



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

July 2022

Upcoming Events:

July: Christmas in July

July 21: Lincoln work day at Covenant 9-11

Aug. 7: Blessing of the Back Packs

July 24: Caleb & Amy Cox at Covenant

Aug. 14: Mason & Clair Miller at Covenant

Oct. 22: Project 216 Food Packing Event



Help Lincoln School prepare for the 2022-2023 school year

Participate in a work day on **Thursday, July 21 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Covenant.**

(no sign up necessary - just show up with a pair of scissors for cutting paper)

Cut car tags & ribbons, trim laminated items, count Lincoln coins, prepare welcome notes for students and more to help Lincoln's staff as they prepare for a 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

The first day of school is August 10!

UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR Sunday was June 12.

On this day a special offering was collected to raise funds for UMCOR's administrative costs so 100% of donations made to UMCOR projects go to the designated projects.

Covenant, you donated \$1,845.00. Thank you!!

Covenant missionaries will be visiting this summer:

- ⇒ Caleb & Amy Cox, serving with Cru in Dallas, will share July 24
- ⇒ Mason & Claire Miller, serving with BlueSky will be returning to Kenya, and will share August 14

Both couples will share between services in Fellowship Hall.

Hear their stories - what they've done in the past and what their goals are for the future.

See their latest newsletters on pages 3 & 4.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



We know Christmas is in December.

But shouldn't we be living each day as if it were Christmas, with thankfulness and sharing? Think how we give gifts at Christmas to those we love and those we don't even know. "Christmas in July" offers you two ways to continue experiencing the Christmas spirit of sharing with those you don't know and making a difference in the lives of others.

When we look at the needs in the world, we can be overwhelmed and you may think whatever you do won't make a difference but if everyone thought that way nothing would be done. Together we can make a big difference! Making a difference in the life of just one person helps to change the world.

- 1. We will be collecting deodorant for those at the Rescue Mission** - think what a difference that can make for the self-esteem and health of a homeless person. **For men:** regular & travel size

For women: regular size



Leave donations in the church office Monday-Friday from 8-4, at the Mission Center or in a cubicle of the Mission Collection Center.

- 2. We will also be collecting financial donations to purchase supplies for a Project 216 meal packing event on Saturday, October 22**



* Project 216 is a Christian organization whose goal is to provide the most nutritious meal possible to reverse the effects of malnutrition. Every 6 seconds a child dies from hunger related causes. By providing money to purchase meal ingredients/supplies and helping to package the meals in October YOU can make a difference!

* It only takes \$.30 to pay for the ingredients of one meal – \$25 = 83 meals, or \$50 = 166 meals, or \$100 = 333 meals

*** The number of meals we pack will depend on the donations we receive thru this offering**

Donate: By check (payable to Covenant with "Project 216" on the memo line) OR on Covenant's website OR by using the app

* This year Covenant will be sending the food we package to Haiti thru "Mission of Hope" and to Inasmuch Ministry in Fort Wayne.

In her devotion "Whatever You Can Do Is Worth Doing" Joyce Meyers states, "God won't hold us accountable for what we could not do, but He will hold us accountable for the things we could have done. God will show you what you can do - trust Him when He says it makes a difference".

If you have any questions, contact Barb Hering at 260-482-8486 or by email barbhering@gmail.com



Volunteer opportunities at Treasure House

There are many volunteer opportunities at Treasure House (located in the Pine Valley Shopping Center). All money from sales goes back to The Rescue Mission.



Volunteer opportunities: dressing room attendant, sales floor help, hang up clothes, sweep floors, sort donations, help at donation door, tag clothes/items, clean items, check games for all pieces

Volunteer requirements:

- ⇒ must be 18 years old and be a certified volunteer; visit fwrn.org to complete the Volunteer Application Form or contact Deanna Bates, 426-7357 ex. 144
- ⇒ Once certified sign up to volunteer on-line at fwrn.org

To learn more, contact Terry Pargmann (thepargmanns@frontier.com or 260-467-3070) or Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com or 260-482-8486)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT 216



Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the many problems that exist in this world? Have you wanted to just DO SOMETHING but didn't know where to start? Project 216 exists to help you make a real difference in the fight against world hunger. Donate now thru Christmas in July and volunteer on Oct. 22 to package meals.

Did you know....

- ⇒ 842 million people in the world today do not get enough to eat to live healthy, active lives. That's 1 in 8.
- ⇒ Growth in 1 in 4 children around the world is stunted. In some countries, as many as 1 in 3 children has stunted growth.
- ⇒ In developing countries, 1/3 of all child deaths are linked to hunger.
- ⇒ Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to health worldwide - greater than AIDS, malaria, and TB combined.

