



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

August 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August Food Collection: "Rise & Shine-It's Breakfast Time"; page 4

Sept. 20 - Red Cross Blood Drive at Covenant

Nov. 1-8: Guatemala Mission Trip

Nov. 8 - Project 216 Food Packing

Nov. & Dec. - Christmas Angel Projects



MAKE A DIFFERENCE - VOLUNTEER AT TREASURE HOUSE!

Volunteer to help where needed. Duties could include sorting & hanging clothes, organizing items, dusting & light cleaning, restocking sales items, attending dressing rooms or the jewelry counter, sorting books, and more. You may request a sit down job.

Not only will you be supporting the day-to-day operations of Treasure House but you will contribute to the mission of The Rescue Mission - money made thru sales at Treasure House goes to The Rescue Mission.

[Sign up here to volunteer.](#) On your day of volunteering check in at the front desk. And don't forget to shop at Treasure House - there's a treasure just waiting for you!

A new way to finance
Missions:



Faith Promise is a
commitment to missions, trusting
God to provide the means.



Lincoln School + Covenant (YOU) + Rising Stars = a difference in children's lives

Covenant is entering its 15th year partnering with Lincoln Elementary School (1001 East Cook Rd) to share God's love and build relationships with staff and students.



**LINCOLN
ELEMENTARY**

Some ways to give of your time, talents, love, and blessings ...

One time commitment:

- **Watch for opportunities** in the enews or add your name to a Rising Stars email distribution list by contacting Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

Weekly commitment:

- **Help in a classroom** - work with students or prep items for teachers. Contact Barb Hering.
- **Be a tutor or substitute tutor** thru FWCS Study Connection; see page 2

Monthly commitment:

- **Write an encouraging note** to an assigned teacher once a month; contact Barb Hering if interested

What you can do now:

- **Pray** for the staff, students and families of Lincoln
- **Complete a background check** - contact Barb Hering
- **Financially support this ministry** - donate to Covenant and indicate "Rising Stars"

Lincoln Elementary facts:

- ⇒ 2nd largest elementary school in FWCS with over 600 students and 80 staff members
- ⇒ the school population is racially diverse and has a variety of languages spoken by students and families
- ⇒ built in 1975, Lincoln is named for President Abraham Lincoln and was renovated in 2023-24
- ⇒ Lincoln students feed into Shawnee Middle School and Northrop High School
- ⇒ Lincoln's mascot is the Lions and their colors are red and blue
- ⇒ Lincoln is where Covenant met before building what we now call our church home
- ⇒ the Principal is Scott Geist and Assistant Principal is Amanda Henderson.

For more information contact: Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com) or Janet Hall (janet.hall60@gmail.com)



Make a difference in a child's life - be a Study Connection Tutor

Study Connection is an after-school tutoring program of FWCS. Tutors (men and women) are matched 1-on-1 with students identified by their teachers as needing extra help.

Tutors meet at Lincoln with the same student on Wednesdays after school October thru May. Time is spent doing assignments provided by the teacher, reading, playing games, eating a snack, talking, laughing and sharing. Can't commit to one hour a week? Ask a friend to share a student or be a substitute tutor.

The difference you can make in a child's life has been shown in better grades, behavior and attitudes. Just showing you care about the success of a child is life changing!

All volunteers must complete the application process prior to being matched with a student.

Interested in learning more? Contact Jenny Hines (260-908-6964 or jenniferdhines1964@gmail.com) or Sue Weirich (260-450-6965 or skweirich@gmail.com)



"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact." Les Brown



A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

Faith Promise is based on faith and trust; it's rooted in the belief that God will supply the need according to His riches and glory.

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. After paying Dan's Fish Fry Service we had a profit of \$2,860.12 to send to Habitat for Humanity.

At the wrap-up meeting the Fish Fry team (Gina Loomis, Janet Hall, Barb Hering, Julie Hyndman, Becky Lewis, Ben Mains, Nikki Miller, and Chris Nelson) decided the amount of work it takes to run this event is not the best way to raise funds for a non-profit. Most have said they will not serve on a planning team for a Fish Fry in 2026. **Unless there are others in the congregation who wish to take on this responsibility, a Fish Fry is not planned for 2026.**

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

Though the Mission Team asks for specific items each month for the Food Bank other food items are always needed. Suggested donations are:

Grains: Rice, Oats/Oatmeal, Pasta, Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Stuffing, Crackers (Any Kind), 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 or Shelf Stable 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 (indicate "Food Bank") or online at covenantumc.net app

Leave food and hygiene products at the Mission Collection Center.

Please NO glass containers!!



FORGOTTEN STONES – Making the Homeless Known

Mary Ann Mings, Executive Director of InAsMuch Ministries (IAM) which Covenant helps to support, noticed clients who were homeless with income. Using COVID grant money from the City of Fort Wayne, she has housed 54 people since October 1! Knowing they would need supportive services to learn to adapt to being housed after being homeless, she formed an organization to offer more than just housing - **Forgotten Stones**.

