



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

April 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April Food Collection:

"Rub-a-dub-dub"

April: Lenten Offering for Project 216

May 20: Habitat Fish Fry

May 24: Red Cross Blood Drive

June 9-14: Rummage Sale

June 14-21: Mission Trip to Asheville, N.C.

Nov. 1-8: Guatemala Mission Trip

Nov. 8: Project 216 Packing Event



2025 Lenten Offering

As we move through Lent focusing on what Jesus did for us, the Mission & Outreach Team encourages you to give to others by donating to the Lenten Offering which will help cover the costs to package Project 216 meals.

Covenant will be packing Project 216 meals on Saturday, November 8

The Mission & Outreach Team realizes we're asking for your offering months before the packing event because the number of meals we pack will be determined by the amount of money donated to the Lenten Offering.

Donations may be given any time during Lent by check (indicate Lenten Offering), online at covenantumc.net or on our app.

The meal we will be packing provides all the vitamins and minerals a child needs for a day and a way to improved health.

It only takes \$.32 to pay for the ingredients of one meal.

We need to raise \$6,720 to purchase the supplies for 21,000 meals!

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at janet.hall60@gmail.com or Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner



opportunities to serve Rescue Mission meals: You will be blessed by serving in this easy way!

Transportation provided.

Want to help or learn more? Contact Terry Pargmann at tpargmann@gmail.com

April Food Collections: "Rub-a-dub-dub"



Personal care items: soap, shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, body lotion, etc.

INDIVIDUAL packaged snacks for Northrop's Peace Room ~



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

The number of snacks already provided by Covenant is greatly appreciated and disappear fast!

Leave all food donations at the Mission Collection Center



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

Tuesday, May 20 from 4:30-6:30

**Adult All-you-can-eat Meal is \$13; Adult Carry-out Meal is \$12
Child's Fish or Tenderloin Meal is \$8; Child's Hot Dog Meal is \$3**

A meal includes **All-you-can-eat Fish or Tenderloin, Coleslaw, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Cookies**

How can you help with the Fish Fry?

- * **Purchase needed items!** Watch for a board of needed items - the more items that are donated the larger our donation to Habitat will be
- * **Volunteer!** When asked to help with the event - sign up! Many volunteers will be needed to make this a successful event!
- * **Spread the word** of the fish fry to friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors.
- * **Come to eat on May 20!**
- * **PRAY** for the families receiving new homes.

Questions? Contact Gina at 438-2801 or sam-gina@frontier.com
Learn more about Habitat on page 2 of this newsletter.

Habitat for Humanity



- ⇒ is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization working in all 50 states and in more than 70 countries.
- ⇒ visions a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals & families in need of decent and affordable housing.
- ⇒ believes every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and 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. The selection committee uses 3 criteria: the applicant's level of need, their willingness to partner with Habitat and their 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
- ⇒ Volunteer at the ReStore - 3 hour shifts are available located at 4747 Lima Road; ages 16 and older
- ⇒ Donate and shop at the ReStore

Visit habitatgfw.com to learn more.



Your Help Is Needed!

You can play a direct role in transforming lives right here on Coldwater Road when you volunteer at Treasure House by sorting donated items, working on the sales floor, helping with displays and more.

Every sale funds vital Rescue Mission programs - like affordable goods, job training, rehabilitation, and life-skills development for those in need in our community.

Your time and effort can create real change! You choose how long (1hour, 2 hours or more) and what day you want to volunteer.

To learn more contact Covenant member, Terry Pargmann at tpargmann@gmail.com

Rummage Sale ~ June 9-14



Start saving your treasures now to bring to the Rummage Sale to benefit ministries like Life for Children Ministry, FWCS Clothing Bank, Lincoln School, Habitat ReStore, Treasure House, and Covenant Quilters for Bashor Home.

Popular Items: (no adult clothing)

Household items	Tools	Games
Dishes	Bakeware	Pictures
Décor	Bedding	Holiday
Crafting Items	Shoes	Collectibles
Working Electronics	Antiques	Small Appliances
Books	Toys	Furniture
Sporting Goods	Glassware	Baskets
Office Supplies	Hardware	Puzzles
Jewelry	Camping Gear	Children's Clothing

Questions? Contact Julie Hyndman at 260-704-4793.



A BABY'S CLOSET
(an Associated Churches Ministry)
is in need of baby items

The need has grown! Below are some of staggering statistics from 2024!! These increases show the need for support to help the underserved in our community.

- 2,277 Families Served
- 22,793 Coupons Earned
- \$125,808 Value of Items Received
- 42,740 Diapers Distributed



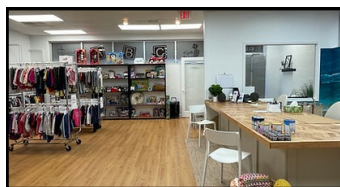
Parents earn coupons from A Baby's Closet provider partners for learning about nutrition & parenting, keeping prenatal & well child appointments, childbirth classes, and keeping their children's immunizations up-to-date. Some parents earn coupons by continuing their education. When essential items are provided parents can put their extremely limited resources toward rent, food, and keeping their families safe.

