



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

February 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. : Food Collection - "Share the Love with Cans of Fruit, Veggies and Beans"

Feb. & March. : Lenten Offering for Project 216

Mar. 28 & May 23: Blood Drive

June 1-6: Rummage Sale

Nov. 7: Project 216 Event



What Covenant will be able to support with the funds you give to Faith Promise:

- * Missionaries Caleb & Amy Cox and Michael Agwanda
- * Lincoln Elementary School's Rising Stars Ministry
- * Inasmuch Ministry
- * Forgotten Stones Ministry
- * Life for Children Ministry's projects and orphans
- * Associated Churches Food Bank at Gethsemane Church
- * UMCOR
- * Bashor Children's Home
- * Mission Guatemala

Be sure to indicate "Faith Promise" on your donations, even if you filled out a commitment card.

Faith Promise donations may be made by check, on-line or on Covenant's app.

You may still make donations to a specific ministry - be sure to indicate the ministry where you want your money to be sent.

?’s Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



2026 Lenten Offering

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and ends on Holy Saturday, April 4. It's a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for Easter.

During Lent, the Mission & Outreach Team encourages you to focus on what Lent means and how you can grow as a disciple of Jesus and give to others by donating to the Lenten Offering which will help cover the costs to package Project 216 meals.

Covenant will be packing Project 216 meals on Saturday, November 7.

The Mission & Outreach Team realizes we're asking for your offering months before the packing event because the number of meals we pack will be determined by the amount of money donated to the Lenten Offering. Donations may be given any time during Lent by check (indicate Lenten Offering), online at covenantumc.net or on our app.

The 3 meanings of the name Project 216:

- **James 2:16** says, "If one of you says to those in need, 'Go in peace, keep warm and well fed' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"
- Every Project 216 box that gets shipped contains **216 meals**.
- Every 2 hours at a packing event each volunteer will average **216 meals** designed to help the hungry thrive.

The meal ingredients are formulated to provide the easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by an undernourished child. The food is acceptable to a broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences around the world and it's very easy to prepare.

The meal has been shown to reverse the effects of malnutrition. Each bag of food packaged at a packing event contains rice, soy, vegetables, and a Mathile M+ Micronutrients® packet which will serve 6 children when boiled with 6 cups of water. The meal provides all the vitamins and minerals a child needs for a day and a way to improved health.

It only takes \$.35 to pay for the ingredients of one meal.

We need to raise \$7,350 to purchase the supplies for 21,000 meals!

If more than \$7,350 is donated, we will pack more meals!

Please prayerfully consider what you will sacrifice so starving children may be fed. Not only will these meals improve their health but they will improve their chances of living the life God has planned for them.

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at janet.hall60@gmail.com or Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



Forgotten Stones ~ Making the Homeless Known

Forgotten Stones is committed to ensuring that the homeless do not slip through the cracks. They aim to offer support, resources, and a sense of community to individuals in need.

Covenant's Mission Team is committed to supporting Forgotten Stones and the work they do by sending financial donations made possible through your giving to Faith Promise and to encouraging volunteers to become involved with the ministry.

FORGOTTEN STONES (FS)

Vision: "At Forgotten Stones, we envision a world where every homeless person is seen, heard, and supported. We are committed to creating lasting change and improving the lives of those experiencing homelessness."

Mission: "To use a globally proven model to offer hope and a new beginning by providing, coordinating, and delivering an efficient system of care to people experiencing homelessness in Fort Wayne."

Services:

Housing: Individuals experiencing homelessness who have a source of income can collaborate with FS to obtain safe and stable housing

Circles: A community driven program empowering individuals by providing lessons in budgeting, financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and other essential skills to help them rise out of poverty. By utilizing SMART goals, participants collaborate with their mentors to achieve self-sufficiency. circlesoffallencounty.org/

Employment: We collaborate with each person to create a tailored professional resume and provide support during the job application process.