The name Project 216 has three different meanings:

1. The first and most basic is that every Project 216 box that gets shipped out contains 216 meals.
2. The second, revolves around the volunteers, at a 2-hour packing event, each volunteer will average about 216 meals.
3. And third, as a Christian organization, we serve because Jesus came to serve. James 2:16 says, "If one of you says to those in need, "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed" but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

Project 216 is a 501c3 non-profit humanitarian food aid organization. Meals are packaged by local volunteers and delivered to those in need with the help of worldwide partners, non-government organizations around the world who are working hands-on with those in need. The program cost, which covers food, shipping, and overhead, comes out to \$0.30 per meal.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Questions? Contact Barb Hering at 260-482-8486 or barbhering@gmail.com

THERE IS NO VACATION FROM HOMELESSNESS - MEET ANTHONY



Anthony is a normal 8-year-old boy. He loves playing video games, watching spiderman, and playing football. Looking at his smile, you may not suspect that Anthony and his mother experienced a homeless crisis. Anthony's mom suffered from trauma, abuse, addiction, and mental health challenges. Wanting a better life for her family, she found help through The Rescue Mission's women & children's ministry at Charis House and she received access to mental health support, community resources and restorative programming needed to build a sustainable future. Your gift does more than provide meals and shelter - it also gives a chance to experience transformational change. Your support provides hope and healing. Give now by writing a check to Covenant (indicate Rescue Mission on the memo line), or give at covenantumc.net or thru Covenant's app or at fwrn.org

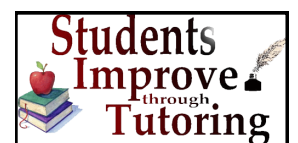


Make a difference in a child's life be a Study Connection Tutor

Study Connection is an after-school tutoring program of FWCS. Tutors are matched 1 on 1 with students, identified by their teachers as needing extra help. They will meet at Lincoln with the same student on Wednesdays from 2:50-4:00 October thru May. Time is spent doing assignments provided by the student's teacher and every session includes time for reading.

Can't commit to 1 hour every week? Find a friend to share a student and the time commitment or be a substitute tutor when there's a need.

The difference you can make in a child's life has been shown in better grades, better behavior and improved attitudes. Just showing you care about the success of a child is life changing!



All volunteers must successfully complete the volunteer application process prior to being matched with a student.

Interested? Contact Covenant member, Rita Spears, for more information at ritaspearspt@gmail.com or 260-704-2755.



News from Mason & Claire Miller (rec'd June 22, 2022)

There is a great movie on Netflix called "About Time" where the protagonist has the ability to time travel. He spends the majority of the movie going back and reliving amazing moments: his first kiss, first date, the day his child was born. At the end of the movie, he says that he started traveling back 24 hours and reliving each day but not changing anything; simply re-experiencing each day with the foreknowledge of what would happen, but this time, he opens his eyes to the beauty around him, slowing down to see goodness that he had missed the first time.



But then, he takes it one step further. The actor says: "The truth is I now don't travel back at all; not even for the day. I just try to live every day as if I've deliberately come back to this day to enjoy it, as if it was the final day of my extraordinary, ordinary life. We are all traveling through time, together, every day of our lives. All we can do is do our best to relish this remarkable life."

Relish. Right now. Pause. Breathe in. Look around: goodness everywhere. Suffering? Of course. But I'm sure, if you're like me, that if you actually paused and looked back, you would see a whole bunch of beauty from the ashes.

Here's what I've come to know: when I look back through difficult seasons, if I look hard enough, I'm sure to walk away with a sense of God's faithfulness. With perspective. With gratitude.

The other day, we had outdoor church and we sat with our small group. As I looked down the line, I remembered prayer requests each person had throughout the year and was able to see how God had answered them. In the middle of people searching for jobs and getting rejected; in the middle of difficult pregnancies; in the middle of marriage struggles, it felt hard. Broken. Ugly. Desperate. But now, we can look back and see how God showed up for each of these people in beautiful ways and was faithful to hear their prayers, walk with them in the uncertainty + waiting periods, and bring beauty from their ashes.

