



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

June 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June:** Food Bank Collection - "Get Saucy with Condiments"
- June 1-6:** Rummage Sale
- June 14:** UMCOR Sunday
- July 15:** Lincoln Work Day at Covenant 9:00-10:30/11
- July 25:** Blood Drive
- Nov. 7:** Project 216 Event
- Dec. 12:** Covenant Craft Show

June Collection:

"Get Saucy with Condiments"



Donate items that make all kinds of food delicious!

Please NO glass containers!



May's "Keepin' it Clean" Collection

was amazing! Once again, Covenant, you came through for our neighbors with a wide variety and numerous cleaning supplies!



LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

Mark your calendar!

Lincoln Morning of Service:

When? Wed., July 15; 9-10:30

Where? Covenant's Fellowship Hall

What? There will be projects from Lincoln office staff and a number of teachers;

bring your favorite scissors

No need to sign up - just show up!

?': Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@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



Kate's Kart Ice Cream Social ~ June 27 & 28

KATE'S KART will be on-site ([Click here for the 2026 Kate's Kart Ice Cream Social Partner Shops](#)) with volunteers sharing their story, mission and needs. There will be goodies for kids (and adults too), along with free books.

SHOP OWNERS will have specials, raffles and/or donating back a portion of the proceeds, making it super easy for you to support.

YOU can donate at the shops throughout the entire month of June. Drop some money in their donation boxes. Every purchase helps deliver a smile and book to a hospitalized child.

TOGETHER Kate's Kart hopes to raise over \$130,000 to support their mission in 15 Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio counties. Stay tuned for their grand total made from this summer event!

You will make a significant impact in the life of a hospitalized child by attending Kate's Kart biggest fundraiser of the year.

Learn more at kateskart.org

INSPIRATION MINISTRIES



Covenant member, Ben Mains, and his father, thru Annette Mains Ministries, are partnering with Inspiration Ministries, to support its vital work in NE Indiana. Inspiration Ministries, a Christ-centered nonprofit, has been successfully operating recovery residences in Butler and Kendallville and is now expanding into Allen County.



Founded in 2012, Inspiration Ministries has become a leading force in recovery, reentry, and restorative services in our area. Their mission is simple but powerful: transformed lives transform communities.

Today, Inspiration Ministries operates multiple recovery residences and supportive housing communities designed to help men and women overcome addiction, rebuild relationships, restore purpose, and successfully reintegrate into society. As part of its introduction into Allen County, Inspiration Ministries recently opened Heritage House in Hometown, located at 1825 W. Shoaff Rd.

The residences provide housing for individuals in a highly structured, faith-based recovery environment. Participants enter a selective, intensive 9-month program focused not merely on sobriety, but on complete life transformation. The ministry believes lasting change begins with inward renewal - a transformation of the heart and mind through faith, accountability, healing, and community support.

The program focuses on six key areas of restoration:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Spiritual transformation | Addiction & life recovery | Family reconciliation |
| Career building | Financial responsibility | Driving restoration |

The ministry's approach is built on Five foundational pillars: Faith-based, Trauma-informed, Evidence-based, Peer-driven, Recovery-oriented.

Unlike many traditional recovery settings, Inspiration Ministries emphasizes long-term restoration and successful reintegration into the community. After completing the core program, individuals who demonstrate readiness can transition into Inspiration's affordable supportive housing. This next step offers a safe environment to continue healing while rebuilding social connections and integrating into the community. Their goal is not simply helping individuals become sober, but equipping them to become healthy, productive, and thriving members of society.

What Inspiration Ministries Is	VS	What Inspiration Ministries Is NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A certified Residential Recovery Program * A person-centered voluntary program * Comprehensive recovery & life-restoration ministry * Focused on long-term reintegration & continued support 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NOT a halfway house * residents are NOT court ordered to the program * NOT a short-term treatment center * A program that leaves graduates to "figure it out" on their own without ongoing support

2025 Annual Report - Making an Impact: The impact of the ministry is evident in the lives being changed.

- Only 10% recidivism among program graduates
- 60% of graduates remain in supportive housing communities
- 60% experience reconciliation with children and family
- 50% successfully graduate from the recovery program
- 100% graduate employed and pursuing a pathway out of poverty
- 70% graduate with restored driving privileges and insured transportation

Inspiration Ministries also provides affordable supportive housing opportunities for graduates and families who are ready for the next stage of recovery. These homes offer a safe and encouraging environment where

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INSPIRATION MINISTRIES *(continued from page 2)*

individuals can continue healing while developing meaningful community connections and long-term stability. Since 2020, the ministry has helped produce around 200 graduates, housing hundreds of individuals and families while delivering measurable restoration.