Social Security Signup: We help individuals enroll in their Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

Day Shelter: The day shelter, open Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am-11am, provides a secure environment where each client can embark on their healing journey by connecting with representatives from on-site community social service agencies. They start to foster a sense of community thru participation in activities, sharing meals, and supporting one another. Every day, lives are transformed!

Representative Payee Program: Safeguards individuals by managing their finances and ensuring prompt bill payments, while also offering guidance on effective money budgeting techniques.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SUPPORT FORGOTTEN STONES?

Get Involved: Forgotten Stones is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those who are currently homeless or living in generational poverty. Hang out at the Day Shelter. It's 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. Provide food for those at the Day Shelter who love a home cooked meal. They are grateful for any food provided even if it is "supper" food served at 8am!

Make a Financial Donation: Every donation can ignite hope and change the lives of individuals facing homelessness. Every dollar directly supports Forgotten Stone's mission to eliminate homelessness in Fort Wayne. Write a check to Covenant (indicate "Forgotten Stones"), or donate online at covenantumc.net, or on Covenant's app

Visit forgottenstones.org to learn more and to read testimonials or call 260-267-0783 to speak with a team member or email info@forgottenstones.org.

MISSION GUATEMALA ~ "Do All The Good You Can"



The Mission Team has decided Covenant will help support the ministry of Mission Guatemala and help to send a future team to serve in Guatemala. **Your faithful giving to Faith Promise will allow us to provide funding for both of these important goals.**

The Mission Statement of Mission Guatemala:

"Living out our love for God and for our neighbor, Mission Guatemala exists to provide respectful and equitable access to healthcare, nutrition, education and community development initiative in San Andres Semetabaj and beyond."

Mission Guatemala Vision:

"As a long-term member of the local community, Mission Guatemala endeavors to ease suffering and improve the quality of life for our neighbors in Guatemala. Working together to identify needs and utilizing every resource at our disposal to find respectful and effective solutions, we create a future filled with hope, healing and empowerment for all."

A brief history:

Tom Heaton, has had a strong connection with the country of Guatemala and has worked to help make a difference in the life of the Guatemalan people since 2000.

Tom, a United Methodist Pastor from the Indiana conference, has 2 sons adopted from Guatemala. For several years, he helped the working poor of Guatemala through the sales of fair trade crafts through a nonprofit he formed called Mayan Traditions. Profits from the sales of the crafts were returned to Guatemala to help orphanages and children's related ministries there. In the fall of 2008, Bishop Michael Coyner appointed him to do work with the poor of Guatemala.

Tom formed Mission Guatemala in 2009 and was approved by the IRS as a charity. Mission Guatemala is a United Methodist related ministry that operates a clinic and a preschool feeding program in San Andrés Semetabaj, Guatemala. Mission Guatemala is currently discerning new projects it can start in the San Andrés area to help improve the quality of life for the indigenous people of Guatemala. Guatemala is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere ranking fourth in the world for child malnutrition.

Pastor Chris has been involved with Mission Guatemala since 2011 while pastoring at the Newburgh United Methodist Church which helped develop and financially support the Pharmacy at the Clinic. Pastor Chris and his wife, Peggy, have led 8 teams to serve with Mission Guatemala, including a youth/college team. He would love to share his experiences with you and to answer any questions.

Covenant's Involvement with Mission Guatemala:

- * In the summer of 2016 Covenant sent a team of youth and adults to work with Mission Guatemala
- * In February 2024 a team of adults worked with Mission Guatemala in the community of Xaserio Chuisajcap. They finished the playing "field"/court by painting lines and completing the surrounding walls. They also visited the community of Xequistel and celebrated the completion of 2 classrooms by Mission Guatemala.
- * In November of 2025 a team of adults worked at the Mission Guatemala Clinic in San Andres Semetabaj beginning and finalizing several projects to benefit the medical clinic facilities.
- * A future trip is in the process of being planned - information and dates will be announced soon.