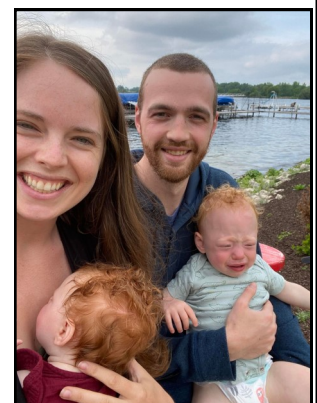
Fundraising has given us the opportunity to reflect with people from all our different seasons of life (family friends, high school friends, college, youth group, camp ministry, past students, and family) and recall the goodness of God. To relish in the friends he has woven together through our lives. We have loved reminiscing with people about how God used us or them to create change in each other. Fundraising, while a difficult experience at times, has provided us the opportunity to look back over our ministry in Kenya from 2018-2020 and see those "goodness of God moments." We are grateful to have the perspective to see God's provision, protection, wisdom, love, and grace. When we look back, we can see how kids became more wise, better leaders, more forgiving, fostered better relationships with their families, and came to understand God's love and call on their lives.

We are honored to be just a few months away from heading back to continue pouring into these students. This time around, I don't want to wait to see God's goodness until we are two years post ministry. *I want to slow down and relish in his goodness. To soak in the ordinary but extraordinary moments. To live with eyes wide open to the beauty around me.*

Thank you so much for praying us through this fundraising process! We have crossed the 80% mark--hallelujah! We are seeking 12 more monthly partners to reach our target goal. Our goal is to be at 100% by July 20th. This month we are going to buy flights which makes it all the more real. Thank you for praying for our hearts as we both rejoice in being able to return to Kenya after 2 years and grieve saying goodbye to our friends and family. We are grateful for you, our community, and we relish in the goodness of God weaving our stories together.

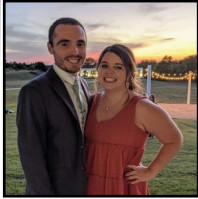
If you feel led to join our support team, go to blueskyglobal.org/give-staff-millers or email us at mason.miller@blueskykenya.org to set up a time with us to hear more about our ministry!

Blessings,
Claire + Mason



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
 June 2022 Prayer Letter



June 7-11, we took 19 students to Estes Park, Colorado for CruRocky22", a leadership camp. We joined about 50 other Cru students from 5 other cities across the country. The biggest way God impacted the guys we brought from Plano was teaching them how to be vulnerable and bear each other's burdens.

It all started during a testimony training workshop. The first student shared in his testimony about deep pain from his dad betraying their family. He broke down in tears, and his friends comforted him and wept with him. His story set the tone for the rest of the group. One by one, the others opened up and shared about some of the hardest moments in their lives, including deaths of close family members and current struggles with depression and suicidal thoughts.



A hike at CruRocky22



Playing "Bucketball" at CruRocky22

When we debriefed the day together, the guys from that table talked about how surprised they were to hear the things shared that morning. They are all on the football team and spend a lot of time together. But they had no idea the depth of the pain that they each carried. They described how good it felt to be honest with each other about the hurt in their lives, support each other and know they're not alone. "Society tells us to be tough and keep our emotions inside. But it was such a relief to be open with each other. We're so much closer now," one of the explained.

We're grateful to God for working in the lives of these students, and we're so thankful for each of you coming alongside us to pray for us and make this ministry possible. We couldn't do it without you!

Caleb and Amy would love to hear from you!

Caleb.Cox@cru.org
 (256) 258-9537
 Amy.Palmer@cru.org
 (260) 704-8753

4402 Cordova Lane
 McKinney, TX 75070

Want to help support Caleb and Amy? Visit give.cru.org/0864190

PAST

Praise God for everything he did at CruRocky22!
 Pray that the Plano football guys will continue being courageously vulnerable with each other back home.

PRESENT

Pray for the 15 students going on the Ocean City summer mission we're leading to grow in their faith and boldness in sharing the gospel.

FUTURE

Pray that we would experience physical and spiritual rest despite a busy summer and be ready for all God has for us in the next school year.

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!

An excerpt from a devotion by Joyce Meyers: **"Whatever You Can Do Is Worth Doing"**

"When we look at the needs in the world today, they are staggering. You may be thinking, what I can do won't even make a dent in the problems we have in the world. I know how you feel because I once felt the same way. But if we all think that way, nobody will do anything, and nothing will change. Although our individual efforts may not solve the problems, together we can make a major difference. God won't hold us accountable for what we could not do, but He will hold us accountable for the things we could have done.

If we can give one hungry child one meal, it is worth doing. If we can help one person go without pain for one day, it is worth doing. I have resolved to always do what I can do and to remember what God said to me: "If you can only relieve someone's pain one time for one hour, it is still worth doing."

Has God planted an idea or a desire in your heart to help others in a specific way? Trust that whatever you can do is worth doing. Don't let the magnitude of the problem overwhelm you. God will show you what you can do—trust Him when He says it makes a difference."