



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

March 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March:** Food Bank Collection Paper Products
- March. :** Lenten Offering for Project 216
- Mar. 28 & May 23:** Blood Drive
- June 1-6:** Rummage Sale
- June 14:** UMCOR Sunday
- Nov. 7:** Project 216 Event
- Dec. 12:** Covenant Craft Show



February Food Collection
184 cans of fruit, veggies and beans plus other food donations were donated to the Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank in February. **Thank you!!**

March Food Bank Collection:



"Roll Out the Kindness" with paper towels, napkins, tissues, and toilet paper
Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center

A Baby's Closet (ABC) Needs Your Help!



Tues. and/or Wed. mornings 9-noon or 10-1.
Help is needed to get the store ready for customers - counting baby clothing items, hanging clothes, and putting outfits together. If you love baby clothes, you will love this!
Located at 621 E. Wayne St.
[Click here to sign up](#)
See page 3 to read about the ABC Baby Shower!



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

LIFE FOR CHILDREN MINISTRY

Orphan Sponsorship always the primary mission.



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)

The 2025 Annual Report for Life for Children Ministry (LCM) highlights a year of significant progress in uplifting vulnerable children and communities in Kenya through education, healthcare, and spiritual growth.

Key Program Achievements

Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC): The program currently supports 300 active beneficiaries from early childhood to university levels, maintaining a 100% retention and transition rate.

Sheltering Widows Project: Constructed durable, safe homes for 16 families living in extreme poverty.

Water Well Project (Borehole): A new borehole was drilled for the Soko community, providing clean water to over 1,200 members and reducing the risk of waterborne diseases.

Street Children Program: Reached 5,983 street boys with hot meals & returned 3 boys to their families.

St. Antony Comprehensive Christian School

Infrastructure: The school serves 456 students and saw major developments this year, including a new classroom, office facilities, and a fully equipped science laboratory.

Education: Recorded notable improvements in academic performance and co-curricular participation.

Sustainability: Ten greenhouses and a poultry project with over 500 layers and broilers support the school's feeding program and provide hands-on agricultural training.

Health and Empowerment

Health Initiatives: Conducted health education for over 100 youths, focusing on "The Triple Threat" of HIV, teenage pregnancy, and gender-based violence.

Medical Services: Addressed various ailments and partnered with Manna Ministries International to treat over 100 cases during a medical camp.

Economic Empowerment: A microfinance department supports 14 active groups (113 members), having disbursed over 7.5K USD in loans to help caregivers build sustainable livelihoods.

Faith Development and Mission Teams

Church Growth: Five churches have been established

Mission Trips: Hosted two teams that assisted with home visits, medical outreach, and street ministry.

Fellowship: Conducted 26 local fellowships & 4 major gatherings, reaching over 2,000 caregivers & 1,600 children.

Due to your continued partnership, children received vital services including access to education through sponsorships, clean water via newly drilled boreholes, nutritious meals from greenhouse-supported initiatives, essential healthcare at medical camps, and regular school and field visits that ensure their well-being. These programs have contributed to restoring dignity, strengthening families, and providing greater opportunities for the future.

Michael Agwanda, CEO, Life for Children Ministry, Inc.

On 2/15/26 an email was received from Life for Children Ministry (LCM) informing us of a serious drought affecting 3.3 million people in Kenya. LCM feeds 450 students every day at their school and provides nutrition to 1,000 guardians and 300 orphans. The drought has contributed to the high cost and shortage of food. The needs are enormous and LCM has need of additional funding to deal with these circumstances. If you would like to give to LCM to help purchase needed food, write a check to Covenant (indicate LCM), or donate online.

Your faithful giving to Faith Promise will provide the funds needed to continue Covenant's support of Life for Children Ministry.

MISSION GUATEMALA ~ "Do All The Good You Can"



The Mission Team has decided Covenant will help support the ministry of Mission Guatemala and help 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.**

Watch this video for an overview of Mission Guatemala.

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."

What does Mission Guatemala do?

Medical Clinic - Mission Guatemala operates a medical clinic 5 days a week in the community of San Andrés Semetabaj. Patients pay a small fee to see a doctor and a small fee for any needed medicines. Mission Guatemala works to ensure no one is denied access to the doctor due to a lack of resources.

