



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

August 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 26: Blood Drive

Oct.: "Socktober" - Sock drive for
FWCS Clothing Bank

Oct.: "Baking Someone Happy"

Nov.: Christmas Angel Projects
* Byron gifts * "Share the Feast"

Nov. 7: Project 216 Event

Dec.: Christmas Angel Projects
* CASA Gifts
* Christmas Offering

Dec. 12: Covenant Craft Show

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief): the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the world.

In 2025

- 115 worldwide humanitarian crises were addressed
- 267,976 lives were directly touched through aid
- 279 grants were awarded totaling \$10.1 million



Make a gift to UMCOR and 100% of your donation goes directly to disaster response to be used for essential supplies like food & water, to support the removal of debris, and to provide temporary shelter for the displaced. Make a donation thru Covenant (indicate UMCOR) or online at covenantumc.net

Learn more at umcmmission.org



Lincoln School + Covenant (YOU) + Rising Stars = a difference in staff & students' lives

Covenant is entering its 16th year partnering with Lincoln Elementary School (1001 East Cook Rd) to share God's love and build relationships with staff and students.

Some ways to give of your time, talents, love, and blessings ...

One time commitment:

- **Watch for opportunities** in the enews or add your name to a Rising Stars email distribution list by contacting Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com



Weekly commitment:

- **Help in a classroom** - work with students or prep items for teachers. Contact Barb Hering
- **Be a tutor or substitute tutor** thru FWCS Study Connection; see page 2

Monthly commitment:

- **Write an encouraging note** to an assigned teacher once a month; contact Barb Hering if interested

What you can do now:

- **Pray** for the staff, students and families of Lincoln
- **Complete a background check** - contact Barb Hering
- **Financially support this ministry** - donate to Faith Promise Giving for the Mission Team to disburse or donate to Covenant and indicate "Rising Stars"

Lincoln Elementary facts:

- ⇒ 2nd largest elementary school in FWCS with over 600 students and 80 staff members
- ⇒ the school population is racially diverse and has a variety of languages spoken by students and families
- ⇒ built in 1975, Lincoln is named for President Abraham Lincoln and was renovated in 2023-24
- ⇒ Lincoln students feed into Shawnee Middle School and Northrop High School
- ⇒ Lincoln's mascot is the Lions and their colors are red and blue
- ⇒ Lincoln is where Covenant met before building what we now call our church home
- ⇒ the Principal is Scott Geist and Assistant Principal is Amanda Henderson.

For more information contact: Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com) or Janet Hall (janet.hall60@gmail.com)



Make a difference in a child's life - be a Study Connection Tutor

Study Connection is an after-school tutoring program of FWCS. Tutors (men and women) are matched 1-on-1 with students identified by their teachers as needing extra help.

Tutors meet at Lincoln with the same student on Wednesdays after school October - early May. Time is spent doing assignments provided by the teacher, reading, playing games, eating a snack, talking, laughing and sharing. Can't commit to one hour a week? Be a substitute tutor or ask a friend to share a student.

The difference you can make in a child's life has been shown in better grades, behavior and attitudes. Just showing you care about the success of a child is life changing! All volunteers must complete the application process prior to being matched with a student.

Contact Jenny Hines (260-908-6964 or jenniferdhines1964@gmail.com) or Sue Weirich (260-450-6965 or skweirich@gmail.com) if you're interested in being a Study Connection Tutor or tutor sub at Lincoln School.

To learn more about Study Connection visit fortwayneschools.org/families/face/study-connection



August Food Collection:

"Rise and Shine"

Breakfast foods like:

shelf stable milk, cereals, granola bars, pop tarts, pancake mix, syrup, etc.

Donations will be delivered to Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank.



Northrop students LOVE donations of INDIVIDUALLY packaged snacks for their Peace Room:

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

Leave donations in the marked box at the Mission Collection Center

We will continue to collect these items thru the school year.

FWCS Starts on August 12

Lincoln School has asked for:

- ⇒ **PRAYERS**
- ⇒ Black EXPO dry erase markers
- ⇒ Tissues, are needed throughout the school year

Leave donated items at the Mission Collection Center.

The Mission Team will share other needs as they are made known.



Fort Wayne Community School Clothing Bank



Are you cleaning out closets as your family prepares for a new school year? Do you have gently used clothing, shoes, coats, etc. of all sizes that you no longer want? Please consider donating them to the FWCS Clothing Bank. Bring them to the Mission Collection Center - the Mission Team will deliver them.

