



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

April 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April:** Food Drive Pasta & Sauce (no glass containers!)
- May 23:** Blood Drive
- June 1-6:** Rummage Sale
- June 14:** UMCOR Sunday
- Nov. 7:** Project 216 Event
- Dec. 12:** Covenant Craft Show

April Food Collection:

Make a meal pasta-tively delicious with boxes or cans of pasta in any shape or size and don't forget the sauces.

PLEASE, NO GLASS Containers!



What an amazing response to the paper products collection for the Food Bank - 261 rolls of T.P., 364 rolls of paper towels, 23 packages of napkins, and 59 boxes of tissues were delivered to Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank. Along with 50 cans of food from the Discovery Sunday School Class and a variety of other foods!

Thanks, but...
No Thanks

Thank you for all the plastic bag donations. However, we no longer need to collect those. Please don't leave plastic bags at the Mission Collection Center. We do ask that you recycle or reuse any plastic bags you may have.



2026 Lenten Offering

Lent began on Ash Wednesday and will end on Holy Saturday, April 4. During this 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 number of meals we pack will be determined by the amount of money donated to the Lenten Offering. Donations may be given by check (indicate Lenten Offering), online at covenantumc.net or on our app.

The meal we package has shown to reverse the effects of malnutrition and 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.

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

To purchase the supplies to pack 21,000 meals we need to raise \$7,350!
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

Mark your calendars now for the Rummage Sale, Covenant Craft Show and 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

Booth space is available - reserve yours now!
Applications are available in the church office or contact Julie Hyndman at 260-704-4793 or tchrj4@aol.com. All proceeds from this event will benefit local missions.

The Ministries of Associated Churches (AC)



Journey Beside Mothers (JBM)

Associated Churches believes all moms deserve the support, encouragement, and resources they need to grow personally and build thriving, resilient families. Through mentorship, in-school support, and weekly community gatherings, JBM walks alongside mothers as they develop essential life skills, strengthen their parenting abilities, and build meaningful connections.

Military Families

The MF ministry helps with emergency housing, emergency utility assistance, medical assistance, reintegration to civilian life, job training & placement, financial counseling referrals, adopt a Christmas family, general advocacy, Thanksgiving meals

A Baby's Closet (ABC)

ABC helps families experiencing hardships by providing essential baby items to safely and adequately care for their children. Parents can earn coupons for learning about parenting, keeping prenatal & well child appointments, childbirth classes, and keeping children's immunizations up-to-date. The coupons can then be redeemed for clothing, car seats, & baby supplies.

Neighborhood Food Network (NFN), an "emergency food bank"

NFN offers families a 5-day supply of food to prepare balanced and nutritious meals once a month at no charge thru a network of Allen County food pantries. Covenant helps supply the food pantry at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Rising Stars - Adopt-a-School Program (RS)

RS provides a pathway for partnership between schools and the community, building relationships that support students, staff, and families. Covenant has been partnering with Lincoln School for 16 years.

The Landing

The Landing is a place for teens to experience freedom, healing, and wholeness with other teens as hurting teens get closer to Jesus.

To receive Associated Churches newsletter, "The Epistle", visit associatedchurches.org/newslettersignup

To learn more about these Associated Churches Ministries visit associatedchurches.org.

Covenant's financial support of these programs is possible because of your faithful giving to Faith Promise.

Associated Churches Father's Day 5K Run - Walk - Ruck

Saturday, June 20 at 8:30 am

Join Covenant's team at [Associated Churches Father's Day 5K](#)



Run with or in honor of your father, grandfather, or father figure. Bring the entire family for an entertaining morning. Everyone is welcome to this WALK, RUN, or RUCK around Lakeside Park's beautiful rose garden and shaded park. Proceeds will benefit Associated Churches' programs, A Baby's Closet and Military Families. [Click here for more information.](#)

Donors are urgently needed now! Donate blood at Covenant on Sat., May 23!

Whole Blood Donation: Donate every 56 days, up to 6 times a year

You must be at least 16 years old & weigh at least 110 lbs.

Power Red Donation: Donate every 112 days, up to 3 times a year

Male donors must be at least 17 years old, 5'1" tall and weigh at least 130 lbs.

Female donors must be at least 19 years old, 5'3" tall and weigh at least 150 lbs



For more information on donating blood or to make an appointment visit redcrossblood.org or contact Covenant member, Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com

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.**

Watch this video for an overview of Mission Guatemala.

What does Mission Guatemala do?

Community Aid – Mission Guatemala works with dozens of communities in/around the San Andrés area on large and small construction projects. Through the hard work and financial support of mission teams and donors, they have constructed bathrooms for under-resourced rural schools, playgrounds, soccer fields, classrooms, kitchens, multi-purpose buildings, and more. They also operate a vocational training school that includes a 10-month long sewing program, where students learn everything from how to sew to basic business management skills.