The five “pillars” to Forgotten Stones (FS):

Circles of Allen County – This international program was brought to Fort Wayne by Mary Ann and Covenant attendee, Debbie Smith, in 2022. This program offers mentors and community to those who are often from generational poverty and want to better their lives. People are matched with mentors who provide connections and encouragement. Those who graduate have finished the training and met their goals (one is always having \$1,000 in an emergency fund). One graduate is now a part of the Habitat program, working towards a new home for herself and her children.

Representative Payee – Often people with income, especially the homeless, don't know how to budget their money. FS has been approved by the Social Security Administration to be a Representative Payee. Debbie, as FS Director of Financial Services, has the responsibility to manage payments of rent, medical needs, and other expenses of those in the program. The goal is those in housing will not be evicted due to non-payment of rent because the rent will be the first bill paid from their income.

Day Shelter – Currently held in the IAM lobby on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8-11am, homeless persons can hang out to play cards, do adult coloring, use puzzles together, enjoy home cooked meals, and have a safe place where they can rest without the possibility of being hassled. Most who are homeless have suffered some type of trauma. This space offers them the opportunity to let their brain heal. There are also social service agency representatives interacting with them to make connections and let them know about services for which they qualify. Soon there will be laundry facilities, showers, storage lockers, and mailboxes so they can have an address for job applications.

Coming Soon Job Services – IAM hopes to start small businesses to provide training to employ homeless individuals to provide income so they can then move from being homeless into housing

Coming Soon Housing Portfolio – FS will work with landlords by vetting potential renters and preparing a portfolio (credit history, job history, and a brief bio) making it easier to rent an apartment or house.

Ways you can help:

Prayers – For a building desperately needed in the downtown area not far from IAM for these programs. Also, for strength for those who serve our homeless friends or those in need.

Financial gifts – You can give through Covenant (indicate Forgotten Stones on the check memo line) or donate online at covenantumc.net.

Provide food – Those at the Day Shelter love a home cooked meal. They are grateful for any food provided even if it is “supper” food served at 8am!

Come hang out – It is a great opportunity to learn that those who find themselves homeless have the same hopes and dreams that most other people have. It is often a very unfortunate set of circumstances which have caused a person to become homeless.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Mings at forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com or at (260)267-0783.



A new way to finance Covenant Missions: **Faith Promise** is to commit to give as much money as possible while trusting God to supply.

Looking for a place to serve? See Page 6

Rise & Shine
It's breakfast time

August Food
Collection:

BREAKFAST FOODS

cereals, granola bars, pop
tarts, etc.



Leave
donations at
the Mission Collection
Center for the Food Pantry
at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.



All loose change collected on
Sunday mornings is put in a
designated account for Life
for Children Ministry needs.



A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

~ **Faith Promise** ~

"11 Faith is the reality of what we hope for,
the proof of what we don't see." (Hebrews 11:1 CEB)

Faith Promise is a way of trusting God for His provision,
rather than relying solely on one's own resources.

Covenant UMC has adopted a section of the Fort Wayne - Allen County Trail System.

Our assigned trail is Deibold Rd/Norarrow (by
Parkview North) to the old AMC Movie Theater.
Cleanups are 3 times a year - Spring/Summer/Fall
and are scheduled for late August & October. It
takes less than 1 hour to complete (trash bags are provided).

If interested, contact Terry Pargmann at tpargmann@gmail.com



An Update from Alive Community Outreach's Peacemaker Academy
On June 27, 2025, Alive Community Outreach celebrated the graduation of 60 new
Peacemaker Academy students - 12 from each of the 5 FWCS high schools.

Highlights from this year's three-week academy:

- 23 returning graduates came back to help lead, teach, and share insights with this year's participants.
- Academy students led lessons for 131 elementary school students, teaching vital skills in communication and self-regulation.
- Each of the five high schools was represented by their principal or assistant principal, who joined the Academy to collaborate with students on new peacebuilding initiatives for the upcoming school year.
- FWCS Wellbeing Advisors from all five high schools attended the Academy daily, supporting students and engaging in the work.
- Support staff from two East Allen County schools participated in the Academy as part of their professional development.
- A middle school teacher from FWCS also attended several days of the Academy as a professional learning opportunity.

A thank you to Covenant for providing a lunch for the Peace Academy students and staff from the Sisters of the Heart Group (Mary Lee, Marion Gill, Elaine Emerick, Judy Myers, Kathy Baer, Ruth Ann Briggs, Kay Novotny-Yost, Melanie Smith, Cheryl Summers, and Shirley Willis) and for providing a large quantity of snacks from the Mission Team which was made possible because of your monetary donations to the Mission Team:

*"Thank you so much for providing a Lunch and/or Snack items for our 2025 Peacemaker Academy!
Because of your generosity, our students were better equipped to learn and cultivate Beloved Community.
When students were asked their favorite part of the Academy, several students said "The Food!"
Marie Mante (Director of School-Based Programs, Alive Community Outreach)"*

To learn more and to stay up-to-date with this ministry visit:

[Alive's Facebook Page](#) and [Alive's Instagram Page](#) or [Click here for the Peace Academy's 2025 Recap Video](#)

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.

