Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

November 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:
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

November Food Collection:
"Share the Feast"

with donations of stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned veggies, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, canned sweet potatoes, etc.
Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

Lincoln School Collections:

"Socktober":
216 pairs of socks
"Show You Care With Underwear":
96 pairs of underwear
Thank you so very much for caring and showing God's love to others!

THANK YOU for spicing up the lives of others with 170 containers of spices, along with many donations of other food items!
YOU made a difference to many!

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECTS

NOVEMBER

*** GIFTS FOR BYRON WELLNESS COMMUNITY RESIDENTS:**

Fill wish lists from 25 residents, many who are lonely and forgotten at Christmas.
* Wish lists will be available **Sunday, Nov. 9**
* Return wrapped gifts by **Sunday, Nov. 23**

*** FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** "Share the Feast" – mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned veggies, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, canned sweet potatoes, etc.;
* Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

DECEMBER

*** GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF THE CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) PROGRAM:**
* Find gift wish tags for children on a Christmas tree in the church lobby starting **Sunday, Nov. 30**
* Wrapped gifts, with the gift wish tag attached, must be returned by **Sunday, Dec. 16**
* Or make a monetary gift by check to Covenant (indicate "CASA gifts"), at covenantumc.net or Covenant's app and project leader, Julie Hyndman, & her helpers will shop for you.

*** CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Make a special offering during the **month of December** to celebrate the birth of Jesus and make a difference in others' lives.
* This Offering will be divided between **Life for Children Ministry** in Kenya, **Inasmuch Ministry** and **Forgotten Stones Ministry**, both in Fort Wayne.

If you have any questions, contact
Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com or 260-482-8486

Faith that God will provide so you can give generously
Promise to God to give to missions over and above the tithe
Giving financially to local and international missions

Faith Promise Giving is a new way to finance Covenant's Mission Projects. In 2026 the Mission Team will not receive a portion of the Operating Budget. Funding for the Mission Team will come from your Faith Promise Giving. Your commitment will help to support Missionaries Michael Agwanda and Caleb & Amy Cox and the following ministries: Inasmuch Ministry, Forgotten Stones, Associated Churches Food Bank, Life for Children Ministry Projects, Rising Stars (Lincoln School), and others.

See page 2 for "Questions and Answers" about Faith Promise Giving.

Mission & Outreach Team's Focuses: ***Local*** *- Lincoln Elementary School, Forgotten Stones and Inasmuch Ministry;* ***International*** *- Life for Children Ministry in Kenya*

Questions and answers about funding Missions through Faith Promise Giving:

⇒ **What is Faith Promise Giving?**

Faith Promise Giving is a way of systematically supporting Covenant's mission efforts. Ask God how much you should give to missions over the next year and trust Him to supply that amount.

⇒ **Is Faith Promise Giving a part of your tithe?**

Faith Promise Giving is not a part of your tithe - it is giving over and above the tithe. Tithe money runs the church and its ministries. Faith Promise is given specifically for missions.

⇒ **Does Faith Promise Giving cover giving that happens in times of great need or compassion?**

No, during times of unusual need giving is over and above Faith Promise Giving.

⇒ **Does Faith Promise Giving cover more than giving to missions?**

No, the funds received through Faith Promise are not used for Covenant's operating costs. All Faith Promise money is used to support ministries and missionaries as decided by the Mission Team.

⇒ **Is Faith Promise Giving biblical?**

Yes, it is a purely biblical basis of giving - by FAITH. See Proverbs 11:24-25, Luke 6:38, I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5; 8:10 and 9:7-10, Romans 12:9-10; Hebrews 11:1.

⇒ **How do you get the funds to fulfill your Faith Promise?**

First and foremost, in prayer ask God what he wants you to give and then trust Him to provide the funds. He may increase your income or decrease your expenses or lead you to sacrifice.

⇒ **Can you use your Required Minimum Distribution towards Faith Promise Giving?**

Yes, your investment counselor can help you with making this transfer of funds.

⇒ **Can you make a donation any time of the year to Faith Promise without completing a pledge card?**

Yes, when you feel God has placed on your heart to give to Faith Promise (missions) we encourage you to give with joy. You do not need to fill out a Commitment Card to give to Faith Promise.

⇒ **Can you give to Designated Accounts, naming a specific ministry you want your funds to go to?**

Yes, you can give to designated accounts, but be sure to indicate where you want your money to go.

⇒ **Will there still be special offerings taken during the year?**

Yes, there will three special offerings taken in 2026 ~ a Lenten Offering (to raise funds for a Project 216 Food Packing Event), an UMCOR Sunday offering (an annual gift to fund UMCOR administrative costs) and a Christmas Offering (divided between ministries as the Mission Team decides).

