



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

May 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May:** Food Bank Collection
- May 23:** Blood Drive
- June 1-6:** Rummage Sale
- June 14:** UMCOR Sunday
- July 15:** Lincoln Work Day
- Nov. 7:** Project 216 Event
- Dec. 12:** Covenant Craft Show



May Collection: "Keeping it Clean"

Donate items to keep a home clean: Windex, 409, Spic N Span, Toilet Bowl Cleaner & Brushes, Dish & Laundry Detergents, Clorox Wipes, etc.

April's Collection was pasta-tively amazing!



Covenant, you came thru for our hungry neighbors with **291** boxes, jars & packages of pasta meals + 36 rolls of T.P. and 19 other miscellaneous food items. **THANK YOU!**



We will not be collecting snack foods for Northrop's Peace Room during May & June

but will restart in July. Thank you for all the provided snacks & supporting the Peace Initiative!

Associated Churches Father's Day 5K Run - Walk - Ruck Saturday, June 20 at 8:30 am

[Click here for more information](#) or contact Covenant member, Debbie Smith, at 260-466-0310 dqsmith2019@gmail.com

UMCOR Sunday - June 14

Together, we can change the world. Your gift to **UMCOR SUNDAY** matters.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. Your giving to UMCOR SUNDAY is what allows UMCOR to act as the hands and feet of Christ's church, helping the most vulnerable in their darkest days - assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need without regard to race, religion or gender.

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from human-caused or natural disasters - famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events - to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope. They provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.

Because you give both to UMCOR Sunday and to UMCOR projects, when a crisis occurs, UMCOR will respond!

UMCOR SUNDAY offerings cover administrative costs through the year so 100% of donations to specific projects go to those projects and to those who need them most.

If writing a check, indicate "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line. Or donate online at covenantumc.net or on Covenant's app. Questions? Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

Donate blood at Covenant on Saturday, May 23!

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Every day, blood donations help patients of all ages: accident & burn victims, heart surgery, organ transplant & cancer patients. For information or to make an appointment visit reccrossblood.org or contact Covenant member, Gina Loomis at sam-gina@frontier.com



RUMMAGE SALE ** ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO MISSIONS!



Bring your gently used treasures to the church beginning Sunday, May 31.

WHAT CAN YOU DONATE? Any gently used items - BUT **NO** adult clothing
VOLUNTEER: Sun., May 31 - Sat., June 6

Set-up: **May 31st** (11-1:00, 1-2); **June 1st & 2nd** (9-11:30, 11:30-2, 2-5)
Public Sale: **June 3rd, 4th & 5th** (9-11:30, 11:30-2, 2-5)
June 6th (9-12, 12-1:30)



SIGN UP TO HELP



or contact Julie Hyndman at 260-704-4793 or tchrj4@aol.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 following is taken from a newsletter received on March 30. Due to a lack of space the entire newsletter isn't shared here but there are copies of the full newsletter at the Mission Center.

In January and early February, Kenya endured a severe drought marked by extreme heat and harsh climatic conditions. Crops failed, water sources dried up, and food prices surged sharply - placing even the most basic meals out of reach for many

vulnerable families. For weeks, communities prayed for rain, hoping for relief from the relentless conditions.

But when the rains finally came in March, they arrived with devastating force. Heavy downpours triggered widespread flooding, sweeping through homes and communities and turning hope into crisis. Families who had already been struggling to cope with drought suddenly found themselves displaced, homeless, and at even greater risk. Roads became impassable, schools were damaged, and access to essential services was severely disrupted.

At Life for Children Ministry, we carried out field visits to assess the impact on the families we support. Reaching them was not easy - our team was often forced to leave motorcycles and vehicles behind and walk through flooded paths to access affected areas.

In one area we support over 11 households. Some of our families have been hit especially hard. On the night of March 22nd, many of them did not sleep, spending hours desperately scooping water out of their homes with containers, trying to salvage what little they could.