Most needed items

- ⇒ Cash donations to buy large items (car seats, strollers, highchairs, bouncers, baby carriers)
** Donate thru Covenant (indicate Baby's Closet)
- ⇒ Diapers – sizes Newborn, 4, and 5
- ⇒ Wipes
- ⇒ Girls & Boys clothing – sizes Newborn-3T

You can buy these essential items at Dollar Tree Stores

- ⇒ Single baby bottles and bottle brushes
- ⇒ Baby shampoo & baby wash
- ⇒ Thermometers
- ⇒ Infant/Toddler spoons
- ⇒ Diaper cream
- ⇒ Outlet plugs
- ⇒ Tooth Brushes



Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center.

Visit associatedchurches.org to learn more about A Baby's Closet and the other ministries of Associated Churches (Rising Stars, The Landing, The Mission House, Journey Beside Mothers, Falling For Art, Neighborhood Food Network, and Military Families).

FYI - Pastor Chris serves as the President of Associated Churches Executive Board.

Be Someone's Hero, Give Blood

Red Cross Blood Drive

at Covenant on **Saturday, May 24**

Make your appointment TODAY at redcrossblood.org or contact Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com

What to expect at your blood donation!

- 1 Sign in.
- 2 Receive a mini-physical and answer a few questions.
- 3 Sit for your donation, which takes about 8-10 minutes.
- 4 Eat snacks to recover.



COVENANT IS GOING TO GUATEMALA
November 1-8, 2025

Covenant is sponsoring a mission trip to Guatemala Nov. 1-8, thru Mission Guatemala, a United Methodist non-profit ministry.

The total cost, covering most expenses, will be \$2,000 or less per person. A deposit is required soon 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 on this life-changing mission experience! If you're interested, contact

Dian Lute dianalute@gmail.com or 318-3804 or Toni Carmer at tlcarmer@inumc.org or Pastor Chris at leadpastor@covenantumc.net

Good news!
Tapestry Collective Mission Trip to Asheville, N.C. is full!



Covenant has helped to support Kate's Kart for many years. Kate's Kart is all about books...and smiles! Through the gifting of a brand new book to a hospitalized child, whether scared, hurting or just bored, it is the mission of Kate's Kart to make his or her day a little bit better.

In February ...

- 4,045 books were given away
- 170 volunteer hours were given
- 1 new book kart was added



To donate NEW children's books to Kate's Kart, leave them at the Mission Collection Center.

**IN TIMES OF CRISIS, IN PLACES OF NEED - YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
YOUR HELP MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER!**



Recent shifts in U.S. distribution of foreign aid and migration policies are having a profound impact on the world's most vulnerable communities. While UMCOR does not receive U.S. governmental aid, many of their partners do - and the effects are already devastating.

How does UMCOR do more with less? Your gift to UMCOR goes further because their teams are trained to help survivors leverage existing resources. They know who and when to call. And UMCOR keeps calling when survivors can't. They help survivors fill out paperwork, research funding, and overcome hurdles insurmountable to the overwhelmed and grieving.

Every disaster is local, and UMCOR support can take a variety of forms, depending on the phase of the disaster. When you show up for UMCOR, UMCOR shows up for those in need with:

- * Safety
- * Shelter
- * Food and essential provisions
- * Support and Resources for long-term recovery

YOU MAKE RECOVERY POSSIBLE. Your support gives survivors the strength to rise above adversity, to rebound from despair, and to rebuild with hope.

Be there for survivors of climate and manmade disaster by giving generously to UMCOR Disaster Response -

- * Write a check to Covenant, indicating UMCOR on the memo line
- * Donate on Covenant's website (covenantumc.org) or on Covenant's app or
- * Donate directly to UMCOR at umcmmission.org/umcor/

Associated Churches Save the Dates:



Saturday, May 10 - STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE: leave canned food by your mail box for letter carriers and other volunteers to get the food to Associated Churches Food Banks

Saturday, June 14 - Father's Day 5K: a WALK, RUN, or RUCK (Ruckers are asked to fill their backpacks with 10 lbs. of baby item donations to support A Baby's Closet). Proceeds will benefit Associated Churches' programs, A Baby's Closet and Military Families. For more info and to signup [click here](#).



Covenant volunteers, along with other caring volunteers, participate in the once a month Peace Family Lunch Table at Northrop H.S. where students are encouraged to share their thoughts to questions that relate to **Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence:**

Principle 1: Nonviolence is a Way of Life for Courageous People

Principle 2: The Beloved Community is the Framework for the Future

Principle 3: Attack Forces of Evil, Not Persons who are doing Evil

Principle 4: Accept Suffering without Retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal.

Principle 5: Avoid Internal Violence of the Spirit as well as External Physical Violence

Principle 6: The Universe is on the side of Justice

Peace Family Impact: Janell from Northrop High School is a frequent visitor to the Peace Family Lunch Table. She shared what she enjoys most about the Peace Family visits. "I see kids that don't usually interact with adults, who are normally on the sidelines and keep to themselves, approach the table and engage in conversation. It's just so good to have a friendly, inviting face to talk with in the middle of my day. It gives me that extra pep to my day!"