Clinic Laboratory - In 2018, Mission Guatemala began to offer laboratory tests at their medical clinic, making testing and diagnostics more affordable and accessible to the thousands of patients they serve. An on-site laboratory allows patients to get needed tests without the additional time and expense of traveling to a separate location, and lab results allows the medical staff to make critical decisions on care and treatment more precisely and quickly

"Niños Chispudos" Early Childhood Nutrition Program - According to the World Food Program, 47% of children in Guatemala suffer from chronic malnutrition - the highest rate in all of Latin America and the Caribbean and one of the highest rates in the world. Full-time nutrition centers & Wednesday lunch programs help school-aged children, but do not address malnutrition in children not old enough to attend school. During a child's critical early years of development, the effects of malnutrition can be especially devastating, leading to stunting, anemia, and chronic infections and sickness. For this reason, Mission Guatemala coordinates the "Niños Chispudos" (Kids With A Spark) Early Childhood Nutrition Program which utilizes a soy/corn based porridge, developed to provide a daily nutritional supplement for children. Open to all mothers with children 6 months to 6 years, the program provides the food and free medical care for their children at Mission Guatemala's medical clinics.

Watch this video of a family enrolled in the "Niños Chispudos" program! It's in Spanish but there is closed caption English.

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

A Baby's Closet, an Associated Churches Ministry, is celebrating 35 years in ministry, with an ABC Baby Shower!



A Baby's Closet helps low-income families and those experiencing hardships by providing essential baby items to safely and adequately care for their children through well-baby check-ups and educational classes.

Three ways you can help provide for families with babies:

- 1. Most Needed:** cash to buy large items (car seats, strollers, highchairs, etc); bathtubs; hooded towels; diapers (sizes 1,4,5,6 - no pull-ups or 360 waistband); washcloth sets; potty seats; baby gates; new girls and boys clothing sizes New Born - 5T
- 2. Essential items from the Dollar Tree:** baby shampoo, baby wash, single baby bottles and bottle brushes, infant/toddler spoons, diaper cream, outlet plugs, tooth brushes, nail clippers
- 3. Financially donate to A Baby's Closet** at associatedchurches.org/donate

Leave donations at the Mission Center and the Mission Team will deliver them for you!

Legacy & Beyond: Alive Community Outreach



The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne surprised five local nonprofit organizations with \$5,000 general operating grants, recognizing their significant growth and improvement through the Foundation's grantmaking process! Alive Community Outreach was one of the recipients! Covenant helps to support Alive Community Outreach by providing snacks for Northrop High School's Peace Room and candy & volunteers for the monthly Peace Family Lunch Table. A group from Covenant has also provided a meal for the Summer Peace Academy and several Covenant members attend the Peace Family gatherings which is a learning community that meets every other week to learn about nonviolence and various issues related to peace and justice.

Alive Community Outreach cultivates a community free from the cycle of violence through violence prevention for youth and youth-serving organizations, restorative intervention for youth who are acting out violently, and survivor support for families affected by homicide.

Angelo Mante co-founded Alive Community Outreach with his wife, Marie, in 2020, although his work in violence prevention began years earlier. Angelo is an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church and has previously held nonprofit leadership roles supporting youth in foster care and families experiencing homelessness, with his calling as clergy guiding his commitment to social justice.



Angelo & Marie Mante

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne challenged five nonprofit leaders to provide a statement that describes the impact they hope their organizations will have on the community through their leadership. Angelo's response is as follows:

Alive Community Outreach was officially founded in 2020, but our commitment to nonviolence began years prior, ignited by the tragic murder of my cousin in 2016. This deeply personal experience called my family from Georgia back home to Fort Wayne to address violence on a broader level. I spent three years learning about the problem of violence in Fort Wayne, forming a team, and developing a strategy for how we might respond.

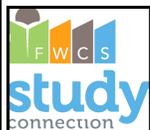
Our mission extends beyond simply ending conflicts; we empower youth to build peace and champion change, fostering a community where every individual is valued and supported. Looking ahead, I envision Alive as a trusted regional—and even national—resource for building peace, expanding our school-based models and Kingian Nonviolence trainings, while always remaining deeply rooted in Fort Wayne.

I'll drive down the street and see a teenager I've never met wearing a "Be the Peace" shirt or hear about students breaking up fights because they don't want to ruin their school's "Peace Count." Our students are planning events on their own, and survivors are transforming their pain into purpose by volunteering in schools. My cousin's story may have sparked this work, but it has grown into a movement of hope and transformation in our community.

My hope is that the legacy our passionate team at Alive has built will be captured by three words: integrity, collaboration, and peace - signifying not just the absence of conflict, but the vibrant presence of justice, healing, and beloved community.

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach and the Peace Family visit alivefw.org

Your donations of individual snacks (for the Peace Club) and candy (for the Peace Family Lunch Table) do make a difference and are so appreciated by the students at Northrop H.S. THANK YOU!



Ever wondered if being a Study Connection tutor is something you'd like to do?

To learn more and hear from tutors, including several from Covenant, [Click here](#) to watch a video about being a tutor.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a tutor next school year contact:

Jenny Hines (908-6964 or jenniferdhines1964@gmail.com)
or Sue Weirich (260-450-6965 or skweirich@gmail.com)

Change a student's life by being a Study Connection Tutor!