Opportunities to Serve at Heritage House: The ministry is seeking individuals who feel called to serve the recovery community through:

- Mentorship and Christian discipleship
- Sharing your passion for your hobbies and other recreational pursuits. Many of the men have not had the benefits of someone in their life who introduced them to productive past times.
- Transportation assistance. There is a need to take men to medical or other appointments.
- Teaching classes and life skills.

Volunteers play a vital role in demonstrating to vulnerable men and women that they are valued, supported, and capable of building a new future.

For more information, contact Ben Mains at Benjamin.mains@heritagemission.org or 260-444-9112.

Life for Children Ministry (LCM)



STREET MINISTRY MARCH REPORT:

One highlight of 2026 has been the successful purchase of a building dedicated to providing a safe haven for street boys - a place where vulnerable children can find safety, dignity, and the love of God. The fellowship and feeding program with street children and families spreads the word of God, shares love and fills an empty stomach.

Feeding and Food Donation Support: The challenge of food insecurity and homelessness remains a pressing concern within the street families and children. LCM fed 416 street families & children in March.

Street Children Fellowship and Evangelism: The story of the prodigal son, equips the boys with hope for a better tomorrow thru Jesus Christ. This helps to soften their hearts, appeals to their souls and makes them feel loved and teaches them to love others too.

Peace for Families, Hope for Tomorrow: Street crime compromises peace and generates widespread fear. This is felt at individual, community and societal levels. Thru sharing the word of God, food and other basic needs, LCM creates a social unity network which enables the children to open up about the challenges they face. With continuous counseling and evangelism, LCM was able to register 10 children for reconciliation and reintegration.

Sports and Recreational Activities: There has been a recent increase of football players and fun among the street children. LCM has been able to field 3 teams, grouped by age. A total of 275 street children participated in the street football matches in March. These activities reduce depression, anxiety and other mental health problems prevalent among street children. Protective gear is still needed.

Medical and Health Care Emergencies Support: Ten children were provided with emergency and medical care. These children suffered from malaria, pneumonia, skin and cold infections, sports injuries, and injuries sustained from fighting.

How you can donate to help Life for Children Ministry:

- ⇒ Donate to Faith Promise, which will provide funds for the Mission Team to send to LCM
- ⇒ Write a check to Covenant, indicating "Life for Children Ministry" on the memo line
- ⇒ Donate online at covenantumc.net

To learn more about Life for Children Ministry visit lifeforchildrenministry.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne



Mission: Habitat seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope

Vision: A world where everyone has a decent, affordable place to live.

Habitat for Humanity Empowers Through Shelter

Habitat Greater Fort Wayne partners with hard-working, low-to-middle income families, helping them build and purchase their own homes. After each Habitat home has been built, it is sold to a Future Habitat Homeowner who takes on the mortgage with affordable monthly payments.

1 in 6 families pay 50% or more of their income on housing! For a single parent making \$15/hour, that only leaves \$40/day to spend on groceries, healthcare, gas, clothing, school supplies, etc. At the time of closing, Habitat GFW ensures that the monthly mortgage payment is no more than 26% of the family's gross monthly income. Affordable homeownership enables families to save money for emergencies, stop living paycheck to paycheck, invest in their community, and create generational wealth.

Program details:

Homeowner Advocacy: Habitat walks alongside qualified families through a holistic home-buying process (12-18 month program); there is a focus on creating sustainable and independent homeowners with affordable mortgage payments

Habitat Homes Are Not Free: 250 hours of sweat equity; 8 financial and homeowner education classes; \$2,000 saved to cover closing costs; 1 affordable mortgage are required

Sweat Equity: 100-150 hours on the build site; 10+ hours at the ReStore; 50 hours at a local non-profit; 30+ hours completing financial and homeowner education classes

Homeownership + Financial Literacy Classes: money management and savings planning; building and maintaining good credit; understanding mortgage and insurance terms and requirements; home maintenance processes; organizational skills; proper home security and fire safety

Volunteer:

On a Build Site: 7-hour commitment; help build a Habitat home - no experience necessary! Must be 16 years old to volunteer

Donate lunch to a build site: 1 hour commitment; feed the construction volunteers and Partner Families as they build Habitat homes

Volunteer at the ReStore: 3-4 hour commitment; assist the ReStore staff with merchandising, cleaning, organizing, and donation intake

"Every Can Counts": leave empty aluminum can in the "Habitat Every Can Counts Shed" found in Covenant's parking lot; the funds received from recycling these cans help Habitat build affordable homes in our community

ReStore: 4747 Lima Road; open Monday-Saturday from 10-5; drop off donations during business hours or schedule a free pick-up

The Habitat ReStore is a non-profit home improvement store and donation center - a place to find new and used furniture, appliances, lighting, flooring, cabinets, and more at discounted prices; Sales at the ReStore directly support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne's efforts to provide affordable homeownership to qualified families in our community;

Learn more at habitatgfw.com

The Chaplaincy of the Allen County Jail

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another” John 13:34



On March 22, Pastor Chris introduced Chaplain Will Curry, senior chaplain of the Allen County Jail, to speak about the Allen County Jail Chaplaincy Program. Recently, Chaplain Will served in Parkview Chaplaincy Department. He is a retired veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, was a probation instructor at the Noble County Probation Dept., and is the Senior Pastor at Sanctuary for New Beginnings.

