



# Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

September 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Sept. 20** - Red Cross Blood Drive

**Oct.:** Socktober Sock Collection  
for FWCS Clothing Bank  
and Meat (Meet) the Need

**Nov.:** Christmas Angel Projects

\* Byron gifts

\* "Share the Feast"

**Nov. 1-8:** Guatemala Mission Trip

**Nov. 8:** Project 216 Food Packing

**Dec.:** Christmas Angel Projects

\* CASA Gifts

\* Christmas Offering

## CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE WAY MISSIONS WILL BE FINANCED IN 2026!



Up until 2026 the Mission Team was allotted funds from Covenant's Operating Fund (a portion of your annual pledge to Covenant) to establish a budget from which they could support various ministries as the team decided.

In 2025 the Mission Team budget from Covenant's Operating Fund is \$20,200 and has been used to help support the following ministries:

Inasmuch Ministry - \$4,800

Life for Children Ministry Orphans - \$2,400

Missionaries (Millers, Cox, and Agwanda) - \$11,700

Rising Stars (Lincoln School projects) - \$1,000

Administrative Costs \$300

## THANK YOU! To the ...



- 25 volunteers who participated in the Lincoln Morning of Service - laminated items were trimmed, forms were combined, & 400 sketch books were assembled.



- 12 volunteers who assisted at Lincoln's Registration
- many who donated condiments for the July "Picnic Time" food collection



- And for the monetary donations to UMCOR Sunday in the total amount of \$3,976!

**YOU made a difference to many!**

**Beginning in 2026 this "budget" will no longer be available to the Mission Team. The Mission Team will no longer receive a portion of the church's Operating Fund.**

**To help support the work of the Mission Team you will be asked to make a Faith Promise. A Faith Promise is a pledge to further God's work in missions as God leads you and provides for you.**

Your Faith Promise pledge will provide the funds the Mission Team needs to continue supporting God's work in Fort Wayne, Dallas & Kenya.

Your Faith Promise pledge will also fund ministries not funded by Special Offerings (Food Bank, UMCOR, Life for Children Ministry Projects, etc.)

## What won't change?

- Donations can still be made to designated ministries
- Special offerings will still be collected (Lenten Offering for Project 216, UMCOR Sunday and Christmas Offering).

**Questions?** Contact Barb Hering, Keith Hering or Pastor Chris.

## September Food Collection:

### "Season the Lives of Others"

with herbs, spices, salt & pepper, other seasonings

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center



**Northrop students are meeting in their Peace Room and would LOVE INDIVIDUAL packaged snacks:**

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



**Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center**  
**See page 2 for information about the Peace Room**



### Northrop's Peace Room

as described by Marie Mante, Director of School-Based Programs of Alive Community Outreach

*"The Northrop High School Peace Room is a safe and welcoming space where students can work through challenges and build the skills they need to thrive. Here, our Peace Advocate leads conflict mediations that help students resolve disputes peacefully, while also guiding them in developing self-regulation strategies they can use both inside and outside the classroom. The Peace Room is also home to grief support groups, providing a compassionate environment for students navigating loss.*

*After school, once a week, the Peace Room transforms into a hub for the Peace Club - open to any student who wants to be part of the growing peace movement at Northrop. It's also a gathering place for our student Peacemakers, who meet here to plan projects and initiatives that promote nonviolence throughout the school. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this space is stocked with snacks that help students feel cared for and ready to focus on building a culture of peace."*



### October is Covenant's month to provide volunteers at Associated Churches Food Bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church

(1505 Bethany Ln., off North Clinton St., North of Washington Square Shopping Center)

**Volunteers are needed on Thursdays, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 - 11:45 - you choose the day you can help**

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Shannon Clever at [shannon\\_clever@yahoo.com](mailto:shannon_clever@yahoo.com) or (260) 312-5443

Find more info about the food bank on page 5.

### Blood Drive September 20 at Covenant!



Mark your calendar now and be part of the life saving blood drive on September 20 from 8:00-12:30!

- ◇ When you give, others live!
- ◇ Blood is needed every day of the year.
- ◇ There is no substitute for blood.
- ◇ Your donation can save up to three lives!

Questions or to signup:

contact Gina Loomis at 438-2801 or [sam-gina@frontier.com](mailto:sam-gina@frontier.com)

A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

**Faith Promise is NOT** what we give in Stewardship such as tithes and offerings.

**Faith Promise IS** giving over and above the tithe.



### 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](mailto:jenniferdhines1964@gmail.com)) or Sue Weirich (260-450-6965 or [skweirich@gmail.com](mailto:skweirich@gmail.com))



## BUILDING COMMUNITY TO END POVERTY

Circles of Allen County is based on the national Circles®USA model that works to increase upward mobility for individuals and families in poverty in Allen County.