In 2025, UMCOR responded to 115 humanitarian crises around the world.

Your 2025 donations to UMCOR made a huge impact.

In 2026 Covenant will use Faith Promise Funds and any funds specifically donated to UMCOR to help fund UMCOR projects.

June 14, 2026 will be **UMCOR Sunday** at Covenant. All gifts to this special offering will be used to help cover UMCOR's administrative costs ensuring

that 100% of donations throughout the year go directly to those in need through UMCOR's humanitarian relief and recovery efforts.

UMCOR'S RESPONSES IN 2025



Bashor Children's Home - Residential Programs



Bashor Children's Home is a non-profit child welfare agency in Goshen, Indiana, affiliated with the United Methodist Church, providing residential care, alternative education, and therapeutic services to at-risk children aged 5 to 20. It serves over 250 children and families daily across Indiana, focusing on trauma-informed care, including specialized units for victims of human trafficking.

FAITH Program – Family and Independent Therapeutic Home

FAITH provides a continuum of residential care built on structure and routine to establish healthy living patterns beginning with a secure setting, then transitioning to staff secure group care in a cottage setting and continuing with independent living skills in a less restrictive setting. **FAITH** also provides treatment and guidance to adolescent boys and girls, focusing on coping skills they need to deal with the problems in their lives. The Substance Abuse Program focuses on individual treatment and family group therapy to help adolescent boys and girls overcome addictive behaviors.

HOPE Program – Helping Offending Patterns End

This program provides boys ages 8-13 years old a highly structured and therapeutic residential unit utilizing behavior modification techniques, relapse prevention and positive discipline to confront offending attitudes and behaviors and develop appropriate internal controls and social skills.

Emergency Shelter Care Program (ESC)

ESC provides a stable, safe, structured and compassionate residential environment to children and youth (boys and girls) requiring protective care on a short-term basis. The program seeks to stabilize the behavior of residents and teach responsibility through expectations and daily structure.

Therapeutic Foster Care Program

A program designed to recruit, train and support foster parents. Foster homes are specifically developed to receive training in independent living, substance abuse or sexual offender treatment and work closely with program directors, therapists and case managers.

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

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 to Bashor to use in the way they feel will benefit the youth the most.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 2/24/26)

"I just feel like a weight was taken off my shoulders. I have so many sins but Jesus took them," Rylie explained to the cabin during our discussion time at our FastBreak conference.

Rylie is a freshman who comes to Cru. She decided to come to our winter camp because all of her friends were going, but she felt like God was going to do something in her heart that weekend.

"I felt like I just had to say yes when my friends invited me. But I honestly didn't really want to know God. I only come to Cru because my friends do. I thought God was just waiting for me to do bad things and I wasn't good enough to be a Christian, but tonight Josh talked about how God is waiting to forgive us and we can come to him even if we have sins.



Rylie & her friends at FastBreak

I realized that I wanted that. I asked God to forgive me and now I just feel so much lighter." Rylie went on to say during the discussion time.

Since FastBreak, Rylie is still excited about her relationship with God. She has been reading her Bible and will come ask me questions she has from her reading. It is cool to see how God has taken her from death to life and how now she is growing in her faith.



Caleb, Amy and Julia Cox



The Plano girls (and Julia)

We are so grateful to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of high school students, like Rylie. We could not do what we do without your prayers and financial sacrifice! We are so thankful for you and your partnership! *Caleb and Amy*

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

PAST - Praise God for those from FastBreak who are able to still come to Cru and grow in their faith in the last month.

PRESENT - Pray for our semester and all the Lord has planned. Pray for Caleb's Bible studies and for students to grow deeper in their faith.

FUTURE - Pray for an upcoming outreach we have with our students where they are going to invite their friends to a party at Cru. Pray for students to come who are ready to hear the gospel.

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 donate to Caleb & Amy's designated account with a donation to Covenant (indicate Caleb & Amy Cox) or visit give.cru.org/0864190

Mark your calendars now for the Rummage Sale and Covenant Craft Show & Cookie Walk!



Covenant 2026 Rummage Sale - set up and sale will run the week of May 31-June 6. Items may be brought to the church on Sunday, May 31. You will have an opportunity to help set-up the sale and to volunteer during the sale - watch the enews for how to sign up. Start setting aside your treasures now to be donated for the sale. All proceeds will benefit missions.



Covenant Craft Show and Cookie Walk - Saturday, December 12, 2026.

All proceeds from both events will benefit missions. Booth space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis so reserve one now. Contact Julie Hyndman at 260-704-4793 or tchrj4@aol.com. The Cookie Walk will be sponsored by United Women of Faith.