



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

June 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June Food Collection:

"Snacks for kids home from school"

June 9-14: Rummage Sale

June 14-21: Asheville Mission Trip

June 29: Mason & Claire Miller share at both services and a Love Offering is collected for them

July 13: UMCOR Sunday

July 19: Red Cross Blood Drive

July 22: Lincoln Morning of Service

July 24: Lincoln Registration

Nov. 1-8: Guatemala Mission Trip

Nov. 8: Project 216 Packing Event

June Food Bank Collection:



"Snacks for Kids Home from School"

fruit cups, fruit bars, snack bars, pudding cups, pretzels, crackers, peanut butter, etc.

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center.



Mason, Claire and their kids are coming home! Can you believe they've been serving with BlueSky in Nairobi, Kenya for 7 years?

Now they have a big adjustment to make as they return to life in the states. Part of the adjustment is dealing with their transition costs - getting settled, setting up a house, finding cars, moving and attending debrief training.

You can help alleviate the financial burdens they face by giving to a Love Offering for them on Sunday, June 29 when they'll be speaking at both services. Or write a check to Covenant indicating "Millers".

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; sign up on Covenant's website at covenantumc.net

Questions? Contact Julie Hyndman at tchrj4@aol.com or 260-704-4793.



**LINCOLN
ELEMENTARY**

Mark your calendars now to help!

The first day of school for the 2025-26 school year is August 7!

LINCOLN MORNING OF SERVICE: no need to signup, just show up

When? Tues., July 22 from 8:30 - 10:30;

Where? Covenant's Fellowship Hall

What? Trim laminated items from Lincoln office staff and Kindergarten teachers; bring your favorite scissors

HELP NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION:

When? Thursday, July 24 for a 2-hour shift between 8:00am-7:00pm

Where? Lincoln School (1001 East Cook Road)

What? Help give out a car rider numbers or make sure each student's gold card is filled out or give out a handbook to each family or any other job the staff needs help with. You will be able to sit.

How? Signups will be available the end of June.

Questions or want to be added to an email distribution list to be notified of opportunities to help at Lincoln?

Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



News from Life for Children Ministry

Life for Children Ministry is thrilled to share progress on food security for the orphans they support and their families.

While food insecurity remains a pressing issue in the country, Life for Children Ministry is actively working to combat this challenge. They are providing valuable support to their school through initiatives like raising animals and cultivating food in greenhouses.



Life for Children Ministry greenhouses.

[Click here to watch a short video.](#) Use closed caption (cc) to make the speech easier to understand.

Some of what was accomplished in 2024 by Life for Children Ministry:

- ⇒ They built a new Community Hall that seats 500 people, providing a space for fellowship, worship and learning
- ⇒ There are now a total of 10 greenhouses fostering sustainable farming and ensuring food security for those in need.
- ⇒ Over 250 children participated in VBS in November 2024, teaching them about Christ's love through Bible lessons, worship, and fun activities.
- ⇒ Thirteen homes were built for widows, offering safety, security and a reminder of God's faithfulness
- ⇒ They provided over 4,800 meals to the street boys ensuring they were nourished both physically and spiritually.
- ⇒ Over 600 people were fed and given food packages containing beef, soap, cooking oil, baking flour, mosquito nets, maize flour and other essential items, demonstrating Christ's love in action.
- ⇒ Two new classrooms were built at the school expanding educational opportunities and sowing seeds of hope for future generations.
- ⇒ They distributed more than 100 animals to families in need, providing a way to earn income and to use the gifts provided by the animals whether eggs, wool, milk, etc.

To make a donation to help support Life for Children Ministry projects like those mentioned above, write a check to Covenant and indicate "Life for Children Ministry" on the memo line.

To help support the orphans indicate "Orphan Support" on the memo line.

Questions? Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



~ Red Cross Blood Drive ~
Saturday, July 19 from 8:00-noon at Covenant



**Schedule your much
needed donation
today!**

Whole Blood Donation: frequency - every 56 days, up to 6 times a year.

- * You must be in good health and feeling well
- * You must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds

Power Red Donation: frequency - every 112 days, up to 3 times a year.