Circles is about building intentional relationships across income lines. While middle-income and high-income families enjoy networks of support through their jobs, schools, and neighborhoods, families living in poverty rarely develop such contacts. Many who live in poverty are hardworking and motivated. When a circle of support forms around them, advice is offered, contacts are shared, and the fears that keep people in poverty start to disappear.

In Circles, volunteers and participants grow and learn together. While participants navigate their way toward economic stability, volunteers get an in-depth education on the culture of poverty and a new perspective of their community.

Did you know a pay raise can actually hurt someone who is trying to get out of poverty? It's called the Cliff Effect. The Cliff Effect occurs when a pay raise at work triggers a disproportionate loss of government assistance. Even a small raise can "push people off the cliff" when it comes to benefits. Suddenly ineligible for subsidized food, housing, healthcare, or childcare, the family is worse off than before receiving the raise. Circles has a real, proven impact.

Circles helps families become stable with a unique approach with participants and volunteers:

- **Participants are called Circle Leaders** and receive training on finances, employment, health, goal setting, and communication skills. A Circle Leader, will be matched with 2-3 Allies who are there to support you in your journey out of poverty. Communities across the nation are using Circles because the results are so encouraging. After 18 months, those in the program achieve an average 71% increase in their income.
- **Volunteers are called Allies** and are the primary foundation of support for Circle Leaders. As an Ally, your job is to listen, ask questions, make suggestions, and be a true friend and supporter. You and 1-2 other Allies will help Circle Leaders use their unique gifts and skills to reach their goals, and Circle Leaders will help you better understand poverty in your community.

[Click here to view Kayla's story.](#)

**Wanda's story of her experience with Circles :** "A 66-year-old woman who initially joined Circles with uncertainty and apprehension about the changes she might experience is now living a **debt-free life!** Upon her entry into the program, she approached it with guardedness and a lack of support from others. However, one year later, she has opened up about her financial situation, social engagements, and her personal journey with her two Allies (mentors). Over the course of the year, she has eliminated unnecessary subscriptions, developed effective budgeting skills, saved \$1,000 in an emergency fund, and ultimately achieved the remarkable milestone of becoming debt-free. She intends to persist in her savings efforts and work towards her goal of volunteering in the Fort Wayne community. The Circles Program is not limited by age, life stage, or similar factors; it is designed to be effective for individuals of all ages and backgrounds."

To learn more about Circles of Allen County and how you can get involved visit [circlesofallencounty.org](http://circlesofallencounty.org)



A new way to finance Covenant Missions:  
**Faith Promise is NOT** sacrificial giving  
that happens in times of  
great need or compassion.



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

A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

~ **Faith Promise** ~



Why we give to missions:

Giving is an act of obedience and love. John Wesley, considered giving a necessary spiritual practice and one of the chief ways we show love toward our neighbors.

### 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.

Cleanup occurs 3 times a year -  
Spring/Summer/Fall.

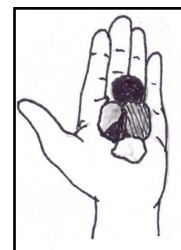
If interested in helping, contact Terry Pargmann at [tpargmann@gmail.com](mailto:tpargmann@gmail.com)



## Forgotten Stones - Making the Homeless Known

### The five "pillars" to Forgotten stones (FS):

1. **Circles of Allen County** - a program which offers mentors and community to those who are often from generational poverty and want to better their lives. See page 3.
2. **Representative Payee** - FS has been approved by the Social Security Administration to be responsible to manage payments of rent, medical needs and other expenses of those in the program. The goal is that those in housing won't be evicted due to non-payment of rent because it will be the first bill paid from their income.
3. **Day Shelter** - held at Inasmuch Ministry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11am for homeless persons to hang out - play cards and games, do adult coloring, work on puzzles together, and more. This is a safe place where they can rest without the possibility of being hassled.
4. **Coming soon, Job Services** - FS hopes to start small businesses to provide training to employ homeless individuals to provide income so they can move from being homeless into housing.
5. **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.



