



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

May 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May Food Collection:

"Keepin' It Clean"

May 10: Postal Carriers Stamp
Out Food Drive

May 20: Habitat Fish Fry

May 24: Red Cross Blood Drive

June 9-14: Rummage Sale

June 14-21: Asheville Mission Trip

July 19: Red Cross Blood Drive

Nov. 1-8: Guatemala Mission
Trip

Nov. 8: Project 216 Event



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!** Check out the donation board of needed items in the church lobby - the more items that are donated the larger our donation to Habitat will be
- * **Volunteer!** Sign up NOW on Covenant's website or [click here](#). 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 and bring your friends.
- * **PRAY** for the families receiving new homes.

Questions? Contact Gina at 438-2801 or sam-gina@frontier.com



HELP

STAMP OUT HUNGER!

On Saturday, May 10
leave a bag with
healthy non-perishable foods
near your mailbox and your
letter carrier will pick it up and
deliver it to Associated Churches
Food Bank!

The food bank warehouse is
running low due to fewer
donations and a stop to grants
that were intended to purchase
needed food items.

**For a list of needed food items
see page 5.**

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May Food Bank Collection:

"Keepin' It Clean"

With Cleaning Supplies:

Windex, 409,
Spic & Span,
Toilet Bowl
Cleaner,



Dish & Laundry Detergent,
Clorox Wipes, etc.

**Leave donations at the Mission
Collection Center.**

NO GLASS CONTAINERS

Covenant Rummage Sale ~ June 9-14

Setup days: June 8 - June 10

Sale days: June 11 - 14



Start saving your treasures now to bring to the Rummage Sale to benefit ministries, either from the proceeds or donations of items not sold, like Life for Children Ministry, Inasmuch 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	

⇒ Donations may be brought to the church beginning Sunday, June 8 after the second service.

⇒ Volunteer to help with setup and during the sale; opportunities to commit to volunteering will be available the end of May.

Questions? Contact Julie Hyndman at tchri4@aol.com or 260-704-4793.

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 20
- ⇒ 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.



COVENANT IS GOING TO GUATEMALA November 1-8, 2025

This mission trip is 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 with the final payment due 4-6 weeks prior to departure. A current passport and Indiana REAL ID will be required. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents on this life-changing mission experience!

The deadline to sign up is the end of May!

If you're interested, contact

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

UNDERSTANDING FOOD INSECURITY



Covenant helps to support the Associated Churches Food Pantry at Gethsemane Lutheran Church with volunteers, food and necessities donations but do you really understand what it's like to be challenged by food insecurity?

A new documentary about food insecurity in Indiana, produced by Bread for the World, premiered at Inasmuch Ministry in early April.

The video highlights 3 families and their struggles to feed their families. This 30 minute video is powerful and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

**Understanding the problem is the
start to providing solutions.**

Questions? Contact Barb barbherring@gmail.com



Red Cross Blood Drive at Covenant Saturday, May 24 ~ 8:00-noon

Make your appointment TODAY
at redcrossblood.org or

contact Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com

Your reason for giving blood may include ...

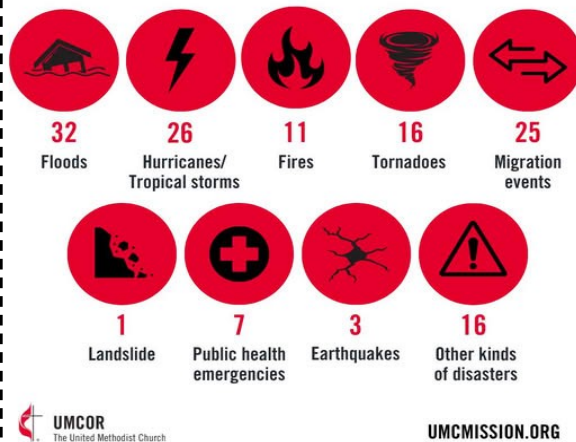
- being asked by a friend.
- you realize someone you know might need blood some day.
- that you believe it is the right thing to do.
- the free cookies and juice.

What to expect at your donation ...

- **Registration** - sign in, show an ID, read required info
- **Health history & mini-physical** - answer questions online or in a private interview, and receive a general health check
- **The donation** - sit comfortably while a pint of blood is drawn. The actual donation only takes 8-10 minutes
- **Refreshment & Recovery** - after donating enjoy a snack and drink before resuming your day. The entire donation process takes about an hour.
- **Testing** - your blood is tested, sent to a patient in need and you'll be notified where it was sent.