- * You must be in good health and feeling well
- * Males donors must be at least 17 years old and be at least 5'1" tall and weigh at least 130 pounds
- * Female donors must be at least 19 years old and be at least 5'3" tall and weigh at least 150 pound

To learn more visit redcrossblood.org or contact Covenant member Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com



Alive Community Outreach ~ Stories of Peace, Made Possible by You



Alive Community Outreach is making significant strides in expanding their commitment to cultivating a community free from the cycle of violence.

Together with students, families, educators and supporters like you, they've empowered more young leaders and created more spaces for healing, growth and transformation than ever before. We are deeply grateful to each of you who has supported us. Here is how we've grown and impacted Fort Wayne students and families:

Citywide Expansion of the Peacemaker Initiative



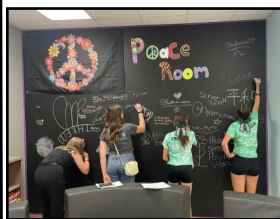
What began at South Side High School is now a citywide movement! In 2024, our Peacemaker Initiative expanded into all five FWCS high schools - South Side, Wayne, Snider, Northrop and North Side. Each school now hosts a full-time Alive Peace Advocate who works daily with students to foster a culture of peace.

Transformative Peacemaker Academy

This past summer, 60 students from across Fort Wayne participated in our most impactful Peacemaker Academy yet. Over the course of three weeks, students immersed themselves in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles of nonviolence, explored their identities and values and developed skills in leadership, communication and conflict resolution. These young leaders emerged from the academy prepared to be agents of peace in their schools and neighborhoods.



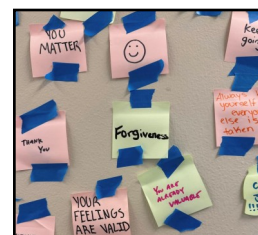
Peace Rooms in Every FWCS High School



Every FWCS high school is now equipped with a dedicated Peace Room - a calm, welcoming space for students to pause, reflect and receive support. Whether a student needs help navigating a conflict, practicing self-regulation or simply taking a break from the pressures of the day, Peace Rooms offer a safe environment rooted in nonjudgment, care and peacebuilding. Staff by Alive Peace Advocates, these rooms are becoming vital parts of each school's ecosystem.

Growing Peace Clubs

Peace Clubs have blossomed in every high school as after-school communities where students gather to deepen their commitment to nonviolence. Open to all students at any time, these clubs are facilitated by Peace Advocates and supported by Peacemaker Academy alumni. Each week, students engage in powerful conversations, role-play real-life conflict scenarios, and participate in projects that promote peace and justice in their schools. These clubs have become hubs of hope and resilience in their lives.



Expanding Peace Families



Covenant's Peace Family at Northrop

Our intergenerational Peace Families have grown in size and spirit this year. These volunteer groups - primarily composed of compassionate retirees - have expanded from South Side to all five high schools. During lunch periods and special school events, Peace Family members provide a listening ear, share encouragement, and model kindness and stability. These cross-generational relationships are building bridges, reminding students that they are seen, supported and part of a wider community that believes in them.

To Donate: <https://alivewf.org/donate> or give to Covenant, indicating Alive Community Outreach



Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done this to one of the least of these, you have done to me." The Inasmuch Ministry is to the "least of these" and their mission is "to help people in need, offer hope through a relationship with Jesus Christ, and promote personal responsibility".

Inasmuch Ministry, a focus of Covenant's Mission Team, and a ministry of Broadway Christian Church, is supported by the Family of Churches (32 churches, including Covenant) and several local businesses. The ministry is located at 930 Broadway, Fort Wayne and is open to clients Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9:00-11:00am, and Mondays from 5:00-7:00pm. They are seeing record numbers of clients.

Inasmuch serves the poor and under-employed by providing the following: food; clothing; help with getting an I.D., birth certificate or marriage license; local bus passes for looking for work or going to the doctor; housing & utility assistance; housing & eviction concerns; and insurance concerns & issues.

How is Inasmuch funded? Thru donations from the Family of Churches, private donations and grants.

Did you know? Covenant relies on Inasmuch Ministry when a person comes to our doors for money by sending that person to Inasmuch. The Mission & Outreach Team helps to support the ministry by sending \$400 a month from their budget, which comes from Covenant's operating fund.

Please pray for the ministry as they work to open a day shelter from 8:00-11:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are doing this to provide a safe place for people to heal, feel accepted, interact with others and know that Jesus loves them. Games, puzzles, journals, crafts, books and more will be provided for them to use.

