



# Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

February 2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Feb. Food Collection** - "Spread the Love" & snacks for Northrop's Peace Room

**Mar.** - Lenten Offering for Project 216

**Mar. 29** - Red Cross Blood Drive

**May 20** - Habitat Fish Fry

**June 9-13** - Rummage Sale

**June 14-21:** Mission Trip to Asheville NC

**Nov. 1-8:** Guatemala Mission Trip

**Nov. 8** - Project 216 Packing Event



## Join UMCOR in supporting communities devastated by wildfires

As wildfires devastated communities in California, thousands of families are left without homes, belongings or even basic necessities. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to ashes.

UMCOR is meeting urgent needs through support of the California-Pacific Annual Conference's immediate relief efforts. Initially, they're providing emergency relief funding for food, water and essential supplies for evacuees and to bolster local volunteer efforts. And they will continue to offer support through long-term recovery.

With UMCOR we can be a beacon of hope for families who have lost so much in this disaster. **For now, the best United Methodists outside of the affected region can do to help is to pray for all dealing with the ongoing disaster and to donate financially.**

To help:

- ⇒ Donate to the California-Pacific Conference's Los Angeles fire recovery fund at [calpacumc.org/donate](http://calpacumc.org/donate)
- ⇒ Donate to Covenant, indicate "UMCOR" with your gift
- ⇒ Donate online at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net)
- ⇒ Donate on Covenant's app (churchapp-tithe.ly on the app store)

**100% of your donation will go to help those affected by natural disasters and not to overhead expenses!**

UMCOR continues to provide support to those affected by disasters in other locations in the U.S. and around the world. UMCOR has not forgotten those whose lives were upended by floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. Your donation, in any amount, will make a difference!



**We have a leader for the Gethsemane Lutheran Church Food Bank Ministry!**

**Shannon Clever has followed God's urging and is going to step into this most important role.**

Covenant has been donating items and manning the food bank for many years - helping our hungry neighbors who live in the 46825 zip code.

**Your continued donations of food items is essential to helping our neighbors ! Thank YOU!!**

If you'd like to volunteer at the food bank on Thursday mornings in April and/or October contact Shannon Clever at [shannon\\_clever@yahoo.com](mailto:shannon_clever@yahoo.com)

### February Food Collections:



**"Spread the Love"**

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Apple Butter, etc.

**NO glass containers**

**INDIVIDUAL packaged snacks for Northrop's Peace Room**

chips, pretzels, cookies, crackers, pop tarts, energy bars, etc.



**Leave all food donations at the Mission Collection Center**



**The next blood drive at Covenant is Saturday, March 29 from 8-12**

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need.

Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2-3 seconds and most of us, or someone we love, will need blood in our lifetime.

Who can you help by donating blood?

- \* Cancer Patients
- \* Trauma Patients
- \* Sickle Cell Patients
- \* Burn Patients
- \* Patients with Chronic Diseases

Make an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact Gina Loomis at 438-2801 or [sam-gina@frontier.com](mailto:sam-gina@frontier.com)



### Covenant serves lunch at the Rescue Mission!

Tamatha Conn, Neal Rice, Ken Hyndman and Terry Pargmann were very busy as they served lunch at the Rescue Mission in January.

Covenant is committed to serving lunch on the second Friday of every month.

The Mission & Outreach Team encourages you to participate in this opportunity to serve.

The team understands it's scary to think of doing this, of stepping out of your comfort zone, but it's easy, fun and safe. You will come away from the experience feeling surprised at the welcome and gratitude you'll receive from those you serve.

To join in this experience of serving, contact Terry Pargmann at [tpargmann@gmail.com](mailto:tpargmann@gmail.com).

Terry will even provide transportation to the Rescue Mission and lead you in all you need to know to participate.



### Northrop High School's Peace Room

The Peace Room is where interested students meet on Mondays after school for Peace Club. Pictures of students were not allowed but Byron, Northrop's Peace Advocate, was welcoming and thankful for the

bags of snacks Covenant delivered. Byron shared with us that he had set up games for the students to participate in but found that they preferred to have discussions during their time at the Peace Club.

