



# Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

May 2024

### Upcoming Events:

- ⇒ Month of May - food bank collection:  
Flour, sugar, salt, any food items needed for baking
- ⇒ May 21 - Habitat for Humanity Fish Fry
- ⇒ June 9 - UMCOR Sunday



### Pre-packaged cutlery

- Do you get pre-packaged cutlery when you use carry-out?
- Do you wonder what to do with it if you don't use it and you don't want to put it in the trash?

**You can donate it, still in the package, to The Rescue Mission.**

Leave the cutlery packages at the Mission Collection Center



### Help serve lunch at The Rescue Mission on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month

All you need is a smile and a willingness to greet & serve others - it's easy & fun!

**Transportation is provided from the Covenant parking lot.**

Contact Terry Pargmann to volunteer at 260-467-3070 or [thepargmanns@frontier.com](mailto:thepargmanns@frontier.com)



**AND FLOUR, SUGAR, CAKE MIXES, CRISCO, OIL, SALT, ETC.**

During May donate items needed for baking for Gethsemane Lutheran Church's Food Bank.

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center.

Please no glass containers!



## All You Can Eat In-Person, Carry-out and Drive-thru Fish Fry & Tenderloin Dinner

**Tuesday, May 21 from 4:30-6:30**

Mark your calendar now to volunteer and attend!

**Adult meal is \$12; child's (age 10 & younger) fish or tenderloin meal is \$8; a child's hot dog meal is \$3**

A meal includes **All-you-can-eat Fish or Tenderloin, Coleslaw, Scalloped Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Cookies or Brownies**

Carryout will be available to take meals with you.

**Drive-thru will be available, if there are enough volunteers!**

### How can you help with the Fish Fry?

- \* **Purchase needed items** found on a donation board in the church lobby, make the purchase and return it to the church. The more items donated the larger our donation to Habitat will be.
- \* **Volunteer** When asked to help with the event - sign up! Contact Gina Loomis at 438-2801 or sign up NOW on Covenant's website at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net). **Many volunteers will be needed to make this a successful event!**
- \* **Spread the word** to friends, co-workers, family, & neighbors.
- \* **PRAY** for the families receiving new homes.

**Questions?** Contact Gina at 438-2801 or [sam-gina@frontier.com](mailto:sam-gina@frontier.com)

### Another way you can help fill the shelves of local food banks:

Each year, letter carriers across the country head out on their routes on the **2nd Saturday in May** to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has grown into the nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

The need is great, but you can help. You are invited to join letter carriers and their partner organizations in the fight to end hunger in our communities by participating in the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Simply leave your donation of non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox on the **2nd Saturday in May**, and your letter carrier will do the rest.



### Habitat for Humanity

- ⇒ is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization working in all 50 states and in more than 70 countries.
- ⇒ Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of decent and affordable housing.
- ⇒ Habitat for Humanity believes every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe & affordable place to live.



### How does Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program work?

Families and individuals in need of decent, affordable housing apply with their local Habitat for Humanity for homeownership. Three criteria are used: the applicant's level of need, willingness to partner with Habitat & ability to repay a mortgage through an affordable payment plan. Habitat's homebuyers invest hundreds of hours of their own labor, called sweat equity, working alongside volunteers and other Habitat homeowners. Habitat follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection - race and/or religion are not factors.

### Does Habitat for Humanity only build new houses? No, Habitat also...

- ⇒ renovates existing homes
- ⇒ helps people repair and improve their own homes and neighborhoods.
- ⇒ works with local communities to address housing needs after natural disasters.
- ⇒ raises awareness & support for decent and affordable housing.
- ⇒ works with partners outside of North America to serve more families thru innovative financing methods.

### How can YOU help Habitat?

- ⇒ Volunteer and eat at Covenant's Fish Fry on Tuesday, May 21
- ⇒ Volunteer on a build site - no prior construction experience necessary; ages 16 and older may volunteer
- ⇒ Volunteer at the ReStore - 3 hour shifts are available at the Ft Wayne ReStore located at 4747 Lima Road;
- ⇒ Donate and shop at the ReStore

Visit [habitatgfw.com](http://habitatgfw.com) to learn more.

**UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR) U.S. DISASTER RESPONSE** seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.

With a "communities own their recoveries" philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

In partnership with disaster response ministries and coordinators in U.S. annual conferences, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation.

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports conference preparedness and immediate response efforts. Key activities for conference ERT and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. UMCOR offers emergency financial assistance in the aftermath of a disaster to support local relief work. For disasters that require long-term strategies, UMCOR provides conferences with expertise, grants and training for more extensive programming, such as disaster case management, materials and construction management, volunteer management and psychosocial support for survivors.