The destruction has been heartbreaking. Kitchen gardens we had helped establish earlier this year - once a vital source of food and hope - have been completely destroyed. Small businesses were swept away along with all the stock, wiping out livelihoods overnight.

With homes flooded or destroyed, many families have been forced to seek shelter with friends in higher areas and children's education has been disrupted. Due to impassable roads members were unable to attend our house fellowship further disrupting community support and spiritual gatherings during this difficult time.

Homes have been completely washed away. People have been severely affected by the flooding, losing property and facing displacement. The situation remains critical. Families lack access to food, medical care, and safe movement. What began as a season of hardship has quickly turned into a humanitarian emergency.

Yet even in the face of such challenges, hope remains. We are committed to standing with these families and helping them rebuild their lives. With your support, we aim to provide urgent assistance, including food, blankets, and other essential supplies to those most affected.

The Mission & Outreach Team sent \$2,000 from Faith Promise Funds to help with this situation but if you'd like to also send funds, make a donation to Covenant, indicating "Life for Children Ministry" on a check's memo line, or donate online to Life for Children Ministry. [Or click here to donate directly to Life for Children Ministry disaster relief.](#)



Alive Community Outreach and the Peacemaker Academy

How you can help - see below in blue and purple

Peacemaker Academy is Alive Community Outreach's intensive nonviolent leadership formation experience for high school students.



What begins as a three-week summer immersion becomes a year-long commitment to shaping school culture from within.

Rooted in the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Kingian nonviolence, students are equipped not simply to avoid violence - but to analyze its root causes, mediate conflict, and lead meaningful change in their schools and community.

What do students learn?

During the Academy and throughout the school year, students develop the mindset and skills to lead change, including:

- The principles and steps of Kingian nonviolence
- How to identify root causes and systems that produce violence
- Conflict de-escalation and peer mediation strategies
- How to organize and lead peaceful campaigns
- Practices that cultivate internal resilience and emotional regulation

Students engage real issues affecting their schools and community - learning how to apply nonviolence not as theory, but as daily practice.

Measurable Growth



Peacemaker Academy measures student growth through a pre/post evaluation administered at the start of the Academy and again approximately six months later during the school year. The 2025 results demonstrate sustained, identity-level development in student leadership, conflict resolution capacity, and ethical awareness.



Six months after participation, students demonstrated:

- A shift from passive to active nonviolence - moving beyond "not fighting" to intentionally creating justice and inclusion
- Increased confidence mediating peer conflict and addressing root causes rather than surface disagreements
- Greater empathy and dignity-centered accountability - holding others responsible without dehumanization
- A strengthened sense of moral purpose and responsibility for shaping school culture. Most notably, **100% of participants reported increased leadership capacity and engagement in navigating conflict and helping to create a safer school.**

This is not short-term behavior modification. It is sustained formation - shaping young leaders prepared to build beloved community.

YOU can help the Peacemaker Academy.

* Each day snacks will be served to approximately 100 people (students, staff and interns). If you'd like to help provide snacks, [click here to sign up for specific items](#) or sign up   Snacks must be brought to Covenant by Sun., May 31 for the Mission Team to deliver them.

* Each day, approximately 100 people will also be served lunch when gathered at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church. [To learn what is needed for lunches click here](#) or sign up here.  

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach visit alivew.org 



Kate's Kart - The Story, 2025 at a Glance, How You Can Help, 2026 Ice Cream Social!

Covenant has helped to support Kate's Kart for many years. We've donated NEW books, NEW boxes of crayons and colored pencils and people from Covenant volunteer with Katy's Kart.

Kate's Kart is all about books...and smiles! It's a simple idea, really. Through the gifting of a brand new book, it is their goal to brighten the day of a hospitalized child. Whether that child is scared, hurting or just bored, it is their mission to make his or her day just a little bit better. Books are a powerful tool and can help the child feel comforted, distracted and loved in an environment that may be just a little bit overwhelming.