⇒ **The 4 steps for Faith Promise:**

1. Pray (ask God to give you and your family the amount He wants you to give to Missions)
2. Commit (carry out your commitment, don't give up, trust God)
3. Look (for unexpected ways God provides)
4. Give (give as God enables you to give) - **Please return your Faith Promise Giving Commitment Card by Sunday, November 23 so the Mission Team can make plans for 2026**

⇒ **If you have questions, who can you contact?**

Keith Hering at khering2@gmail.com / 414-0546 or Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com / 414-2907

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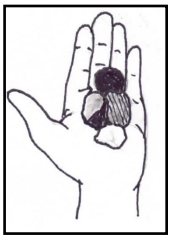
What does serving at Forgotten Stones involve?



Key Roles & Responsibilities: help serve food and clean up; play games and work on puzzles with clients; help clients complete a short survey; provide food for breakfast which can be prepared ahead of time and can be delivered for you

Time Commitment: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays any time between 8am – 11am unless you are delivering and serving food then you need to be at the Day Shelter by 7:30am

Recommended Spiritual Gifts & Passions: a desire to help those less fortunate and wanting to share Jesus' love for everyone

Recommended Special Skills: a desire to serve others; being a good listener; enjoy playing games and engaging with others

Other Helpful Information: located at 930 Broadway in Fort Wayne, park across the street in the empty lot

Contact: Debbie Smith at forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com or 260-267-0783

Northrop students LOVE all the donations of INDIVIDUAL packaged snacks:
chips, pretzels, cookies, crackers, pop tarts, energy bars, etc.
Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

We will continue to collect these items thru the school year

Carrying around loose change?
Loose change adds up!
Drop it in the offering plate for
Life for Children Ministry.
Make a difference by lightening your load.

"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact."
Les Brown
How will you make a difference to others today?

Faith Promise Giving

A new way to finance Covenant Missions: **Faith Promise Giving** is simply a promise to give a certain amount of money on a consistent basis over and above the tithe to Missions.

Northrop H.S. Peace Family Lunch Table

Covenant members, Barb Clark and Mary Lee, greeting Northrop students at The Peace Family Lunch Table. The candy on the table is just a small amount of what you've donated - thank you!

At the first Peace Family Lunch Table in October many students greeted the peace family volunteers with smiles and seemed eager to share and to be acknowledged. Students were asked to write on a strip of paper what peace means to them, there were many different answers - all accepted & appreciated - which were then assembled in a chain and hung at the school as reminders of what peace is and how it feels.

If you would be interested in joining this activity that shows love and care for high school students, contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com. The Peace Family Lunch Table meets at Northrop on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:45 - 11:45. You will need to be background checked before participating. This is an experience you won't be sorry if you participate.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ is to look out on a hurting world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless now. Teresa of Avila

***Mission & Outreach Team's Focuses: Local** - Lincoln Elementary School, Forgotten Stones and Inasmuch Ministry; **International** - Life for Children Ministry in Kenya*

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP ~ ALWAYS THE PRIMARY MISSION

The following is from a Life for Children Ministry Newsletter

"The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"." Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Every day, before the city wakes up, a different kind of morning begins for the countless street boys living on our streets. While others head to school or breakfast tables, these boys are already on the move - not to chase dreams, but to chase survival.

With no family support, no shelter, and often no hope, they wander from one street to another, searching through bins, market leftovers, and dumping sites, trying to find anything edible. This has become their daily routine - not out of choice, but out of desperation.

LIFE FOR CHILDREN STREET FEEDING PROGRAM: More Than Just a Meal

In the middle of this struggle, Life for Children Ministry plays a critical and life-saving role. For many of these boys, our feeding program at Arina Social Hall is the only place they can get a hot, clean meal in a day - a break from the hunger that has become their constant companion.

But these programs do more than just feed. They provide:

* Dignity: A chance to eat like any other child, seated, served, and respected.
* Love and Care: Volunteers and staff offer kindness, sometimes the only positive adult interaction the children receive.

This small window of care can be the first step toward transforming a child's life.

THE HARSH REALITY ON THE GROUND

Sadly, even as we work on these programs to make a difference, local governments often take the opposite route. Instead of helping us to support these vulnerable children and street families they are instead treated like criminals. They are forcefully removed from towns often without any plans for their welfare or future. Chasing street children away without addressing why they are on the streets is like cutting weeds without removing the roots. Poverty, abuse, hunger, broken homes are the real reasons children end up on the streets. And until those are addressed, street boys will keep returning, hungry and hopeless.

WHY SUPPORTING LIFE FOR CHILDREN FEEDING PROGRAMS MATTER

* By supporting Life for Children Feeding Programs, we are not just giving food we are saving lives.
* We are helping keep children alive long enough for them to have another chance.
* We are creating opportunities for trust and intervention.
* We are also building up with the Word of God and hope and love of our savior Jesus Christ.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Even the smallest amount can feed a child for a day.

* Make a donation to Covenant, indicating "Life for Children Ministry"
* Donate online at covenantumc.net

Another way Life for Children Ministry is helping ~ 100 SHEEP WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS!

100 Sheep Distributed to Ndhiwa Farmers LCM distributed 100 sheep to farmers in the local community. The venture into sheep rearing is intended to help the farmers grow economically. Each group received a mature female indigenous sheep. The participants agree to donate the first off spring to another member and remains with the mother until every member gets a sheep. The sheep were distributed to the farmers at St. Antony Wachara Christian School in Kwabwai Ward. The farmers have been interested in rearing sheep for some time but lacked the capital to start and were very appreciative of this contribution. The goal of the initiative is to enable the farmers to eventually buy cattle. It is expected that every group member will have sheep in five years or less.