## Life For Children Ministry

Michael Agwanda, Missionary

## HEALTH CRISIS in KENYA DUE to 31 DAY DOCTOR'S STRIKE & FLOODS

The following is a message from Michael Agwanda. Can you sense his concern and the need for prayer for his country and the LCM family.

*"Kenyan doctors and physician assistants have been on strike for the last 31 days and counting. There seems to be no hope of doctors going back to work anytime soon. The doctors want better pay and many other demands that the government is unable to meet. This has rendered all government hospitals technically un-operational. Many who are unable to get to private hospitals are dying at home. There's great fear that HIV/AIDS patient who go for their drugs every month from Government hospital will not get help. Cancer patients and other chronic illness patients can't get help and the situation is definitely getting out of hand.*

*Kenya is also getting much more rainfall than usual; five deaths already, over 13,000 impacted, over 4,000 people displaced from their homes and rescued to higher ground, over 100,000 homes affected by the flood. This situation is also getting out of hand because there's a likelihood of disease outbreak especially waterborne diseases like cholera and malaria.*

*We are already having some of our orphans whose homes are flooded, and we are being called upon to help with emergency food and household items.*

*Please pray for us and be blessed.*

*Michael Agwanda"*

**To make a donation to help Life for Children Ministry during this dire time write a check to Covenant, indicating LCM on the memo line, make a donation online at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app.**

### A message from Inasmuch Ministry:

"So, the first quarter of this year, Inasmuch served over 300 unique individuals who do not have a home. Staggering number. We are finding, like most other agencies across the country who work in this space, that the majority are people whose lives fell apart, and they had no community; no family; no friends or means to help them. Their car broke down, and they had to choose between fixing the car to get to work or pay the rent. They had some kind of medical situation; lost their job; and their home. These are the reasons we are seeing most often. Now, it could change, but I don't think so.

We keep snacks and hygiene kits for our guests who are unhoused; items they can carry with them and eat easily. Right now, because of these numbers we are really low on chips, granola bars, juice boxes, pretzels, and travel sized hygiene items.

If you feel called to help us, we would appreciate the help. We know part of why we see so many is because we simply love them. We don't lecture them or judge them or anything else. We just love them. And pray for them.

Thank you!  
Mary Ann Mings,  
Executive Director"

#### What does Inasmuch Ministry do?

- \* provides food, household & hygiene items, and clothing
- \* Provides local bus passes
- \* Housing & utility assistance
- \* Helps to recover lost identification
- \* Addresses housing & eviction concerns

Leave any snack/hygiene items at the Mission Collection Center or make a monetary donation to Covenant, indicating "Inasmuch" on the memo line, or donate online at [Covenantumc.net](http://Covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app.





**News from Caleb and Amy Cox (rec'd 4/29/24)**



"My grandma keeps telling me I need to go to a youth group or something, but I always felt too uncomfortable to ever just go show up to a church," Camille, a sophomore at Vines explained at one of our small groups at the school. "Thanks for doing this Bible study at school because it's way easier for me. I always had questions but just didn't have anyone to answer them besides my grandma."

While Camille did not grow up in a Christian home, her grandma has always shared about her faith with Camille. She has been attending our Bible study weekly and continually asks questions about faith and God. We are excited to see how God continues to work in Camille's life and draw her closer to himself.



Bible study at Vines H.S. that Camille attends

It has also been awesome to see the Cru leaders at Vines lead the Bible study each week. They have had to step out in faith in order to reach their friends like Camille. It has been awesome watching the Lord use them to reach their peers. They have done such a great job inviting their friends, planning the Bible study, and leading the discussion this semester. We have been blown away by how well they have served the Lord despite what others may think of them.



Some of the Vines leaders and their friends

As always thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. We are grateful to watch the Lord show up and work in the lives of these

**PAST**

Praise God for the Vines leaders and students like Camille who have been able to come to a Bible study at their school this semester!

**PRESENT**

Please continue to pray for the end of the school year, for the students to finish strong, and for us to continue to reach students with the remaining weeks we have left.

**FUTURE**

Pray for our summer assignment, which is a sabbatical. Pray for us to be refreshed in the Lord.

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!

To help support Caleb & Amy visit [give.cru.org/0864190](https://give.cru.org/0864190).

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you! [Caleb.cox@cru.org](mailto:Caleb.cox@cru.org) and [amy.palmer@cru.org](mailto:amy.palmer@cru.org)



**CHANGE LIVES IN JUST 2 HOURS!**

**Join Project 216 for their Summer Public Meal Packing Event!**

**When:** Saturday, June 8 from 9-11 a.m.

**Where:** GE Club at Fort Wayne Electric Works located at 1020 Swinney Ave. Two-hour Parking if FREE!

**Why:** to help pack over 21,000 meals for families displaced by war and natural disasters

For more information and to register visit [project-216.org/event/2024-summer-public-packing-event/](https://project-216.org/event/2024-summer-public-packing-event/)





### News from Mason & Claire Miller (rec'd 4-16-24)

Tonight I stood in my new living room surrounded by teenagers who sang their heart out that "Christ is my firm foundation; the rock on which I stand. When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad that I put my faith in Jesus, 'cause He's never let me down."