Have you wondered where your donations have been used by UMCOR?

UMCOR'S RESPONSES IN 2024



Your continued support of UMCOR makes a difference to those affected by disasters.

Donate thru Covenant (indicate UMCOR) or on Covenant's website (covenantumc.net) or app or directly at umcmmission.org/umcor/

Remember, 100% of your donation goes to those in need, not to overhead costs!

Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County - not just a food bank!

Associated Churches was created in 1944 by representatives from 23 local churches. Today it is a unique faith-based organization that brings together volunteers, community groups, churches, and businesses to pray, serve, and work together to improve our community and respond to those in need. They do not discriminate against any group and they serve people from all social, religious, gender and racial backgrounds. Learn more at associatedchurches.org



provides free support to mothers and families of children to raise emotionally healthy families.



assists struggling military families who are active duty and reserve military units experiencing hardships.



helps families experiencing hardships by providing essential baby items to safely & adequately care for their children.



offers a 5 day emergency supply of food once a month at no charge thru a network of 21 food banks.



is a safe place for teens to experience freedom, healing and wholeness and to grow closer to Jesus.



is a program for churches and others to build relationships with schools to support staff, students and families.

READ THIS LETTER OF THANKS & NEWS FROM LIFE FOR CHILDREN MINISTRY:

Dear Covenant UM Church

March 28, 2025



This is Pastor Gary Glanville (retired) from Michigan sharing a word of

THANKS for Covenant UM Church! On behalf of Michael Agwanda and the Life for Children Ministry Board, we want to **thank you** for your past support helping to change the lives of our hundreds of orphaned children. I share a few [good news highlights](#) in this first quarter of 2025.

Exciting things are happening at the St. Antony School (primary) in Wachara! We recently built a dining facility for the students (436) which has been a fantastic addition to the school campus. The hundreds of students did not have a place to eat their meals together and out of the rain, so you can imagine what a blessing this building is to the entire student body and staff.

With growth of the school, 150 new learners, there is the need to add classrooms, beds, desks and chairs. On March 9th the first batch of 10 desks and chairs arrived. Beds cost \$150 and desks & chairs \$100.

We are still adding greenhouses to help grow fresh vegetables to eat during mealtime and many of our young people learn about caring for the plants.

On March 3rd, Michael shared a video with us showing how St. Antony was in the news on TV! That's because the school is becoming known as it continues to be #1 in the District academically! Because the need is great with so many young people and the families in the surrounding community, we are looking to add a medical clinic.

On February 26th, Michael shared some photos of a widow whose roof blew off of her house in a storm with her still inside. The men of Swartz Creek Community Church (a former congregation of mine) had just sent a gift of \$1,000 to build a widow's home. So, the timing to help this woman was a blessing from God. Our goal is to build for our widowed guardians caring for orphaned children, 12 houses each year at a cost of \$1,000.

Mission trips take place each year. We have 11 people signed up for this June, and 11 people have signed up already for Nov.9-19. Consider traveling to Kenya to see how God can use you. Those eleven days will change your life – guaranteed!

Blessings, Dr. G

[Watch this video](#) about the school referenced above. It's about 25 minutes long but well worth your time. It's suggested you use the "full screen" and "closed captions" options found at the bottom right hand corner of the video. Covenant, you helped to make this school a reality.



What is Peacemaker Academy? Peacemaker Academy is a nonviolent leadership development program for rising sophomores, juniors and seniors in FWCS and New Haven High School. The program consists of a three-week summer academy focused on developing leaders who are committed to making peace in their school and community. This year the academy is

June 9-27 for 70 students held at First Wayne Street UMC. **Watch for ways Covenant can help.**

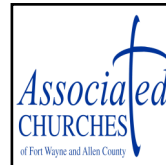
The curriculum is rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of ...

- nonviolent conflict reconciliation. Principles and steps of nonviolence
- types and levels of violence and de-escalation strategies
- how to analyze root problems and conditions that produce violence
- how to apply the nonviolent framework to real issues of violence in the community and school
- skills for organizing a peaceful campaign and much more!



To learn more visit
alivefw.org/peacemaker-academy

Suggested Food Bank Donations: urgent request for canned fruit & veggies and peanut butter!