On Wednesday, January 8, Mary Lee, Debbie Smith, Barb Hering and Keith Hering participated in the Peace Family Lunch Table. Candy and stickers were spread out on a long table in the commons area, outside the cafeteria, and as students approached they were asked a variety of questions about "beloved community" including:

\* *What do they think beloved community is?* Answers ranged from a group of people who care about you, people who love you and accept you, a group of people you belong to

\* *Where do they find beloved community at Northrop?* At Peace Club, with the football team/basketball team/band/orchestra, Christian club, prayer club, all the clubs at Northrop, friends, family and more

Sometimes the conversations moved into other areas which made the experience of sharing with the students even more interesting. Not all students participated and not all answers were carefully thought out, but it was a good experience.

To be a part of the Peace Family Lunch Table contact Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com). The Peace Family Lunch Table meets once a month on the first Wednesday between 10-12 (except for April which will meet on April 9 because of spring break). You do not need to be background checked to participate.

Donations that are needed:

- ⇒ individually packaged snack foods - the Mission Team will be collecting these items thru out the school year. Please leave your donations at the Mission Collection Center in the marked box or next to the box.
- ⇒ Snack size candy - chocolate or Gummy Bear type candy

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach and their various programs visit [alivefw.org](http://alivefw.org)



## COVENANT IS GOING TO GUATEMALA ~ November 1-8, 2025

Covenant is sponsoring a mission trip to Guatemala, the Land of Eternal Spring, November 1-8, 2025. We are hoping to have 16 volunteers join the team.

Mission Guatemala is a United Methodist related non-profit ministry. Mission Guatemala founded and operates a health clinic, preschool nutritional program, local education support beyond the sixth grade and more...all done through the help of mission teams, donations, local community schools, organizations and members. Joining us on this trip is a wonderful way to share God's love with the rural Mayan community in the San Semetabaj area.

The total cost of the trip is yet to be determined but most likely will be \$2,000 or less per person. This cost covers most all expenditures of the trip such as: flights/transportation, housing, meals, cultural experiences and time to explore the local area, Panajachel. Personal shopping, souvenirs, 'on your own' snacks/personal needs are at your own expense. Once details are more defined, an informational meeting will be held for those interested in joining the team. A small deposit (\$200?) is usually required early in the planning with the final payment due approximately 4-6 weeks prior to departure. A current passport and Indiana REAL ID will be required for travel.

Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents by joining us on this life-changing mission experience! If you're interested, contact Dian Lute at [dianalute@gmail.com](mailto:dianalute@gmail.com) or 260-318-3804 or

Toni Carmer at [tlcarmer@inumc.org](mailto:tlcarmer@inumc.org) or

Pastor Chris at [leadpastor@covenantumc.net](mailto:leadpastor@covenantumc.net) or 260-489-1888

## The Rescue Mission's 2024 Impact Report ~ Thank you for making 2024 possible!

The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission: "To provide, through the power of Jesus Christ a home for the homeless, food for the hungry, and hope for their future."



The Rescue Mission's 2024 Impact Report highlights your impact on the community and how your donations made life-changing programming possible last year.

The needs for the unsheltered in Fort Wayne over 3 years have increased greatly:

	<u>in 2021</u>	<u>in 2024</u>	<u>an increase of</u>
Meals served daily:	599 meals	989 meals	165%
Nights of safe shelter:	119 people per night	315 people per night	265%

### 2024 By the Numbers:

Residential overnight guests - 2,447	Meals for residents & guests - 361,317
First time residential guests - 1,076	Non-program individuals served - 64,176
Nights of safe shelter - 115,067	Residential weekly education classes - 13
Community partner agencies - 36	Volunteer hours - 27,049

To donate to The Rescue Mission:

- ⇒ Donate to Covenant, indicate "Rescue Mission" with your gift
- ⇒ Donate online at [covenantumc.net](https://covenantumc.net)
- ⇒ Donate on Covenant's app (churchapp-tithe.ly on the app store)

In 2024, Covenant donated countless hours of volunteer time at the Rescue Mission and Treasure House plus amazing amounts of clothing, shoes, winter wear, pillows and more plus a total in monetary donations of \$6,128!

**MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**



Learn more at [www.ppm.org](http://www.ppm.org)

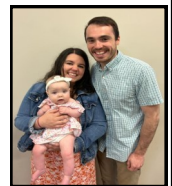
**We will accept the call that we are called to do and serve!** In 2024, Hurricane Helene hit the Asheville, North Carolina area and several other states.

The Tapestry Collective is going to Asheville for a disaster relief mission trip **June 14-21**, driving to North Carolina and serving there all week. Information is limited at this time but the trip is expected to cost around \$1,000. All ages are invited to participate!

The group will be serving with Praying Pelican Missions which exists to build up, encourage, and assist the local Church, and that includes doing so in a church's greatest time of need. If interested in learning more, sign up at <https://forms.gle/vFe6WBY6pMUVY6it5> or talk with Pastor Allison.



**Caleb & Amy's Adventures - in Ministry with Cru** (rec'd 1/24/25)



Over MLK weekend nearly 100 students from Dallas, Houston, and College Station gathered at Sky Ranch camp for our annual student retreat. It was filled with opportunities for students to connect with the Lord through worship, speakers, and guided quiet times. They also had a blast bonding with one another through fun activities and time spent processing together.



Plano girls at Sky Ranch

One seminar trained students how to share their faith. On the last day we went to the mall to practice. My (Caleb's) group found three eighth graders who were willing to talk. They seemed to be believers, but their struggles with sin weighed heavily on them. They want to please Jesus but felt guilty about the places in their life that didn't honor him.

We shared with them that God's love and grace saves us, not anything good we can do, whether before or after receiving Jesus. We talked about how God doesn't expect us to overcome sin ourselves, but he invites us to continually surrender control of our lives to him and walk in his Spirit. Before we left, one of our high schoolers prayed for them.



Zip lining at Sky Ranch

The guys in my group were so excited by the middle schoolers' spiritual openness and eagerness to know more about God. They were fired up to have seen God use them to encourage others in their faith!

Thank you for partnering with us to help students hear about Jesus, grow in their faith, and help others grow with him too. We are humbled by your faithfulness to pray and give generously. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing with us!

<p><b>PAST</b></p> <p>Praise God for all he did at Sky Ranch and that everything went smoothly!</p>	<p><b>PRESENT</b></p> <p>Pray for the 3 eighth graders at the mall to more deeply know God's overwhelming grace and trust him to change them. Pray for the Cru students to be emboldened to keep sharing their faith.</p>	<p><b>FUTURE</b></p> <p>Pray that students would take home the things that they heard at Sky Ranch and the ways that they experienced God there. Pray that God would use the retreat to impact their lives.</p>	<p><b>Caleb &amp; Amy would love to hear from you!</b></p> <p>Caleb.Cox@cru.org (256) 258-9537 Amy.Palmer@cru.org (260) 704-8753</p>
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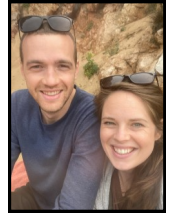
Covenant helps to support Caleb & Amy and their ministry by sending them \$415 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget. To help support Caleb & Amy make a donation to Covenant (indicate Caleb & Amy Cox) or visit [give.cru.org/0864190](http://give.cru.org/0864190)





## News from Mason & Claire Miller (1-15-25)

Happy New Year from across the big sea!



We are looking to 2025 with anticipation, hope, and excitement, with a dash of anxiety thrown in there! On Friday we will tell our students of our plans to move back to the states this summer. The baby is due February 28th. We've begun listing all our items to sell + figuring out what sentimental things we want to bring back. Mason's started job searching.

If I dwell too long on the upcoming 6 months, I can start to panic. But when I remember God's faithfulness to help us through other periods of change in our life, I have that peace that surpasses understanding.

The goal for the year is to transition well: transition into life with three littles, transition our students well + set them up for success, transition our ministry over to our volunteers, say meaningful goodbyes with our community here, and to transition back to the States with hope and gratitude, despite the big grief we feel over leaving Kenya.