Becas Con Misión (Scholarships with a Mission) – In Guatemala, the government requires and provides education thru 6th grade. Because of a lack of access and increased cost of a middle school education, the number who continue past 6th grade drops below 60%. The "Becas Con Misión" program provides an opportunity for students who have the grades and determination, but not the financial resources, to continue their education. Students are selected for the "Becas" program based on economic need, elementary school grades, and 6th-grade teacher recommendations. Once accepted into the program, students may continue thru middle school and beyond, as long as they maintain a 75% average each semester. The program covers costs including: inscription, tuition, school supplies and uniforms.

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

To learn more about a future mission trip to Mission Guatemala, contact Dian Lute at dianalute@gmail.com.

AMANI FAMILY SERVICES: "We partner with immigrant and refugee families and the community to promote safety, encourage personal growth, and foster a spirit of belonging."



On Sunday, March 8, Rui Gui, the Welcoming Initiative Coordinator of Amani Family Services, shared during worship services about Amani Family Services with immigrant and refugee families.

Amani Family Services, a private nonprofit organization, serves more than 2,000 families and individuals from around the world who have made Allen County their home. They are the only mental health non-profit in Allen County solely devoted to providing services to immigrant/refugee families and individuals.

Their programs include the following resources to help support our multicultural community:

Victim Care, Amani Family Services, Community Support Programs, Substance Use Support, Welcoming Fort Wayne and Naturalization and Legal Assistance (NALA)

To learn more visit amanifamilyservices.org

"Amani": peace (Kiswahili), aspirations or wishes (Arabic)

Several places in this newsletter reference "Faith Promise". The Mission Team does not receive any funds from the church budget. All funds for Mission support come from donations to Faith Promise or to specific ministries.



- ⇒ Money donated to a specific ministry is sent to the ministry the donor intended.
- ⇒ Donations to Faith Promise are distributed quarterly by the Mission Team to the ministries the team has chosen to support. To give to missions, indicate "Faith Promise" on your check or donate on Covenant's website.

If you have questions, contact Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com)



Alive Community Outreach – 2025 Year in Review
Five Years of Impact • Growing Leaders • Expanding Healing



In 2025, Alive Community Outreach marked five years of cultivating a community of nonviolence, growing from a response to violence into a citywide movement grounded in Kingian Nonviolence and guided by a clear vision: building a Beloved Community free from cycles of harm.

While the school-based peacemaking remains foundational, Alive expanded its reach - deepening survivor centered healing, engaging students earlier, and extending nonviolence training beyond schools into the broader community. Alive is positioned as a hub for peacemaking and healing in Fort Wayne.

Survivor Support: Alive expanded healing-centered support in 2025, serving more families through peer connection, accompaniment, and resource navigation. Survivor Support also entered high school settings, providing trauma and grief informed group and individual support that helped students build coping skills, resilience, and hope - strengthening the bridge between healing and peacemaking.

School-Based Peacemaking: Alive's Peacemaker Initiative continued in all five FWCS high schools through Peace Advocates, Peace Rooms, Peace Clubs, and the Peacemaker Academy. Sixty students graduated from the Peacemaker Academy. Student-led initiatives - such as Days of Peace, school spirit projects, and shared nonviolence messaging - produced visible, positive shifts in school culture. There were 644 days of peace in the five high schools during the 2024-25 school year!

Community Education & Sustainability: Alive expanded community training by offering its first two-day Core Kingian Nonviolence Training and Level I Certification.

Organizational Growth: Alive's Board adopted a new Strategic Plan that aligns programs, leadership, and revenue - positioning the organization for deeper impact and long-term stability.

Looking Ahead: As Alive moves forward, they remain committed to deepening school-based peacemaking, expanding healing-centered support for survivors, and extending Kingian Nonviolence throughout the 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!

FORGOTTEN STONES (FS) - MAKING THE HOMELESS KNOWN

"The Stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Psalm 118:22



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, many who are unseen and dismissed by society. Their mission is to find those forgotten stones, remind them of their worth in Christ, and help rebuild lives through compassion, dignity, and hope.

Services: Housing, Employment, Day Shelter, Circles, Social Security Signup, Representative Payee
2025 Year End Impact Recap:

143 homeless with income were housed	4 graduated from the Circles program
2 days were opened as a day shelter	15 individuals are employed full time
4 new services were added: E-learning, counseling, case management, representative payee	

To learn more about Forgotten Stones visit forgottenstones.org

Your monetary donations to Faith Promise help to ensure Forgotten Stones receives financial help from Covenant.

Inasmuch Ministry "Helping those in need. Sharing the love and hope of Jesus. Encouraging financial and personal sustainability and growth."



What does Inasmuch Ministry do?

Inasmuch is a benevolence ministry focusing on food, clothes, household and hygiene items, bus passes, obtaining birth/death/marriage certificates, and limited financial assistance for housing and utilities.

How does Covenant help Inasmuch?

- The Mission & Outreach Team is committed to helping Inasmuch with financial support which is made possible through your faithful giving to Faith Promise.
- Covenant delivers clothing and other supplies donated by Covenant members to Inasmuch.
- Covenant prays for the ministry and those they serve.

