



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

July 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July Food Collection: "It's Picnic Time" - picnic condiments

July 13: UMCOR Sunday

July 19: Red Cross Blood Drive

July 20: Caleb & Amy Cox visit
Covenant

July 22: Lincoln Morning of Service

July 24: Lincoln School Registration

Nov. 1-8: Guatemala Mission Trip

Nov. 8: Project 216 Packing Event

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

UMCOR Sunday
July 13

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. 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.

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. 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 projects and 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

~ Faith Promise ~



A new way to finance Missions.
Watch for information coming soon!

As Paul says in II Corinthians 9:8

"God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work."



**LINCOLN
ELEMENTARY**

Mark your calendars now to help!

2 ways to help Lincoln School prepare for the new school year

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

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

When and Where? Tuesday, July 22 from 8:30 - 10:30 in Covenant's Fellowship Hall

What? Trim laminated items from Lincoln office staff and Kindergarten teachers; assemble 400 sketch books; **bring your favorite scissors**

2. 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? [Signup here](#) or contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

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

2025 FISH FRY REPORT



Thank you, Covenant, for donating supplies, volunteering to help, purchasing tickets and eating fish at this year's All You Can Eat Fish Fry and Tenderloin Dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity. This year we had over 80 volunteers, sold 314 adult meals, 9 kid fish meals, and 11 kid hot dog meals. After paying Dan's Fish Fry Service, Inc. we had a profit of \$2,860.12 to send to Habitat for Humanity.

The Fish Fry team (Gina Loomis, Janet Hall, Barb Hering, Julie Hyndman, Becky Lewis, Ben Mains, Nikki Miller, and Chris Nelson) put in many hours throughout the year to plan for this event. At the wrap-up meeting it was decided that the amount of work it takes to run this event doesn't equate to a large donation for Habitat. The team has decided this is not the best way to raise funds for a non-profit and most have said they will not serve on a planning team for a Fish Fry in 2026.

At this time, unless there are others in the congregation who wish to take on this huge responsibility, a Fish Fry is not planned for 2026.

The team did discuss why we have an event such as the Fish Fry – is it to hold an event to provide a fellowship time for those attending or is it to raise funds for Habitat or another non-profit?

Thoughts from the congregation would be appreciated, especially if you'd like to volunteer to take on this huge event. Contact Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com or Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



Red Cross Blood Drive
Sat., July 19 8:00-noon
at Covenant

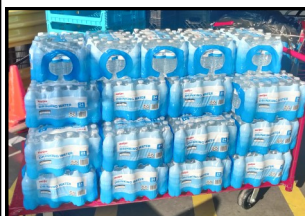
Schedule your
much needed
donation today!

Whole Blood Donation: every 56 days; you must be in good health, at least 16 years old and 110 pounds

Power Red Donation: every 112 days; you must be in good health, **males** at least 17 years old, 5'1" and at least 130 pounds, **females** at least 19 years old, 5'3' tall and at least 150 pounds

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

What is someone supposed to do when its really hot and you have to spend your days and nights without air conditioning? Hydrate!



Covenant, because of your donations to the Mission Team on a dangerously hot day (June 24) we were able to provide bottled water to those the Rescue Mission serves! Your donations made a difference!

Thank you, Covenant!

81 different cleaning supplies were donated in May for the Food Bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, including:

laundry products, dish soap, sponges, window cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, multi purpose cleaner.

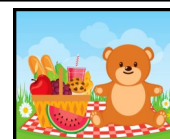
Every month specific items are requested but your donations of other foods are much appreciated!
See page 6 for a list of needed food items.



July Food Bank Collection:

It's Picnic Time and we're collecting condiments for picnics:
bar-b-que sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, pickles, salad dressings, etc.

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center.



Covenant UMC,
Thank you for your continued support to those served at The Rescue Mission. We are so thankful for your time, talent and treasure. It does not go unnoticed! You are truly the hands and feet of Jesus!
God Bless, Laurie Brumbaugh





What your support of Life for Children Ministry has meant to one woman: Mama Zilper Ajwang's Story of Hope and God's Faithfulness

In the quiet village of Nyamware, on the outskirts of Kisumu near the shores of Lake Victoria, lives Mama Zilper Ajwang—a resilient 86-year-old woman whose eyes hold decades of joy, sorrow, and unwavering faith. For years, she has lived alone in a small mud-walled house after her only remaining child moved away in search of work and better opportunities. Life has been difficult, her aging body struggling to keep up, with scarce food and the heavy burden of loneliness pressing upon her.