Grains: Rice, Oats/Oatmeal, Pasta, Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Crackers (Any Kind), Stuffing, Cereals, Cake Mix

Proteins: Canned Tuna/Meat, Canned Beans, Roasted Nuts, Peanut Butter, Granola Bars

Condiments: Canola, Sesame or Olive Oil, Salt & Pepper, Ketchup, Mustard, Spaghetti Sauce, Jelly, Honey, Salad Dressing

Other: Jello, Instant Potatoes, Dry Milk

Hygiene Products: Soap/Body Wash, Detergent, Toothpaste/Toothbrush, Shampoo/Conditioner, Deodorant, Razors, Toilet Paper

Or make a financial donation so Associated Churches can purchase needed food in bulk by donating:

- ⇒ To Covenant, indicating "Food Bank" on a check memo line
- ⇒ Online at covenantumc.net
- ⇒ On Covenant's app

No Glass Please



Lenten Offering Update

As of Sunday, April 27
\$14,775.66 has been collected for the

Lenten Offering which will be used to purchase supplies to pack **over 46,000 meals** on Saturday, November 8.

Mark your calendars now to participate in this amazing event to help feed starving children in Haiti and Fort Wayne.

Packing this number of meals will require a lot of help of all ages.

Information about signing up to participate will be available as the date gets closer.

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at janet.hall60@gmail.com



All loose change collected on Sunday mornings is put into a designated account for Life for Children Ministry and used for that ministries' needs.



Life For Children Ministry
Michael Agwanda, Missionary

Covenant's Mission & Outreach Team:

Barb Hering - chairperson; Sheryl Friedley - co-chair
Linnaea Arford, Shanon Aycok, Barb Clark, Janet Hall,
Keith Hering, Julie Hyndman, Tim Lute, Nikki Miller,
Terry Pargmann, Sue Weirich, Peg Roser,
Pastor Chris Nunley, Pastor Allison Yankey



The team meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:15 at the church for about an hour. If you'd be interested in joining us, you would be most welcome!

For more information, contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



WHAT CAN YOU GIVE TO THE RESCUE MISSION?

Donors, volunteers, friends, and community partners, are making an impact in the lives of those in need.

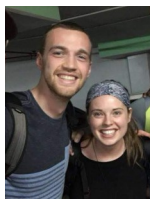
What can you give to the Rescue Mission to help provide restorative care to men, women, and children experiencing a homeless crisis?

- * **give financially** - indicate "Rescue Mission" on your check, or donate on Covenant's website or app; The Rescue Mission receives NO government funding.
- * **give material goods** - give new life to your unwanted items by donating to Treasure House
- * **give your time** - be a volunteer at The Rescue Mission or Treasure House; contact Terry Pargmann learn more at tpargmann@gmail.com

To learn more about the Rescue Mission visit fwrm.org



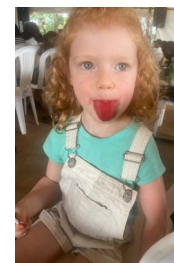
News from Mason & Claire Miller (received April 20, 2025)



This month marks seven years since we moved to Kenya! Unreal. This picture is us arriving fresh off the airport, April 15th, 2018, totally unaware of what would lay ahead for us. I look back at that picture and see such babies—babies before babies! In honor of seven years in Kenya, I thought I would share seven things we've learned since moving.



1. Humility goes farther than you think. The amount of mistakes we've made, cultural blunders we've committed, and hurtful things we've said or done accidentally are more than we like to admit. We moved without a lot of training in Kenyan culture and at the ripe ages of 22 – mistakes were bound to happen. The power of "please forgive me" and "teach me about that" paired with genuine curiosity have helped mend our relationships and keep us humble.
2. Be willing to learn. Not knowing and being the learner is uncomfortable, but if we aren't careful, we can become prideful and stay stuck in harmful patterns. We've learned the "why" behind a lot of cultural differences which has taken those differences from annoying to "aha moments," and it's made longevity here a lot more possible. Our students have taught about what it looks like to follow Jesus as teens, how they support each other (way different than our generation!!) and how they interact in the world as teens in a transient city
3. There is no Junior Holy spirit. We've been amazed at how Jesus has spoken to our students. They've expressed hurt at so many people treating them like they are less than because of their age, and they want their thoughts about injustice, inclusion, love, and listening to the Holy Spirit to be heard.
4. Boundaries aren't rude. When we moved in 2018, we had free reign to decide what community ministry would look like in Karen (our part of Nairobi). We were asked to help lead a lot of things, and our director, in her wisdom, said "just because things are good, doesn't mean they're great. They may not align to our mission and vision, and your time is limited. Make sure the things you invest your time in are the best things." There sure have been a lot of asks, and we've had to get good at saying no, despite it being super uncomfy.
5. Belonging isn't a place but a person. Nairobi has changed us a lot, so there are some fears about belonging that come up as we approach our move date (June 19!) We aren't Kenyan, but there's also a lot of our American-ness that's morphed, so who are we? This is something we've seen our students wrestle with a lot over the years, and we are grateful for the truth that our belonging isn't in a place but in the person of Jesus who calls us His and who knows us deeply + intimately!
6. Go first. Nervous to make that friend? Go first. Invite them to your house. Share vulnerably first. Offer to host the thing. Nervous to admit you're wrong? Go first. Don't wait for the other person to make amends. Humble yourself and apologize first.



