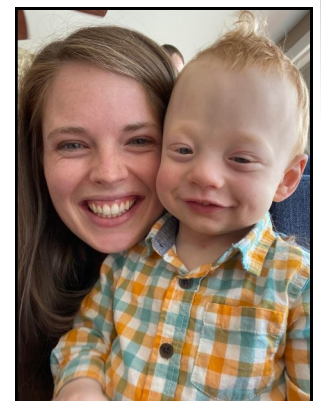
Mason & Holland



Claire, Zion & Mason



Claire & Holland



Claire & Zion



BlueSky Global Ministries' vision is to see the multinational community of Nairobi, Kenya, spiritually transformed and equipped to influence the world for God's glory. They pursue this by building relationships through adventure, using three core platforms: BlueSky Adventures (rock climbing gym, expedition trips, and team building), Camp BlueSky, and BlueSky Community (year-round relational ministry). Learn more at blueskyglobal.org



Caleb and Amy Cox's Adventures in Ministry with Cru April 2022 Prayer Letter



"I felt really close to God after Cru last week, but then I did something I know is bad. That made me feel far away from God. How do I get close to God again?" Grant asked earnestly at our Monday night Cru meeting.

Grant plays football with several Cru student leaders. He doesn't appear to be a believer yet, but they have been reaching out to him and trying to convince him to come to Cru for weeks. He finally caved and came with them. He had so many questions that first week.

I (Caleb) was thrilled to see him return the next week. After our normal discussion time, he got serious and asked about how to get close to God again after sinning. "That's a great question!" I responded. "What do you guys think?" I then guided the rest of the group to explain to

Grant that our sin doesn't change how much God loves us but that it does interfere with our fellowship with God. We talked about how we can restore that fellowship through confession and receiving his forgiveness through Jesus. His face showed that what we were saying was making sense to him.



The Plano Cru staff with our graduating student leaders



Grant with a few of the Cru regulars at a volleyball outreach

I'm encouraged that even though Grant probably isn't a believer yet, he is spiritually open and seriously considering what he's hearing about Jesus. God clearly loves Grant, wants him in his family, and has put friends in his life who care about him and tell him about the good news of the gospel.

Thank you for partnering with us financially and for praying for us and the students we get to serve. We wouldn't be able to do any of this without you behind us. We're so grateful for you!

To learn more about CRU visit cru.org

PAST

Praise God for a great Easter outreach and a powerful presentation of God's love through our guest speaker.

PRESENT

Praise God for great turnout at the first of three student-led football chapels this spring! Pray for the students speaking at the other two in May.

FUTURE

Pray for our preparations to return to Ocean City, NJ with students from across the country to share the gospel with tourists on the boardwalk.

Caleb and Amy would love to hear from you!

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Amy.Palmer@cru.org
(260) 704-8753

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McKinney, TX 75070

Want to help support Caleb and Amy? Visit
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!