Our wedding sermon was about building a life on the firm foundation of God's love, and I have returned to those words so many times in shaky seasons. In hard moments of marriage, parenting, loss, and stress, those words are like an anchor bringing me back. Reminding me of God's goodness and character. Drawing me into the faithfulness of God despite my circumstances.



Zion, Mason, Holland & Claire



So tonight, to hear these high schoolers who choose week after week to come to our youth group on a Friday night singing this same truth: He is our firm foundation, brought tears to my eyes.

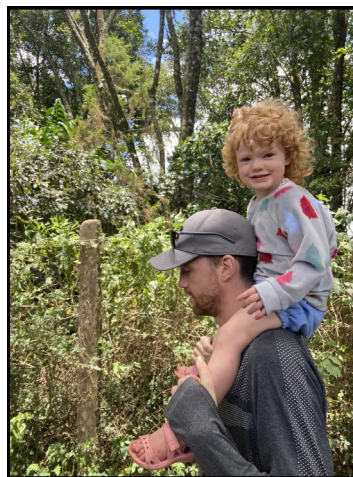
To have it be in our new house is even more symbolic of God's providence over our lives. The last 6 weeks have been shaky. From being mistreated at the old house, being given a month to move out, trying to find a new place, some funky medical things, and some financial burdens with moving, we've been feeling a bit tossed around.

Hearing the high schoolers belt out "I've still got joy in chaos. I've got peace that makes no sense. I won't be going under, I'm not held by my own strength. 'Cause I've built my life on Jesus. He's never let me down. He's faithful through every season, so why would He fail now?" was the reminder I needed that through trials, tribulations, uncertainties, and mistreatment, we are held fast on our firm foundation.

I preached about the hope that we have in God—a hope where our circumstances may point to trials and burdens, but God's faithfulness points to the fact that He's always bringing good to our lives, even when we may not see it. I was honest about how it is hard to hope in the midst of the dark; we still haven't gotten our security deposit back on our old house, and I was just open about how I want to panic on the inside, but that my soul finds peace when I can trust that God is working all things for my good.



~ Continued on page 6 ~





### News from Mason & Claire Miller - continued

When Mason and I committed to coming back to Kenya for 2.5 years, our goal was to not need to support raise throughout that time. However, through needing to move into a new house, transition costs, a few people not able to continue supporting us, and unexpected bills, we are looking to add 3 monthly donors to our team and for 8 people to make a one time donation.

Could you pray about if Jesus is asking you to give to us as we continue to mentor, disciple and walk with the youth in Nairobi? We would be so grateful for the partnership as we continue to trust God with our finances!

You can give at the links below! If you would like to hear more about our ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out and we can schedule a time to meet.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and partnership as we seek to serve the multinational youth in Nairobi through youth group, community groups, coaching, mentoring, and counseling.

Love from across the ocean,  
Claire, Mason, Zion and Holland

P.S. Here is the link to donate: [blueskyglobalministries-bloom.kindful.com](https://blueskyglobalministries-bloom.kindful.com).

Be sure to select "Mason and Claire Miller" from the drop down menu. Thank you so much for praying about partnering with us in ministry!

Covenant helps to support Mason & Claire 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!



### ALIVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Alive Community Outreach is a faith-based 501(c)(3) with a mission to cultivate a community of nonviolence through relationships and education. They support families affected by homicide and educate youth and youth-serving organizations in nonviolence and conflict reconciliation. Rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence, they maintain that violence is ultimately a symptom of deeper issues that must be addressed in order to bring about lasting change.

Their vision: *a beloved community free from the cycle of violence*. As an organization rooted deeply in faith, they claim God's promise of abundant life for every individual and neighborhood in our community.

They understand violence to be a symptom of deeper problems that must be addressed in order to break the cycle. Unresolved trauma and toxic stress, along with longstanding social problems such as poverty and racism, continue to cultivate the conditions that produce violence in our city and beyond.

They hold fast to the promise of life abundant for children and families whose lives have been shattered by violence. To surround them with love and support and walk with them on their long and painful journeys. They also feel the community must equip our city's young people with a transformational approach to conflict and an effective framework for social change. We may not get to see the promised land of our vision, but it is our collective duty to ensure that we pass on a more just and peaceful world to the next generation. As long as violence exists in our community in any form, we will march tirelessly toward the horizon of everlasting justice and peace. Blessed are the peacemakers!

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach visit [alivew.org](https://alivew.org)

Watch for ways coming soon where you can become involved with this ministry at Northrup High School!