To learn more about Mission Guatemala or to receive a newsletter visit missionguatemala.com



United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR, is a unit of Global Ministries, which is a humanitarian organization that helps alleviate human suffering, one of the two main goals of Global Ministries.

When disaster strikes, UMCOR is there to provide hope, help and healing. They come alongside communities to strengthen their response - equipping them with resources for immediate relief and long term recovery, while helping to rebuild for a more resilient future.

UMCOR's work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters and by supporting programs in the areas of migration, health, food security and environmental sustainability.

UMCOR walks with annual conferences and episcopal areas globally, coordinating efforts to deliver aid, provide disaster response training and support long-term recovery initiatives.

UMCOR operates on the principle that all donations for disaster relief go directly to those in need and are not used to cover administrative costs.

Every disaster is local, and UMCOR support can take a variety of forms, depending on the phase of the disaster. UMCOR supports UMC conferences and other partners in assuming a role in disaster response that is based on need, strength, interest and capacity. This enables a UMC disaster response that is contextually specific, culturally appropriate and community centered.

Through Faith Promise Giving, Covenant will continue to send funds to UMCOR. 100% of the funds we send will be used to support the work of UMCOR and not for administrative costs.

You may also donate to UMCOR by writing a check to Covenant (indicate UMCOR) or give online at covenantumc.net or on Covenant's app.

To learn more about UMCOR visit umcmmission.org

Northrop students who attend Northrop's Peace Room LOVE all the donations of INDIVIDUALLY packaged snacks:

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



Thank you for all your donations of snacks already this school year!

We all know how kids always seem to be hungry and your snack donations help them to be focused and interested in learning and sharing in the Peace Room.

We will continue to collect these items thru the school year. Leave donations in the marked box by the Mission Collection Center.



The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission shares that in 2025 they have ...

- shared 370,800 hot meals with hungry neighbors
- provided 122,707 nights of shelter for men, women, and children
- welcomed 2,446 unique guests with dignity and care

To learn more about the Rescue Mission visit fwrm.org

To tour the building visit fwrm.org/take-action/tours

To volunteer at the Treasure House or serve meals visit fwrm.org/take-action/volunteer

To make a donation to the Rescue Mission write a check to Covenant (indicate "Rescue Mission") or donate online or on the app.

January Food Collection: MMM, MMM, Good!

Thank you for the 206 cans of soup and many other food items collected in January.

Thank you also to Covenant Preschool who donated 62 cans of soup! For a **total of 268 cans!**



February Food Collection!

Cans of fruit, veggies and beans for the Food Bank



#3 Habitat Can Recycler!



Every Can Counts!

Habitat of Greater Fort Wayne was named the #3 Habitat aluminum recycler in the United States for the second year in a row!

Habitat GFW Recycled 17,703 lbs. in 2025!

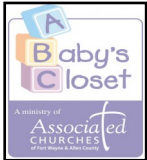
Did you know there's a shed like this one in the Covenant parking lot? →



All aluminum cans are recycled locally by the help of Habitat volunteers and the funds received help Habitat build affordable homes in our community.

Two ways to be involved

- ⇒ Email Dannielle (info@habitatgfw.com) to request a recycling box for your home, workplace, or school.
- ⇒ Volunteer, with someone else - couples are needed, to help Habitat collect cans in Allen County once every three months. Contact Debbie or Eric Smith (260-466-0310) with questions - they have experience.



Volunteers needed at A Baby's Closet

Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays
from 9-noon
at 621 East Wayne Street

Ways you will help:

- Count & record donations
- Sort, wash & fold used clothes
- Hang clothes on hangers & make outfits
- Package diapers

Contact Sheri Manella if interested at sheri@associatedchurches.org or 260-615-8505

An Associated Churches Ministry, A Baby's Closet helps low-income families & those experiencing hardships by providing baby items to safely care for their babies.

To learn more visit associatedchurches.org/a-babys-closet

Bashor Children's Home



Covenant has developed a relationship with Bashor Children's Home over the past 20 years as they have lovingly sewn quilts for the youth staying at Bashor Children's Home. The quilts are a way for the youth to know someone cares about them and to be wrapped in love.