Katherine Anne Layman, known to family and friends as "Baby Kate," was born in June 2006. Shortly after birth, she was diagnosed with congenital and heart defects. After multiple medical procedures, including four open heart surgeries, Baby Kate was called Home and peacefully passed away in her mother's arms at 18 months of age.

One of the things Kate absolutely adored during her hospitals stays was being read to and looking at books. Since there were many days when Kate could not be held after a surgery, her family would read to her as a way to bond and spend time together. Kate loved looking at interactive books that included touch and feel, lift the flap and books with musical buttons. Because of Kate's heart defect, she never learned to walk, talk or crawl. Books were one of the few activities she could engage in on her own. In honor of Kate, and her love of books, her family decided to start giving away new books to children at their local hospital.

A Major Milestone! The number of books given away has reached the amazing number of 500,000!!

Total book distribution since 2008: 526,300

- ⇒ If one child read one book per week, it would take over 9,600 years to read them all
- ⇒ At one book per day, it would 1,369 years to finish 500,000 books
- ⇒ If you handed out one book every minutes, nonstop, day and night, it would take almost 347 days to give away 500,000 books

2025 Kate's Kart at a Glance:

- * 17 years of Kate's Kart
- * 53,023 books gifted to hospitalized children
- * 46 Karts and 11 tubs
- * 49,323 books purchased
- * 12,197 crayons donated
- * 2,191 colored pencils donated
- * 7,773 new books donated
- * 1,096 donors
- * Support from 30 different foundations
- * \$125,551 raised at the Ice Cream Social
- * 3,228 volunteer hours given
- * provided free books in 25 community hospitals in 15 counties

Kate's Kart 18th annual Ice Cream Social: June 27th & 28th.

The annual Ice Cream Social, Kate's Kart largest fundraiser of the year, is a day to celebrate the mission of Kate's Kart at ice cream shops in each of the counties they serve. Supporters are encouraged to stop in at one of their partnering shops to support their mission, engage with Kate's Kart volunteers, and indulge in a sweet treat. [Click here to find a list of participating Ice Cream Shops](#)

Want to donate books?

- ◇ All books must be **brand new and recently purchased**.
- ◇ The more interactive the book, the better.
- ◇ [Look at Kate's Kart wish list](#) for examples of books to buy.
- ◇ Do not write in or attach any type of sticker to the book.

If you want to donate books, leave them at the Mission Collection Center and the Mission Team will deliver them for you!

To learn more about Kate's Kart and how you can volunteer or donate visit <https://kateskart.org>



Faith Promise Giving - April Quarterly Dispersal

The Mission Team made the decision to disburse the following funds (a combination of the Faith Promise donations and donations to designated accounts) at their April 13th meeting:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| * Inasmuch Ministries \$3,000 | * Forgotten Stones \$2,200 |
| * Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank \$1,759 | * Life for Children Orphans \$3,945 |
| * UMCOR \$2,714 | * Bashor Children's Home \$1,000 |
| * Missionaries Caleb & Amy Cox \$2,089.25 | * Missionary Michael Agwanda \$1,259 |

If you have any questions, please contact Keith Hering through the church office.

Your faithful giving to Faith Promise Giving will provide the funds the Mission Team needs to disburse to the ministries Covenant supports. Without your giving these ministries will lack funding for many of their programs. Please prayerfully continue to give !

An Inasmuch Ministry and Forgotten Stones Success Story as told on WANE TV on 4/8/26 "From Homelessness to College: One Fort Wayne man's story highlights what advocates fear could change under new law".

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WANE) — Two years ago, DeMarco Jackson says he was sleeping outside, struggling to stay safe and get rest at night.

Now, the 27-year-old is enrolled in college and preparing for a future in criminal justice, a transformation he credits to community support and persistence.