Continued on page 7



News from Mason & Claire Miller (Con't)

7. Invest well. Moving abroad is a bit like college – you get thrown into the deep end and you need to find your people to float. So be willing to invest. Bring them a meal, even if you don't really know them. Offer to pray for strangers who may become your friends. Volunteer at church and give back. Be willing to say yes to community, even when it's not convenient.



We couldn't have done these last seven years without your support, prayers, and encouragement. Thank you for believing in this call on our lives and our mission and vision! We are officially two months away from our transition date.

As we prepare to move, we have a few last asks. We would love for you to consider supporting us during our transition period. This will help our family have time to get settled, set up our house, find cars, move, and attend debrief training without the financial burden. BlueSky likes to provide four months of transition salary if our support account stays healthy enough. If you're interested in continuing support, there are two options for how to handle your recurring donation.

- 1) You can select a specific date you would like Kara (BlueSky's finance director) to stop payment on for your recurring gift. Please email Kara at kara.gesink@blueskyglobal.org to let her know how you would like to proceed with your gift.
- 2) There is no need to reach out to Kara if you would like to continue support through our transition period, as all recurring gifts will automatically be stopped Oct 31, 2025.

Lastly, if you would like to help with our transition via a one time gift, we are asking for personal donations to help with the purchase of a vehicle. As you can imagine, it's a bit tricky on a missionary salary to save for vehicles, down payment on a house, retirement, etc. so this would be a big blessing for our family!

If you're interested in donating towards our car, we ask that you send a check to Mason Miller addressed to 4716 Kentley Dr. Fort Wayne, IN 46845, or venmo Claire @claire-miller-99.

Please let us know if you have any questions! Thank you for your prayers over our family as we leave this place we've come to call home over the past 7 years!

With love,
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 or write a check to Covenant and indicate "for the Miller's" on the memo line.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures - in Ministry with Cru (received April 28)



"I've always wanted to know God, I just never knew where to start," Grace, a student in our ministry, explained when I (Amy) met with her a few weeks ago. Grace and her two friends started coming to Cru last fall when they were invited by a friend. Grace had not grown up in a home where her parents had a relationship with Jesus. However, when she was in middle school one of her friends invited her to a camp.



Grace & her small group at Cru

It was there where she first heard the gospel and became interested in a relationship with God but never fully knew what to do about it after she went home. Three years went by and Grace continued living her life but fell under the influence of friends from school.

"I started partying, which made me think that God couldn't love me anymore. But then when I came to Cru we talked about how God forgives you of all of your sins. I knew I needed to ask for forgiveness." Grace chose to place her faith in Jesus, and has continued growing in her faith since then. I have been meeting with her and her friends for a few weeks now to help them continue to grow in their relationship with God. They also started going to the church with other girls from Cru.



Julia

"Now I see that God loves me no matter what. My life has changed this year just because I have had a relationship with Jesus. I have so much more peace when I spend time with God, and I am not alone because he is always with me."

We are grateful for your partnership in helping students like Grace!



Monday night Cru game

PAST

Praise God for Grace and her friends who have been impacted by hearing and responding to the gospel this year!

PRESENT

Pray for this last month of school that we can finish the school year strong!

FUTURE

Pray for our summer conference we are taking our students to in Estes Park June 16-20.
Pray for students hearts to be changed and for God to meet them where they are at. Pray also for all of the logistics of travel.

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!

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

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