The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy was established in 1997 at the request of Sheriff Joe Squatrito. He asked Associated Churches to help put this together. The chaplaincy has a board of directors that come from a variety of churches that oversee the operation of the chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and must raise the funds to provide the programs and ministry in the jail.

Jesus' love knows no limits - reaching the abandoned, the hopeless and the lost. The Chaplaincy is called to mirror this unconditional love in all interactions. They unite with organizational staff and families of the incarcerated to build unshakable support networks. In a system that strips them of their identity, they help incarcerated individuals see their value and find hope for a better future. For the incarcerated, their families and organizational staff, every day and in every way, they are there to help.

Sponsored by Christian congregations throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County, its mission is to be a spiritual support to those who are incarcerated, be of help to pastors and churches who offer spiritual support to their members in jail, and be a living witness of Jesus Christ to the inmates, their families, the churches, and the community.

For more information visit, thechaplaincy.net

Associated Churches Path of Hope Ministry



Path of Hope's Mission: To walk alongside returning citizens as they rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. Thru compassionate mentorship and practical support they aim to restore hope, reduce recidivism, and create safer, stronger communities - because everyone deserves the chance to thrive.

Path of Hope's Vision: a community transformed by steady, compassionate mentorship - where returning citizens are guided from reentry to renewed purpose and belonging.

Why Path of Hope Matters: every year, hundreds of individuals return to Allen County neighborhoods after incarceration, often with little more than a second chance. Without relational support, most face root causes of criminal justice system involvement alone, leading to high recidivism rates and a strained community. Path of Hope exists to change that story.

Path of Hope Program: Path of Hope is a multi-phased, 2-year mentorship initiative to bridge incarceration and community reintegration. They pair returning citizens supervised by Allen County Community Corrections with trained mentor teams from the local faith community to provide consistent, structured guidance, encouragement, and accountability. The holistic approach builds trust, nurtures belonging, and opens pathways to stable housing, employment, and healthy relationships.

Why Path of Hope is Critical: Reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety; strengthening families and communities thru restored lives, and leveraging collaboration with local courts, corrections, and faith-based partners for maximum impact.

Want more info? Click here: associatedchurches.org/pathofhope or contact Path of Hope Director, Stephanie Bowser at stephanie@associatedchurches.org or (260) 422-3528 ext. 112



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 4/27/26)

Every spring, we coordinate student-led chapels for the Plano football team. Last week, Nolan shared with his team about how his faith journey began. "My whole family goes to church, but only my older sister is serious about God. She told me how I could be close to Christ."



Caleb, Amy and Julia Cox



Bible Study with a group of seniors

Through many conversations with his sister, Nolan's knowledge about God grew into a genuine relationship with God! He explained the difference he sees in his life. "Now God is with me in every part of my life. He helps me overcome my fears and have confidence where I used to have anxiety."

Since getting connected to Cru, he has been excited to attend football chapels and our Monday night weekly meetings. He's become outspoken about his

faith with his team. Just like his sister stepped out in faith to share the gospel with him, Nolan is now doing the same thing with his teammates.

Thank you for coming alongside us as God draws teenagers into a relationship with himself and uses them to reach others. This wouldn't be possible without your partnership!

Caleb and Amy Cox



Nolan excitedly telling his team how he began a relationship with God!

PAST -

Praise God for open doors for four spring football chapels and for the students stepping up to lead them!

PRESENT -

Pray for Nolan's parents to grow closer to God as they see Nolan's faith and his sisters'.

FUTURE -

Pray for preparations for Getaway, our national conference in Colorado at the end of June. Pray that the students who are supposed to be there would be able to come and would grow closer to God there.

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!

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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



Covenant Cleans the Parkview Trail

Led by Terry Pargmann (behind the camera) Pat Clouse, Bryan Myers (Terry's neighbor), Cheryl Esler, Nikki Miller, Janet Hall, & Sue Skekloff cleaned the Parkview Trail for the first of three times for 2026. If interested in helping, contact Terry Pargmann at tpargmann@gmail.com

News from FWCS and Alive Community Outreach:

FWCS is increasing its commitment to Alive Community Outreach (ACO), a program that is working to foster a culture of peace in FWCS high schools. The program has contributed to a reduction in fights, late arrivals and disruptive conduct, among other issues. The school board renewed its contract with ACO at a cost of about \$730,000 - an amount that includes expansion to the Centers for Academic Success at Nebraska and Anthis.