How can you help?

- Pray for the ministry, it's leaders, volunteers and their clients
- Volunteer your time and talents in a variety of ways; contact Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com) if interested in learning more
- Make a donation to Inasmuch Ministry through Covenant with a check (indicate "Inasmuch"), or on Covenant's website or app
- Donate hotel shampoo, conditioner, lotion and soap which are given to the homeless. Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

To learn more visit inasmuchfw.org or follow Inasmuch on their Facebook page.

Fort Wayne Community School Clothing Bank



The FWCS Clothing Bank (1511 Catalpa St.) provides clothing to thousands of students and their families each year. They receive clothes, shoes, coats, toiletries and other items as needed because of poverty or homelessness or following a disaster such as a flood or fire. Students are referred to the clothing bank by a case manager or counselor at their school. The Clothing Bank operates with the support of monetary donations and donations of new and gently used clothing.

List of needed items:

Personal hygiene products (must be NEW): soap, shampoo, toothpaste & brushes, tampons & pads, brushes/combs, hair accessories

Clothing (new or gently used): clothing (all sizes, babies to adults); boots/shoes (children & adult sizes); coats; hats; gloves/mittens; socks & underwear (Must be NEW)

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

To learn more visit fortwayneschools.org/families/community/clothing-bank

Together, we can change the world. Your gift to **UMCOR SUNDAY** matters.

When we give during **UMCOR SUNDAY**, we ensure that 100% of designated donations get to those who need them the most.



UMCOR SUNDAY at Covenant is July 13

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. It is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, operating under the General Board of Global Ministries.

Your giving to UMCOR SUNDAY is what allows UMCOR to act as the hands and feet of Christ's church, helping the most vulnerable in their darkest days - assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need without regard to race, religion or gender.

Once a year this special offering on UMCOR Sunday is taken in Methodist churches. These gifts strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for specific programs like U.S. disaster response, international disaster response, and global migration.

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from human-caused or natural disasters - famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events - to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. They provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. Because you give both to UMCOR Sunday and to UMCOR projects, when a crisis occurs, UMCOR will respond!

UMCOR SUNDAY offerings cover administrative costs through the year so 100% of donations to specific projects go to those who need them most.

If writing a check, indicate "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line.

Or donate online at covenantumc.net or on Covenant's app.

To learn more about UMCOR visit: umcor.org

Covenant's Mission & Outreach Team: Barb Hering, chairperson

Linnaea Arford, Shanon Aycock, Sheryl Friedley, Janet Hall, Keith Hering, Julie Hyndman, Tim Lute, Nikki Miller, Terry Pargmann, Peg Roser, Sue Weirich, Pastor Chris Nunley & Pastor Allison Yankey

Want to help make decisions about the mission focus of Covenant and how our funds are used?

Join us! We meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:15 in Room 110.

Questions? Contact Barb at barbhering@gmail.com

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."
- John Wesley

~ Make a difference with your loose change ~

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





News from Mason & Claire Miller (received May 26, 2025)

Our last full month of ministry in Kenya has been full of heartfelt goodbyes + sweet impact stories. Although it sometimes feels funny or prideful to share impact stories, we wanted you to have a glimpse of how your support of our family through the years has had an impact on the students in Nairobi, so we'd love to share some with you.



One mom shared with me this week how, when they moved to Nairobi, her daughter's biggest prayer point was to find a youth group where she could grow her faith. She shared that she hadn't had a Christian community or anyone to mentor her since they left the states 5 years ago, and she was ready. The mom reported that her daughter comes home every week from youth group, eats ice cream with her mom, and shares about what she's learning and how she's growing.

As I was saying goodbye to one of my middle schoolers this week and telling her how proud I was of her for constantly seeking to be more like Jesus and that I wish I would have taken my faith seriously when I was her age, she responded



with: "But Claire, you probably didn't have someone to mentor you like we have you. I'm only following God like this because you've helped me so much."

Another student invited us to be apart of sharing his testimony at school "because you've had such an impact on my testimony."



One student cried at her goodbye to us, saying "I really wish you weren't leaving. You'll never know how much of a difference you've made to all of us."

One student brought me flowers on Mother's Day saying "I'm not sure when the last time is that I'll be able to say goodbye, but I wanted you to know you're like a mom to me. You make me feel really safe and loved."