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach visit alivefw.org

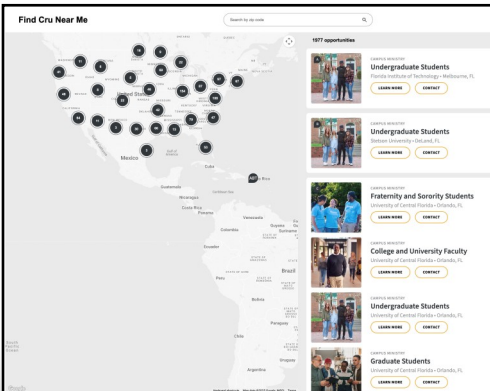


Caleb & Amy's Adventures - in Ministry with Cru (received 3/21/25)



Every year, high school seniors graduate and step into a brand-new season of life. As they leave home and go to college, one of the biggest factors in them continuing to walk with Jesus is whether or not they find Christian community. We hope and pray that each one

quickly gets connected with Cru, another campus ministry, or a church that will help them continue growing in their faith during college.



Connect Tool helps graduating seniors find Cru in college

In-between time with students on campus, I (Caleb) helped code the Connect Tool. It is an interactive map on Cru's website that allows students across the country to find Cru ministries at high schools and college campuses. It also lets them directly contact the ministry's leaders and get involved.



A few senior student leaders

In the first month alone, over 100 students used the Connect Tool to express interest in various Cru movements! Local Cru staff members then followed up with each one and helped them get involved at their campus. One of our own graduating Plano seniors, Bree, used it to connect with the Cru staff at Auburn, where she will be attending this fall! She now has a path to finding like-minded community to continue growing with Jesus and living for him in college and beyond.

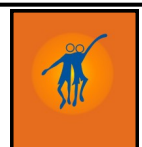
Thank you for partnering with us! Together we are helping students in Plano and across the country hear about Christ, grow in their faith, and walk with Jesus for their entire lives.

<p align="center">PAST</p> <p>Praise God that students are hungry for Christian community in college and are getting connected with Cru movements at their college campuses!</p>	<p align="center">PRESENT</p> <p>Pray for seniors like Bree to wrap up high school well and continue living for Jesus in college.</p>	<p align="center">FUTURE</p> <p>Pray that the junior we are challenging to lead an underclassmen Bible study at Vines High School would be willing to take this step of faith. Pray that many students would come and grow in their faith.</p>	<p align="center">Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!</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 \$450 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

News from Michael Agwanda and Life for Children Ministry

- Michael's family - Michael Junior is now in 10th grade, Gabriel is in 9th grade (both boarding school), Jonathan is in 6th grade and Rubby is now in 1st grade. All back to school. Michael's wife, Lolla, is experiencing health issues and they ask for prayers.
- The school is doing well and now has over 436 students
- The ministry purchased 10 water tanks to place within the school compound to collect water from roofs.





News from Mason & Claire Miller (received 3/21/25)



Our sweet Tatum Anthony Miller has joined the world as of February 26th! Weighing 9 lbs. 7oz at birth, this big boy came into the world fierce, strong, healthy, sweet, and BIG! We are all over the moon. My mom was able to fly in to help us adjust as a family and brought us so much joy. His name means cheerful or full of spirit—and he surely has brought us so much cheer! We are so grateful for a smooth delivery, for God being so present during all of it + for great medical care, which calmed my fears tremendously.

The reality of newborn life is that everything is simultaneously chaotic and slow, precious and mundane, sweet and sleepy. A big blessing of newborn life is that there is no measuring our worth in business or productivity. There is no “trying to do it all”. While we love our work here, it has brought awareness of how easy it is to try and find our worth in what we do, not who we are. When I look at Tatum, I’m reminded that he hasn’t done anything to earn my love other than be my son. He hasn’t accomplished anything, yet my heart is so full of love over him.



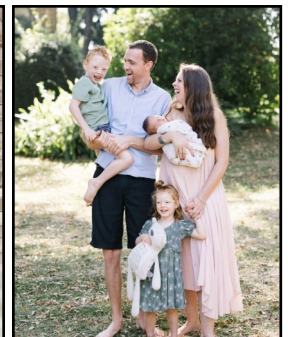
I feel like these verses from Romans summarize my life right now: “This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children.”



When I just try and achieve and accomplish on my own, even if they are good things to accomplish, I can easily fall into that “earn-it-with-how-busy-you-are” mentality. But when I start with knowing my worth as a child who is beloved simply by being, I can ask that “What’s next, Papa?” question from a place of “I-am-already-loved.”

So in these last few months, as we pack, as we work, as we disciple, as we coach, as we host, as we mentor, as we choose leaders to carry the torch when we leave, may we do it from a place of adventurous, expectant excitement, asking “What’s next, Papa?” May we remain steadfast in the work that He’s called us to do from this place of “resurrection life.” May we know who he is, and know who we are: Father and children.

With Love from
Kenya,
Claire, Mason,
Zion, Holland
and Tatum



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 or write a check to Covenant and indicate “for the Miller’s” on the memo line.