To donate to Forgotten Stones to help support its various programs

- \* write a check to Covenant and indicate "Forgotten Stones" on the memo line
- \* donate online at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net)

**Questions?** Contact Mary Ann Mings at [forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com](mailto:forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com) or at (260)267-0783

**United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** is a humanitarian organization that helps alleviate human suffering. UMCOR assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion or status. UMCOR's work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters



International Disaster Response: When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the U.S., UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance.

U.S. Disaster Response: UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministries in the aftermath of disasters.

Migration and Refugees: UMCOR's global migration program helps refugees and migrants as well as the churches and ecumenical networks that assist them.

Relief Supplies: Relief supplies provide care for the most vulnerable following a disaster or during times of crisis. (U.S. only)

Donate to UMCOR by writing a check to Covenant (indicate UMCOR);  
or donate online at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app.



### 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, 4T to adults)
- ◇ 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](http://fortwayneschools.org/families/community/clothing-bank)



### Golf Outing in support of Circles of Allen County

**Who:** All golfers

**When:** September 27 at 10:00

**Where:** Chestnut Hills Golf Course

**Why:** to raise funds for Circles of Allen County

**Includes:** breakfast, silent & live auction, boxed lunch

**Cost:** \$500 for a team of 4; \$125 for an individual

**How:** [Register to participate here.](#)

To learn more about Circles of Allen County visit

[circlesofallencounty.org](http://circlesofallencounty.org)



### Urgent news from Associated Churches!



"We are facing a critical funding challenge threatening the stability of our emergency food distribution through our Neighborhood Food Network. Due to federal budget sequestration, our anticipated support from FEMA and the Emergency Food Assistance Program has been indefinitely delayed, creating a projected \$45,000 deficit in our 2025 food bank budget.

This shortfall comes at a time when the community's needs are escalating. Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP benefits are expected to drive a surge in emergency food requests, placing increased pressure on our strained resources. Without swift intervention, our ability to support our 21 pantries and ensure food access for thousands could be compromised.

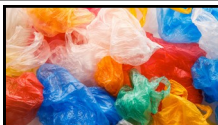
We remain steadfast in our mission to uphold food security and dignity for every household we serve. To do so, we urgently seek financial support to bridge this gap and fortify our response. Your partnership ensures our pantries remain stocked and ready to meet growing needs across our community."

To donate: give to Covenant, indicating "Food Bank" or give online at [Covenantumc.net](http://Covenantumc.net)

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.



### Plastic Bag Collection

Inasmuch Ministry in Fort Wayne is in need of clean plastic bags for items they give to those who visit the ministry.

Please leave bags in the marked box at the Mission Collection enter.



## Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 8/26/25)

"I want to start a group where I share the gospel with my friends from drill team. My friend told me you can help me with that?" Caroline, a freshman at Vines asked me (Amy) at our first ever Cru meeting of the year. Caroline is excited about reaching her friends with the gospel and wants to start a bible study. The hope is that she would create a safe environment after practice for her friends to be able to come and ask questions about Jesus and faith. I was excited to meet Caroline and was impressed that as a freshman she was very ready to reach her



Some of our Vines freshmen at Cru

friends with the gospel. We will meet next week to come up with a plan for a drill team outreach at Vines. It is also cool that she wants to start an outreach with the drill team as we have had a difficult time reaching this specific team at Vines due to barriers with coaches. We are praying for open doors with the drill students and are trusting God to help Caroline lead an outreach with the team.



The girls at our Monday night Cru

The students are back in school and our school year ministry is back in action as well. We are trusting God to reach more students this year and to provide the opportunities for us to be an even deeper presence within the schools. We would love your prayers during this new school year and are so grateful and thankful for your partnership with our ministry!

### PAST

Praise God for the seeds he has started to sow before this school year even began!

### PRESENT

Pray for our ministry presence, specifically at Vines High School. Pray for Caroline and her outreach to the drill team.

### FUTURE

Pray for outreach to more sports teams this year including our football outreaches starting this week. We are trusting God to open the right doors and connect us to the right students and teachers.

### 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](http://give.cru.org/0864190)



A new way to finance Covenant Missions.

**Faith Promise is** an agreement that, as God provides, the donor will give a specific amount on a monthly or weekly basis to missions.

### LINCOLN SCHOOL IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

The school year has started and when asked what Covenant could do for Lincoln the answer was **Pray!** Pray for the students, the teachers, the staff, and all of their families.



### Also needed are donations of: **tissues and dry erase markers**

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

Monetary donations are appreciated so the Mission Team can provide monthly treats for the entire staff of 77, Christmas gifts for the staff and a meal during Parent Teacher Conferences.