Her story came to Life for Children Ministry when a local leader noticed her dire condition and referred her for support. Mama Zilper, once the proud mother of 13 children, has suffered immense loss - 11 of her children have passed away, leaving only two behind, along with many grandchildren. Yet, through it all, she has never stopped praying. Each morning, she sits on a worn wooden stool at her doorstep, lifting her eyes to the sky and whispering, *"Jehovah, you are my help. You see me."*

Years ago, her prayers were answered in a way she never expected. One of her grandchildren, Samson Ochieng, was recruited into the Life for Children program, providing not only nutritional and material support but also a brighter future. Samson was enrolled at St. Antony Boarding School, and since that day, Mama Zilper has remained deeply grateful to God for the newfound family and friendship she discovered through Life for Children Ministry.

This week, when we arrived at her home, she greeted us with a warm smile, leaning on her walking stick. *"I thought I was forgotten,"* she said, tears welling in her eyes. *"But today, God reminded me that He sees me. These people—these angels—came passing through these muddy roads, not just with things, but with care. They sat with me. They listened to me. They called me 'Mama.'"*

We spent the afternoon talking, laughing, and praying with her. Emily, one of our colleagues, gently held her hand and helped her settle outside, while our intern Lavender found a stool from her home so we could all sit together. It was a simple yet profound moment—one of connection, love, and shared humanity.

As we prepared to leave, Mama Zilper lifted her hands toward the sky and declared, *"As long as I live, I will praise the Lord for what you have done for my family. For He sends His people to carry the burdens of the weak. Life for Children has touched my life again."*

Her story is a powerful reminder that small acts of love and compassion can leave a lasting impact. For Mama Zilper, this visit may not have solved all her struggles, but it changed her week, lifted her spirit and perhaps even transformed her life.

Life for Children Ministry continues its mission in rural communities, reaching the forgotten, the elderly, and the vulnerable children. Through the generosity of our donors, friends, and prayer partners, we bring hope to those who need it most.

Thank you for enabling us to serve God through the lives of these amazing people. May He richly bless you as we work together to fulfill Life for Children Ministry's mission.

Sincerely,

Robert Gonzi

Life for Children Ministry, Kisumu, Kenya

To make donations to Life for Children Ministry projects like their boarding school, homes for widows, etc.:

- ⇒ Write a check to Covenant, indicate Life for Children
- ⇒ Donate online at covenantumc.net
- ⇒ Donate on Covenant's app

To donate to support orphans:

write a check to Covenant and indicate "LCM Orphans"

Thank you to Terry Pargmann and his many helpers who have picked up eggs in North Manchester from a egg producer who donates eggs to non-profits. For the last 3 years Terry and his helpers picked up and delivered the eggs to The Rescue Mission once a month. It is estimated they delivered approximately 220,320 eggs! Terry has made the difficult decision to no longer volunteer in this way.

If you see Terry, please tell him "thank you" for leading this volunteer opportunity.

Terry is a wonderful example of a passionate servant.

Here are just a few pictures of some of Terry's helpers:



Nikki Miller & Terry



Brad Hall & Ms. Linda
of the Rescue Mission



Becky Lewis



Keith Hering

Others who helped but are not pictured are Janet Hall, Jane Wells, Rita & Mark Spears, Ken Hyndman, Terry's neighbor Brian and two co-workers from Terry's previous work place.



"Peace Be With Them and Us"

From The Journal Gazette Editorial Board on June 11, 2025



"While national debates rage over the dismantling of public education — everything from book bans to privatization plans - Fort Wayne Community Schools is quietly building something powerful from the inside out.

The Peacemaker Academy, run by Alive Community Outreach, is proof that the transformation of a school's culture happens not just through policy, but through students themselves.

What began at South Side High School in 2021 as an effort to reduce violence has become a model of micro-scale change with macro implications. In its first three years, fights were common at South Side. But this past school year, the school saw only one fight. That's not coincidence; it's commitment.

The upside here is that learning is more likely to take root in environments that are calm and safe, where students and teachers are not bracing for conflict.

As the program expands to middle schools, we're reminded that the most effective change often starts early, grows quietly and looks nothing like a political talking point.

The Peacemaker Academy isn't just about conflict resolution. It's leadership training, community building and personal growth. Students learn nonviolence not as theory, but as practice. They hold one another accountable. They meet with principals. They help decide what peace looks like in their school.

This is the kind of work that should be championed by the public: something long-term, student-centered and deeply rooted in trust. The one-year, \$640,000 contract renewal approved Monday, is funded through the Safer FWCS referendum voters passed in 2023. It is an investment in a culture of peace that students — with adult guidance — are building from the ground up."

To become involved with students through the Peace Family Lunch Table at Northrop High School or with Alive Community Outreach, contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com.



The following is taken from a Global Ministries and UMCOR mailing:

As Christians, we face an urgent moral imperative to respond in love and compassion to the times in which we live - times marked by the greatest forced migration crisis since WW II. Times beleaguered by unchecked racism, sexism, and other systemic injustices; climate change; and increasing global inequity.