The FWCS Clothing Bank (1511 Catalpa St.) provides clothing to thousands of students and families each year. They receive clothes, shoes, coats, toiletries and other items as needed because of poverty or homelessness or following a disaster such as a flood or fire. Students are referred to the clothing bank by a case manager or counselor at their school. The Clothing Bank operates with the support of both monetary donations and new and gently used clothing. **Covenant will be participating in Socktober, along with Lincoln students, donating new socks to the clothing bank in October - an opportunity for the church and school to work together.**

List of needed items:

Personal hygiene products (must be NEW):

Soap	Shampoo	Toothpaste & toothbrushes	Tampons & Feminine pads	Brushes/combs
Hair Accessories	Deodorant		Shaving supplies	

Clothing (new or gently used):

Children & adult sizes: Clothing, Boots/Shoes, Coats, Hats, Gloves/Mittens (new or gently used)
Socks & Underwear (Must be NEW)

To learn more visit fortwayneschools.org/families/community/clothing-bank



HOPE RESTORED TO FLOOD AFFECTED FAMILIES

"We sincerely thank all our donors, partners, friends, and supporters who responded generously to the needs of families affected by the recent floods in Kisumu. Your quick response and compassionate giving brought hope and relief to hundreds of vulnerable families who had lost homes, food, bedding, and other essential belongings.

As a ministry, we are deeply grateful to God, who used each of you as vessels of His love and compassion during this difficult season. Through your generous support, we were able to reach flood affected communities in Nyalunya, Kapuotho, Onyalo Biro, Ombei, Manyatta, Nyalenda, and many other severely impacted areas. Your kindness brought hope where despair had settled, and your obedience to God's prompting made a real difference in the lives of hurting families.



The donations of food supplies, blankets, mosquito nets, duvets, and other essential items brought comfort and dignity to families struggling to rebuild their lives. Judith Odinga from Onyalo Biro shared her experience: "My house was flooded and all my bedding and the little food I had were swept away. I made several trips to the county government offices seeking assistance, even for just a small amount of maize flour, but I received no help. Today, I thank God for using Life for Children Ministry to reach this remote part of Kisumu

that is often forgotten. The food support has given my family hope, and my children now have warm blankets, mosquito nets, and food to eat in the days ahead."

On our way to Ombei, we met a teenage boy named George Obwaka, who uses a wheelchair. Living in a remote area that is difficult to access by vehicle, George was initially hesitant to speak with us. He later explained that his grandmother has been wheeling him by the roadside on a daily basis to seek support from passers-by. However, after spending some time with him, he became comfortable and shared his story. George was overjoyed when he received food supplies, a blanket, and a mosquito net. With a smile on his face, he said: "I am so grateful for the support you have given me. Today I call myself blessed because you are angels sent by God to bless me. Thank you so much, and may God bless you." His words touched our hearts and reminded us that acts of kindness can restore hope even in the most difficult circumstances.



Through this emergency flood response, Life for Children Ministry supported more than 300 households, including our guardians and many families who are not part of our regular program. We ensured that assistance was prioritized for the most vulnerable members of the community, including people living with disabilities, elderly persons, widows, and families who had lost nearly everything to the floods.

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

Prepared by Robert Gonzi, Life for Children Ministry

Life For Children Ministry conducts a number of programs designed to support children, extended families, and villages. These programs not only provide for immediate needs, but provide long-term solutions for human safety and care. Visit lifeforchildrenministry.org to learn more about the ministry.

The Mission & Outreach Team continues to help support Life for Children Ministry with your generous donations to Faith Promise Giving. You may also give by writing a check to Covenant (indicate Life for Children) or donate online at covenantumc.net/give

Alive Community Outreach School-Based Model



School-Based Peacemaking is not a single program - it is a culture-building model. Implemented across multiple Fort Wayne Community Schools campuses, the model integrates Peacemaker Academy formation, the daily presence of a full-time Peace Advocate, and a dedicated Peace Room hub within the school. Together, these elements equip students to transform conflict and reshape their community from the inside out.

Peacemaker Academy: A 3-week immersive leadership program grounded in Kingian Nonviolence.

Students receive intensive training and return to their schools equipped to lead with skill, courage, and vision. Sixty (60) students from 5 FWCS high schools graduated from the Academy in June.

Peace Advocates: A full-time professional embedded within the school who mentors student Peacemakers, facilitates mediations, leads restorative practices, and partners with staff to cultivate a culture of nonviolence throughout the building.

Peace Rooms: A dedicated space for mediation, restorative circles, Peace Club, and student-led planning in each FWCS high schools. Guided by the Peace Advocate and shaped by students, it's the physical hub of the peace movement within the school. The individually wrapped snacks that you donate for Northrop are shared in the Peace Room.