But he says things might have looked very different if Indiana's new public camping law had been in place when he was living on the streets. "If this law was passed when I was homeless," Jackson said, "I wouldn't be able to find employment or get into the criminal justice program."

Jackson first connected with INASMUCH Ministry after losing his job, when transportation challenges made it impossible to continue working full-time. Without family nearby, he spent months moving between motels and eventually sleeping outside in Fort Wayne. "It was really hard," he said. "I couldn't get no sleep. I'd wake up every 30 seconds worrying somebody was going to take my stuff or attack me."

Staff at the ministry helped Jackson secure full-time employment and stable housing through their Circles of Allen County program.

This fall, he will begin coursework in criminal justice at Ivy Tech Community College. "It made me feel more alive," Jackson said. "It pushed me through the day."

Today, he volunteers at the ministry that helped him rebuild his life: greeting visitors, helping distribute food and coffee, and connecting with people still experiencing homelessness. "Since I know a lot of people, it's easier for me to communicate with them," he said. "Just another helping hand."

Jackson says going to college was always something he hoped for growing up, but never thought would happen. Now, he's planning beyond his two-year degree. "I want to go to a university so I can get my bachelor's degree," he said.

Staff who worked with him say his progress shows what's possible when people have time and stability to rebuild. "He's not the same person who walked in our door," said INASMUCH Ministry Director MaryAnn Mings. "He's changed and he's grown."

For Jackson, the biggest difference has been knowing someone was in his corner.

"It makes me always feel like I got a friend," he said. "Just being with people who support you, that helps you grow."

[Click here to watch the video with more information](#) and to find this article.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru

(received April 1, 2026)



Caleb, Amy and Julia Cox

Over spring break, Dallas Cru sent a team to Quito, Ecuador to share the gospel in local high schools. We have been to Quito on past missions, and the city is close to our hearts. Throughout the week, the team visited high schools, built relationships with students, and shared the gospel with them. Many of the students are Catholic and are familiar with God but don't have a personal relationship with him.



Sharing the gospel with high schoolers in Ecuador

When they returned to one school, a girl excitedly came up to them. She opened up about her difficult home life and how her parents struggle with drug addiction. She told them that when Nathan shared the gospel with her group earlier in the week, she accepted Christ! She joyfully described the new sense of hope she has in Jesus despite her challenging circumstances!

In just one week, they had conversations with 800 students, and 30 accepted Christ! We're praising God and are excited to continue building partnerships with the local Cru staff in Quito so that students all over the world can hear the good news of the gospel.



The Cru Quito Team

Thank you so much for partnering with us to bring the love, hope, and joy of Christ to high school students, not only in Dallas, but also around the world! *Caleb and Amy Cox*

PAST -

Praise God for the 30 Ecuadorian students who heard the gospel and accepted Christ!

PRESENT -

Pray for the local Cru staff in Ecuador to be able to follow-up with and disciple those students. Pray that they would get involved in churches that point them to Jesus.

FUTURE -

Pray for strong partnerships with Cru in Quito and future opportunities to send missions teams to support the ministry there.

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!

Caleb.Cox@cru.org
(256) 258-9537
Amy.Palmer@cru.org
(260) 704-8753

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

**UMCOR HELPED OUT NEAR TO HOME THIS YEAR.
Wars, Famine, Hurricanes, Floods, Tornadoes, are still happening!**



At least 3 tornadoes impacted Michigan communities in Branch, Cass & St. Joseph counties on March 6, causing the deaths of at least 4 people, damaging homes and livelihoods.

UMCOR has responded to this disaster through a solidarity grant to the Michigan Annual Conference, which will provide immediate relief to those in need, including Early Response Team deployment assistance.

A portion of Faith Promise Funds have been disbursed by the Mission & Outreach Team to UMCOR. (see Page 4).

Want to specifically help UMCOR? Write a check to Covenant and be sure to indicate "UMCOR" or donate on Covenant's website or online at UMCOR's website.