Inasmuch 2025 Year End Impact Recap:

1,700 birth certificates were applied for	20,000 CitiLink bus passes were provided
50,000 lbs. of food was given thru their food bank	5 individuals sought rehab services
\$30,000 in limited financial assistance was given	

To learn more about Inasmuch Ministry visit inasmuchfw.org

Your continued support of Faith Promise helps to ensure that Covenant will be able to provide monetary donations to Inasmuch Ministry so they can continue to help our neighbors in need.



A Mother's Hope (Shared by Covenant member, Rita Spears)

A Mother's Hope shelters pregnant women who are experiencing homelessness and provides life-changing opportunities for growth

Perhaps you saw the tree in Fellowship Hall last Christmas decorated with baby clothes, sleepers, onesies, bibs, toys, diapers, wipes, and a homemade afghan. The Faith Cafe Sunday School class donated these items to A Mother's Hope.

A Mother's Hope offers safe shelter to pregnant homeless women in a home with practices based on Christian love. They are supported by way of coaching, mentoring and education. Women learn about financial stability, healthy relationships, career readiness, life skills, nutrition and parenting. All this strengthens their opportunities for stability. Women are able to stay for up to one year after their babies are born, giving them continued support through the most vulnerable time of a child's life. A Mother's Hope is committed to providing the best possible services to help ensure stronger women, healthier babies, and a better community.

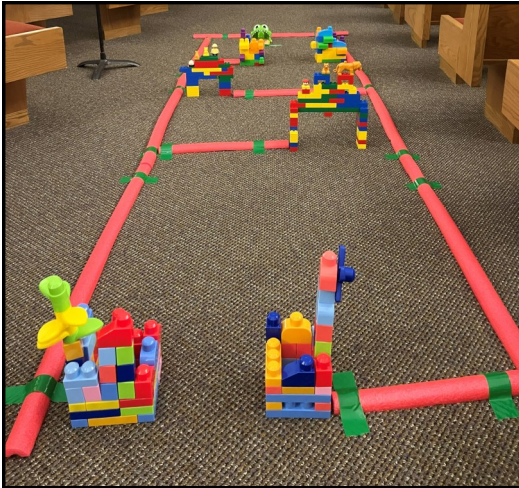
I (Rita) first learned of A Mother's Hope from Michelle Abel when she was talking about it when tutoring at Lincoln for Study Connection. Michelle is very actively involved there. I teach a parenting class called Love and Logic an hour a week for 10 weeks whenever it fits into the class schedule.

A few volunteer opportunities are: transport residents to appointments in Indianapolis, host a Friday lunch or special meal, help with fund raising, or host a collection drive.

To learn more visit AMothersHopeFW.org.

Or contact Rita Spears at ritaspearspt@gmail.com or 260-704-2755.





Mission Team's Golf Hole

Thank you, Janet Hall and Nikki Miller for designing this hole.



Lincoln Elementary's Golf Hole:

books, crayons, pencils, glue sticks and the Lincoln lion

Thank you to Covenant Member, Abbie Jinnings, a 1st grade teacher at Lincoln, and to Kindergarten teacher, Paige Misner, for designing and setting up this hole.

Thank you to Lincoln's office staff for sharing this event on Parent Square to invite Lincoln families to this event.

Mission Matching Game : can you match the service with the ministry?

1. __ Donate household items, furniture & building supplies
2. __ Supports HIV/Aids orphans
3. __ Provides help in classrooms
4. __ Helps to house the homeless with income
5. __ Packs nutritious meals
6. __ Provides bus passes to look for work
7. __ Supplies food for food banks
8. __ Helps provide healthcare, nutrition, education & more in San Andres Semetabaj
9. __ Where troubled youth find love and help
10. __ A emergency shelter for men
11. __ 100% of donated funds go to designated projects
12. __ Builds homes for those in need
13. __ Provides help with utility bills
14. __ Saves 3 lives with a donation
15. __ Opens a day shelter for anyone to share food, conversation, & acceptance
16. __ Provides housing for homeless women & children
17. __ Tutoring program for elementary students
18. __ Donate clothing and household items here
19. __ Where parents can earn coupons for needed baby items
20. __ Covenant Quilters make quilts for the youth in residence here
21. __ Donate new books for children in hospitals
22. __ Works to create a community of non-violence.
23. __ Where you can serve and share the love of Jesus

Ministry Names

(may use more than once)

- A. Kate's Kart
- B. Risings Stars
- C. Inasmuch Ministry
- D. Life for Children Ministry
- E. Bashor Homes
- F. Treasure House
- G. Charis House
- H. Red Cross Blood Drive
- I. Associated Churches
- J. Mission Guatemala
- K. The Rescue Mission
- L. Forgotten Stones
- M. Study Connection
- N. The Rescue Mission
- O. Charis House
- P. Project 216
- Q. Habitat for Humanity
- R. UMCOR
- S. A Baby's Closet
- T. Habitat ReStore
- U. Alive Community Outreach
- X. All of the above

Answers:

- 1-Q, 2-D, 3-B, 4-L, 5-P, 6-C, 7-I, 8-J, 9-E, 10-N, 11-R, 12-Q, 13-C, 14-H, 15-L, 16-O, 17-M, 18-F, 19-S, 20-E, 21-A, 22-U 23-X

To learn more about these ministries and how you can become involved, contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com