The United Methodist Church unwaveringly supports the inherent dignity of every human being. Called to action we take courage in a God who bids us to not grow weary.

Five key areas of humanitarian need that demand an urgent response:

1. **FORCED MIGRATION:** More people are forcibly on the move today than at any other time in history, fleeing acute poverty, war and civil conflict, and natural and human made disaster. U.S. government policies that fail to recognize the plight of people fleeing violence and persecution run counter to the inherent dignity of every person. UMCOR remains committed to providing refuge and offering support to people seeking safety and abundant life, and they celebrate the ways immigrants enhance our communities by driving growth and innovation.
2. **FOOD SECURITY:** Feeding the hungry is a clear biblical imperative. John Wesley, Methodism's founder, emphasized the importance of living simply in order to help others and donated most of his income. UMCOR works with partners to improve farming and agricultural methods, increase crop yields, and boost nutrition - efforts more important now than ever given the elimination of USAID's once key investment in the World Food Program.
3. **EDUCATION:** For John Wesley, education is a conduit of God's perfect grace and an essential component of human flourishing. For over 150 years, Methodists have prioritized educating leaders of the church and the world thru the Board of Education, now the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Recent efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education undermine fundamental principles of justice and opportunity, disproportionately harming students from marginalized communities.
4. **HEALTHCARE:** John Wesley took the health of the body seriously and worked to remedy the connection between poverty and poor health. But unfortunately, for millions of people today, even a minor injury or illness can be a death sentence without access to proper care. This tragic reality is now further compounded by the recent dismantling of USAID, which has catastrophically crippled global healthcare efforts.
5. **PEACE AND STABILITY:** Corners of our world are under siege. While forced migration and the lack of accessible food, sustainable livelihoods, education and healthcare all contribute to instability, there are place like Gaza, R.R. Congo, Ukraine, and Sudan experiencing devastating and ongoing bombardment and warfare. And once again, the dramatic reduction to U.S. foreign aid is exacerbating the suffering of people in these regions.

In spite of these challenges, we must not tire of doing good. Because together, UMCOR and Global Ministries have been serving as a global voice of conscience for more than 200 years.

**IN A WORLD FACING OVERWHELMING NEED,
YOUR SUPPORT HELPS UMCOR AND GLOBAL MINISTRIES
RESPOND WITH COMPASSION, COURAGE, AND LASTING IMPACT.**

GIVE TODAY! Donate to Covenant, indicating UMCOR, or donate online at covenantumc.net or on Covenant's app or visit umcmmission.org/umcor/.

100% of your donation will be used to help those in need, not for administrative costs.



**THERE IS NO
SUMMER BREAK FROM
HOMELESSNESS**

There is no summer break from homelessness!

For many, summer means sunshine, barbecues, and rest. But for those facing homelessness, it's a season of struggle.

The heat is relentless. Hope feels out of reach. That was Marcus's reality.

Years of battling addiction had taken everything - his job, relationships, and home. Alone and hopeless, Marcus walked through the doors of The Rescue Mission searching for a second chance.

Thanks to those who donated to The Rescue Mission, he found his second chance.

A summer gift provides:

- * Safe shelter for those with nowhere else to go
- * Nutritious meals - especially for children missing school lunches
- * Clean water and relief from the heat
- * Recovery programs that transform lives

Make a Summer Gift Now

Every day, people like Marcus are looking for a way forward. This summer, you can be the reason they find it. When you give, you're not just supporting The Rescue Mission - you're investing in changed lives.

You can donate by:

Writing a check to Covenant, indicate "Rescue Mission" on the memo line or

Donate online at covenantumc.net or

Visit <https://fwrn.givevirtuous.org/donate/esummer-2025>

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AT GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN ASSOCIATED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY:

Grains: rice, oats/, oatmeal, ramen noodles, pasta, stuffing, hamburger helper, cereal, mac & cheese, crackers, cake mix

Proteins: canned tuna/meat, canned beans, roasted nuts, peanut butter, granola bars

Condiments: canola, sesame or olive oil, jelly, ketchup, mustard, salt & pepper, honey, spaghetti sauce, salad dressing

Other: Jell-O, instant potatoes, dry milk, shelf stable milk

Hygiene Products: soap, body wash, detergent, razors, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products

Cleaning Supplies: paper towels, dish and laundry detergent, toilet bowl cleaner, Spic-n-Span, window cleaner, 409, Clorox wipes, dust cloths, all-purpose cleaner



PLEASE, NO GLASS CONTAINERS!

Leave donated items at the Mission Collection Center

Your donations will make a difference in the lives of others!