Fort Wayne Community School Clothing Bank



Are you cleaning out closets as your family prepares for a new school year? Do you have gently used clothing, shoes, coats, etc. of all sizes that you no longer want?

Please consider donating them to the FWCS Clothing Bank. Just bring them to the Mission Collection Center and the Mission Team will deliver them for you.

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 & toothbrushes
- ◇ Tampons and Feminine pads
- ◇ Brushes/combs and Hair Accessories

Clothing (new or gently used):

- ◇ Clothing (all sizes even adult sizes)
- ◇ Boots/Shoes (children & adult sizes)
- ◇ Coats (all sizes)
- ◇ 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

Or contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

A new way to finance Covenant Missions.



Faith Promise is a test of faith; it demonstrates reliance on God's promises for provision and support.

Rummage Sale Update



Thank you to all who donated items, volunteered and who shopped. Left over treasures were picked up by the Franciscan Center and some items were taken to Lincoln School, the Rescue Mission and the Youth Services Bureau.

Profits totaled \$4,423.60 and were distributed as follows: \$500 to the Covenant quilters, \$1,000 for the Guatemala Mission Trip Projects Fee, \$423.60 to Mission Special Projects Designated Fund, and \$2,500 to Inasmuch Ministry.

A huge THANK YOU to Julie Hyndman and Carol Chrisp for leading this project!



SUFFERING FUELED BY INEQUALITY. A RESPONSE FUELED BY FAITH.

In recent months, tens of thousands of people around the globe have faced increased suffering due to drastic cuts to foreign aid, among other things. Christians grieve at this needless and preventable suffering.

But UMCOR does not despair or tire of doing good.

Because thanks to the generosity of people like you, UMCOR is hard at work expanding their aid efforts and strengthening partnerships to help offset devastations.

UMCOR is there - whether the issue is man-made or a natural disaster - bringing hope, relief and long-term solutions to those who are suffering.

Donate through Covenant (indicate UMCOR) or online at covenantumc.net or use Covenant's app.



**FWCS Starts on August 7
and the sales have started for
school supplies**



When asked what Lincoln Elementary needs, the response was:

- ⇒ PRAYERS
- ⇒ **NO PENCILS!**
- ⇒ Black EXPO wipe off markers, definitely
- ⇒ Tissues, always

If you'd like to donate these items to Lincoln, leave them at the Mission Collection Center. The Mission Team will share other needs as they are made known.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 6/30/25)

A couple weeks ago, we took over 30 students, volunteers, and staff to Estes Park, Colorado for the annual Getaway retreat. Getaway is a conference designed for high school student leaders to grow in their faith, meet other Cru students from across the country, and be equipped to reach others for Christ.



A few of the students we took to Getaway

Throughout the conference, the speakers taught the students about God's unconditional love for us and others and Jesus' invitation to completely surrender our lives to him. It all built up to a session calling students to trust God to use them to reach the people that he has placed in their lives. They wrote down the names of friends, family members, and teammates that don't yet know Christ. Those colorful pieces of paper then formed a mosaic representing the people they are collectively trusting God to bring into his family.



A mosaic of the people we are trusting God to save

For many students, this was the most significant moment of the conference. It was a step of faith for them to commit to praying for these people. They surrendered to God and asked him to use them however he wanted to bring those individuals to himself. We're excited to see how God will answer those prayers!

Thank you for partnering with us to disciple high school students and equip them to bring God's love and hope to others!

PAST

Praise God for all that he did at Getaway and for over a 100 spiritual conversations we got to have during the day of outreach!

PRESENT

Pray for our students to stay connected to Christ as their routines change - being out of school and returning to school.

FUTURE

Pray that Jesus would encourage us in our faith and renew our vision to reach students.

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!

Caleb.Cox@cru.org
(256) 258-9537
Amy.Palmer@cru.org
(260) 704-8753
4402 Cordova Lane
McKinney, TX 75070

Covenant helps to support Caleb & Amy Cox 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



A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

Faith Promise is a spiritual agreement with God to give a specific amount to missions, in faith that He will provide the means to fulfill the commitment.

Looking for a place to serve? Here are some ideas...

- ⇒ **Treasure House** (10202 Coldwater Road; fwrn.org)
- ⇒ **Rescue Mission** (404 E. Washington Blvd.; fwrn.org)
- ⇒ **Inasmuch Ministry** (930 Broadway; inasmuchfw.org)
- ⇒ **Forgotten Stones Day Shelter** (930 Broadway; contact Mary Ann Mings at forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com)
- ⇒ **Lincoln School** (1001 East Cook Rd; barbhering@gmail.com)
- ⇒ **A Baby's Closet** (621 East Wayne; associatedchurches.org)

Questions? Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