Multiple students have begged us to have Trek continue next year because of how much of a difference it's made in their lives (which we're thankful that our volunteers are going to take it over!)



One of our families in our youth group took us out to lunch to thank us for pouring into their kids and prayed over us before we leave.

At church youth group yesterday, I shared this story: "I never make my kids close their eyes or fold their hands to pray because I want the kids to have an open + free relationship with God. I was praying with Holland the other night and said, "Let's ask Jesus what he wants to say to you." Holland got a big smile on her face and said "HE LOVES ME!" When I shared this story, the student responded with "that's been a really fun part of coming to youth group at your house. We have learned how to simplify our relationships with God, hear his voice, and know He loves us on a deep level."



(continued on page 7)



News from Mason & Claire Miller (continued from page 6)

A student of ours came up to us during pizza at youth group and said “thanks so much for creating a space where we can really worship. I never feel God as closely anywhere else as I do during worship at Trek.”

One of the boys Mason coaches in volleyball texted him and said “I just want to say thank you for how much you invested in our team – we wouldn’t have been at the level we got to without you pushing us and believing in us.”



Lastly, one of our students told us how much more prepared he feels for college and transitioning from Kenya well because of how we’ve encouraged our community groups to engage in RAFTing (reconciliation, affirmation, farewells, think forward.)

We fly out June 19 and have lots of “lasts” before then; last community groups, last trek, last coffee with the kids we mentor, last volleyball game, last time gathering students and friends in our home. We are leaving with full hearts, knowing we’ve followed Jesus the best we could over the last few years. We haven’t done things perfectly in the slightest, but we hope the difference we’ve made will last for years to come. We may never know how we’ve impacted everyone, but we pray that Jesus has used us to help kids to know how loved (by us and Him) that they are!

Just as a reminder, BlueSky has graciously allowed us to stay on support for four months after we transition if our support account is healthy enough. 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. 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. If you’re interested in donating towards our car, we ask that you send a check to Mason Miller addressed to 4716 Kentley Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845, or venmo Claire @claire-miller-99.

Thanks for all your love and support,
The Millers

Covenant has helped to support Mason & Claire and their ministry by sending them \$450 a month, which came from the Mission & Outreach Team’s budget. The Mission Team’s support will stop with the June payment. If you’d like to help with Mason & Claire’s transition costs see above in green.



Find more pictures in the Miller binder at the Mission Center.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures - in Ministry with Cru (received 5/23/25)

This semester, I (Caleb) got to lead a Bible study for about a dozen juniors. A few weeks ago, Luca stayed behind to finish his meal after the rest of the group left. We started talking about his week, and he quickly opened up about his older sister's medical challenges and financial stress at home. He also mentioned that his mom works long hours, leaving him and his sister home alone a lot.



My heart broke for him. He was carrying the burden of adult situations he has little control over. Sadly, he had to leave before I had the chance to pray with him, but God kept bringing him to my mind the rest of the week.

Luca's reality is not unique. Many high schoolers struggle with anxiety on a daily basis. So the next week at Bible study, we went to God's Word to read and talk about what God says to do with our fears and concerns. We talked about how God cares for us and is powerful. He invites us to give him our burdens instead of trying to carry them alone.



Lunch Bible study with Luca and several other juniors



Student-led spring football chapel

When I talked with Luca afterwards, I was grateful to hear that his sister's health was doing better. He also seemed visibly more at peace than the week before. I'm know that he will continue to face challenges, but now he knows that God is with him in them.

Thank you for partnering with us to bring the hope of Jesus to high schoolers like Luca so that they can find peace in him in a stressful world!

PAST

Pray for the anxiety epidemic in high schoolers. Pray that in their stress they would turn to Jesus. Pray for Luca to continue in God's peace.

PRESENT

We are both currently taking a couple more of Cru's theology classes this summer. Pray that we would grow closer to God and be equipped for ministry through them.

FUTURE

Continue to pray for our summer conference for leadership students in Estes Park June 16-20. Pray that they would encounter God there and grow in their faith.

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

Donate

- ⇒ tabs from cans
- ⇒ wrapped eating utensils
- ⇒ any requested items

**FYI -
what you
can and can't**

**donate to Covenant's
Mission Collection Center**

Don't donate

- ⇒ Campbells' soup labels
- ⇒ Plastic caps & lids
- ⇒ Glass jars to the Food Bank