The Mission & Outreach Team wants to help support the ministry at Bashor Children's Home and with your faithful giving to Faith Promise, funds will be sent for Bashor to use in the way they feel will benefit the youth the most.

There are many ways troubled youth are helped at Bashor. One way is the Bashor Alternative School (BAS) for students in grades 5-12, identified as emotionally handicapped, and not performing well in a public school setting. BAS attempts to teach students effective methods of socialization. The program has small classroom settings and low student/teacher ratio. The curriculum includes language arts, math, science, social studies, art, physical education, health, study skills, & life skills.

To learn more about Bashor Children's Home visit: bashor.org



RYAN'S CASE FOR SMILES

A hospital experience can be terrifying and traumatic for a child and their family. Ryan's Case for Smiles helps with the stress and emotional impact in the here and now.

The pillowcases give children an emotional boost. Ryan's Case for Smiles was founded in 2007 to bring comfort and support to young patients and their families in hospitals around the globe. They started with a simple goal: to create and distribute whimsical pillowcases that give children an emotional boost and remind them that they are not defined by their illness.



Covenant member, Marsha Ratliff, made and donated 200 pillowcases to Ryan's Case for Smiles in 2025.

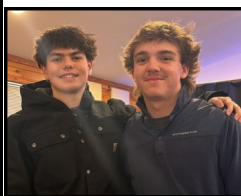
← Just 3 of the pillowcases Marsha made.

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Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 1/26/26)

Over MLK weekend, we took our students to Sky Ranch for FastBreak – our annual winter retreat with Cru students across Texas. Through worship, speakers, training seminars, and small group discussions, God spoke to students and brought about new faith and renewed commitment to living for him.



A couple of Plano guys at the FastBreak Retreat

During the main sessions, the speaker taught on being spiritually alive in Christ. Two guys and one girl from Plano realized that they didn't have a real relationship with Jesus and began a relationship with him! Over a dozen others felt the Spirit convicting them of beginning to stray from Christ and surrendered their lives to be once again led by Jesus.

The students also learned that God gives every believer unique spiritual gifts and a specific burden for the world around them.

One student shared about his burden for the lack of respect he sees and how God is calling him to use his leadership gifts to positively influence others. Another expressed a burden for people who don't know much about God and is trusting God to use him to help his friends learn more about God and grow in their faith.

Thank you for faithfully partnering with us to help high school students know Jesus and grow in their relationships with him as God continues to work in their lives this semester!

Caleb and Amy Cox



Caleb, Amy and Julia Cox



Students initiating spiritual conversation at the mall

PAST - Praise God for drawing students to himself at FastBreak - including 3 from Plano who started a relationship with him for the first time!

PRESENT - Pray for the students who attended FastBreak to remember the things he showed them and to trust him with the faith steps he asked them to take.

FUTURE - Pray for Caleb to be able to restart a Bible study with a group of students he met with last year. Pray for them to be available and eager to go deeper with God.

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

The Mission & Outreach Team desires to continue to help support Caleb & Amy in 2026.

To help make this possible donate to Covenant's Faith Promise. Or you may donate to Caleb & Amy's designated account with a donation to Covenant (indicate Caleb & Amy Cox) or visit give.cru.org/0864190

More information about Ryan's Case for Smiles: (continued from page 5)

Hospitals in the Fort Wayne area that receive the pillowcases: Parkview Regional Medical Center, Lutheran Children's Hospital, Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House, Parkview Cancer Institute - Infusion Clinic, and Camp Watch Wanna-do

By the numbers:

- 2,950,000 pillowcases delivered
- Over 75,000 children helped annually
- More than 40 million volunteer hours
- Over 362 hospitals participate

Learn how to sew a pillowcase: [click here](#)

To learn more or to make a financial donation to Ryan's Case for Smiles visit caseforsmiles.org/