We're starting a new sermon series at our youth group called prodigal: the return home. We're doing a deep dive over the Prodigal Son story, covering topics like how we often stray from God, how our pursuit of worldly things leave us in a state of disconnection, and God's grace and compassion through it all.

As we think about our journey towards our other home (America), we can have this sense of "where do we belong?" Holland has a little Kenyan accent, our kids' friends are all here, we have a deep sense of community and belonging here...in a lot of ways, Kenya feels very much "home."

But as I've been preparing to speak on this journey home, it's helped me to remember our true belonging isn't in a location but in a Person. Our lack of knowing "what's the next plan" doesn't have to define our sense of purpose; we are already fully Known in God. The truth is that we are fully seen, known, loved, and held in the Father's arms, and He celebrates being WITH us, no matter where in the world that may be.

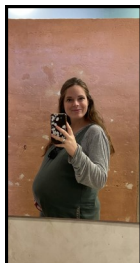
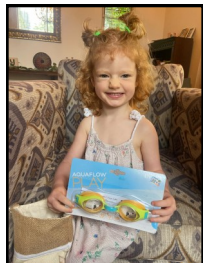
We hope that we can leave our students who have lived all over the world, move often, and are in a very transient community with a sense of true belonging with God. We hope they can find a true home in Him, no matter where they land. We hope they feel celebrated at their homecoming back to God, whenever they turn to see His face.



So yes, there is anxiety about what's to come, but there is also a lot of joy to be found in the fact that Home can be found whenever we are with Him, wherever we are.

Sending love to you all!

The Millers



Covenant helps to support Mason & Claire and their ministry by sending them \$450 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget. Join the Miller's support team at [www.blueskyglobal.org/give-staff-millers](http://www.blueskyglobal.org/give-staff-millers) or write a check to Covenant and indicate "for the Miller's" on the memo line.

## COVENANT UMC MISSION GIVING FOR 2024

Mission Designated Accounts	Giving to Mission Funds	2024 Mission Budget	In-Kind Gifts (estimated)	Value
Admin Expenses		340	Byron Christmas Gifts for 30 people	1,500
Bashor Home	1,000		70 Bashor Quilts	4,500
CASA gifts	629		FWCS Clothing Bank donations	250
Christmas Offering	8,373		Clothing donations for the RM	2,000
Covenant Missionaries		13,080	120 CASA Christmas Gifts	4,550
Food Bank	5,320		Clothing & Supplies for LS	1,200
Habitat for Humanity	11,426		Food Bank Donations	4,800
Inasmuch Ministry	4,072	4,200	Knitting ministry: 28 prayer shawls, 5 baptism blankets & 4 scarves	680
Lenten Offering	13,887		Crayons & pencils for Kate's Kart	200
LCM Kenya Projects	9,121		Pillows for RM	400
LCM Orphan Support	2,515		Snacks for Northrop Peace Table	300
Mission Special Projects	1,935			
Rescue Mission	4,728			
Rescue Mission:bananas	1,400			
Rising Stars	2,800			
UMCOR	16,370			
UMCOR Sunday	1,206			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>84,784</b>	<b>17,620</b>	<b>Total Estimated In-Kind Gifts</b>	<b>20,380</b>

LS = Lincoln School  
 RM = Rescue Mission  
 LCM = Life for Children Ministry

United Women in Faith (UWF)	
National UWF	2,308
IN Conferenace UWF	84
Lucille Raines Residence	660
Church Women United	90
LCM Orphan Support	751
H Krempel: Haiti Gown	200
<b>Total UWF Gifts</b>	<b>4,093</b>

Total Mission Giving	
Giving Beyond Budget	84,784
Budget	17,620
In-Kind Gifts	20,380
UWF Mission Gifts	4,093
<b>TOTAL Mission Outreach</b>	<b>126,877</b>

**TOTAL MISSION GIVING  
OF AT LEAST**

**\$126,877**

**PLUS COUNTLESS HOURS OF SERVICE!!**

**Praise God!**