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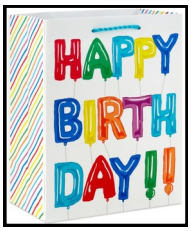

BIRTHDAY BAGS - CREATING MEMORIES FOR KIDS

Every child should be able to celebrate their special day with a birthday party!
Assemble a Birthday Bag to be given to families who have a child celebrating a birthday around the time they visit the Associated Churches Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank.
Please follow the instructions and plan your bag for 8 friends and family.
Choose whether to make a bag for a boy or girl of the following ages: 4-6; 7-9; or 10-12

Bag Contents that must by included:
__ colorful gift bag (large enough for a cake pan)
__ cake mix & frosting
__ candles
__ disposable cake pan
__ napkins, plates
__ small gift (age appropriate books, stuffed animals, card games card games, puzzles, coloring book & crayons, etc.)

Other items that can be included:
__ cups
__ tablecloths
__ hats
__ party favors, decorations
__ small treats (suckers, Life Savers, wrapped candy, chocolates, etc.)

Birthday Bag Tags must be attached to the finished bag. Find tags at the Mission Center.
Leave Birthday Bags at the Mission Collection Center to be delivered to the food bank.
Questions? Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com; many items can be found at the Dollar Tree Store

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Disaster Responses

Gaza Crisis - The need in Gaza remains overwhelming. UMCOR is actively responding to the humanitarian crisis by awarding grants to local partners in Israel, Gaza and the surrounding region. Partners are using funds for relocation support; food & hygiene kits for internally displaced people; support of students & their continued learning; psychosocial treatment and trauma counseling to women & children; delivery of medical supplies; and more.

Hurricane Helene devastated parts of the southeastern U.S. UMCOR is coordinating with affected annual conferences & supporting their local relief efforts. UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to North Georgia, Sout Georgia, Western North Carolina & Holston annual conferences. Also, UMCOR-trained Early Response Teams are coordinating efforts to support the removal of debris, tarping of roofs, and cleaning out of homes in hard-hit areas.

Texas Flooding - On July 4, 2025 historic rain levels led to catastrophic flash flooding and hundreds of deaths along the Guadalupe River in Central Texas. UMCOR awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support immediate relief efforts. The grant provides relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployment, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies and more.

Ongoing 2022-2025 Ukraine War - Since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, UMCOR has acted on behalf of The United Methodist Church to provide aid and assistance. Grants for immediate relief have been given to trusted partners – United Methodist churches in surrounding countries, ecumenical partners and non-governmental organizations – to provide direct aid inside Ukraine as well as help for those who have fled to surrounding countries.

How can you help? Donate - 100% of your donation goes directly to disaster response.
Your gift could be used to deliver essential supplies like food and water; support the removal of debris; or provide temporary shelter for the displaced.

Donate to Covenant (indicate UMCOR) by check or online at covenantumc.net

Mission & Outreach Team's Focuses: ***Local*** *- Lincoln Elementary School, Forgotten Stones and Inasmuch Ministry;* ***International*** *- Life for Children Ministry in Kenya*

We've heard how people are struggling to feed their families for so many reasons. You can help them by donating the following items for the Gethsemane Lutheran Food Pantry (an Associated Churches Food Pantry):

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 , Bar-b-q Sauce
Other: Jello, Instant Potatoes, Dry Milk / 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, indicating "Food Bank" on a check memo line
⇒ Online at covenantumc.net
⇒ On Covenant's app

Please, NO Glass Containers

Faith Promise Giving

A new way to finance Missions.

Faith Promise Giving is giving over and above the tithe, which is used for the local church and its ministries. **Faith Promise Giving** will provide the funds for Missions.

An opportunity to serve at Forgotten Stones' Day Shelter

Prepare a breakfast on your own or with a group for 40 people who visit the Day Shelter. There is no stove or oven, so breakfast must arrive preheated if it is to be served warm. The meals are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Contact Debbie Smith forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com /(260)267-0783 with questions or you'd like your meal to be delivered for you.

Please sign up here so the ministry will know when to expect food.

Covenant's Mission & Outreach Team:

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

Do you have a heart for missions? Be a part of making decisions of how the pledge funds through Faith Promise Giving are used and what ministries the team will support through service and financial giving.

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

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

United Methodist Mission Statement:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Covenant's Mission & Outreach Team's Objectives:

Empowering servants and transforming the world by targeting children and those in poverty.

Core Values of Covenant's Mission & Outreach Team:

- We believe everyone is called to serve.
- We believe the best way to make disciples is by our living out our faith with a servant attitude.
- We believe that in serving we are called to do no harm.
- We believe we are called to serve the poor and the marginalized locally, nationally, and globally.
- We believe we are called together to be the church to make a greater impact on the world.
- We believe we were created to partner with God.