The school-based peacemaking work began at South Side High School in 2021 with a trained cohort of student Peacemakers representing multiple grade levels. As the model expanded - adding a full-time Peace Advocate and establishing a dedicated Peace Room - school-wide culture shifts were noticed as violence in the school decreased dramatically. Similar results have been seen in the other high schools that participate in the program.

How can you become involved?

- ⇒ **Pray** for the students and staff at all schools
- ⇒ **Donate** individually wrapped snacks for the Peace Room
- ⇒ **Donate** bags of individually wrapped pieces of candy for the Peace Family Lunch Table
- ⇒ **Participate** once a month at the Peace Family Lunch Table and enjoy conversations with students as they answer questions prepared by the Peace Advocate; more information will be coming when the dates are set for this activity

To learn more about Alive Community Outreach visit alivew.org

The Chaplaincy Golf 2nd Annual Fundraiser "Driving Hope, Restoring Lives" Friday, September 11 at McMillen Golf Course - 11:00 a.m.

The Allen County Jail Chaplaincy is dedicated to bringing hope, encouragement, spiritual care and practical support to incarcerated individuals and those transitioning back into the community. Through substance abuse recovery programs, reentry services, mentoring, Bible studies, counseling, and other evidence-based programming, they seek to reduce recidivism and help individual build productive lives.

Early Bird Registration

- ◇ Register by September 1
- ◇ \$400 Foursome / after 9-1-26 \$440
- ◇ \$150 Single Player / after 9-1-26 \$160

Included with ticket

- ◇ Green Fees (tee time 12pm)
- ◇ Cart
- ◇ Registration packet
- ◇ Lunch (served at 11am)

[Click here to register your team.](#)

To learn more about The Chaplaincy visit thechaplaincy.net

COVENANT MISSIONS WILL BE FINANCED BY FAITH PROMISE IN 2027!

The Mission Team will **NOT** receive funds for their work from Covenant's Operating Fund.

To help support the work of the Mission Team you are asked to make a Faith Promise.

Faith Promise Giving is a pledge to further God's work in missions as God leads you and provides for you.



Faith Promise Giving is NOT:

- * what we give in Stewardship, such as tithes and offerings.
- * sacrificial giving that happens in times of great need or compassion.

Faith Promise Giving IS: a spiritual agreement with God to give a specific amount to missions, in faith that He will provide the means to fulfill the commitment.

Your Faith Promise Giving will provide funds the Mission Team needs to continue supporting God's work in Fort Wayne, Dallas & Kenya (Missionaries Caleb & Amy Cox and Michael Agwanda, Inasmuch Ministry, Forgotten Stones, Rising Stars, Life for Children Ministry, Food Bank)

What won't change?

- ⇒ You may still make donations to designated ministries - be sure to indicate where you want your donation to go
- ⇒ Special offerings will still be collected (Lenten Offering for Project 216, UMCOR Sunday and Christmas Offering)

To ensure your donation goes to Faith Promise, simply indicate "Faith Promise" on a check memo line, or donate online at covenantumc.net

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Questions? Contact Barb Hering, Keith Hering or Pastor Chris.

Looking for a place to serve?

- ⇒ **Inasmuch Ministry** (930 Broadway; inasmuchfw.org)
- ⇒ **Forgotten Stones Day Shelter** (930 Broadway; contact Mary Ann at forgottenstonesfortwayne@gmail.com)
- ⇒ **Lincoln School** (1001 East Cook Rd; barbherring@gmail.com)
- ⇒ **A Baby's Closet** (621 East Wayne; associatedchurches.org)
- ⇒ **FWCS Clothing Bank** (1511 Catalpa St; fortwayneschools.org/families/community/clothing-bank)
- ⇒ **Erin's House** (5670 YMCA Park Dr. W; info@erinshouse.org)
- ⇒ **Kate's Kart** (10376 Leo Road, Suite A; kateskart.org)

Contact the specific ministry you may have an interest in by visiting the shown websites.

Rummage Sale Wrap Up



Thank you to all for the donations to the Rummage Sale which was very successful raising \$3,580 with some items still being listed online for sale. This money was added to the Faith Promise Funds. In addition, the donated quilts for the silent auction raised over \$450 for Bashor Quilts which will be used for supplies for future Bashor quilts.

June Quarterly Distribution of Faith Promise Funds



During the 2026 second quarter, \$9,146 was donated to Faith Promise. With the \$3,580 from the Rummage Sale the Mission Team distributed the funds as follows:

Missionaries Caleb & Amy Cox \$1,400;	UMCOR \$1,604
Missionary Michael Agwanda \$925;	Food Bank \$1,040
Inasmuch Ministry \$1,773;	Forgotten Stones \$1,300
Life for Children Orphans \$693;	Bashor Home \$591

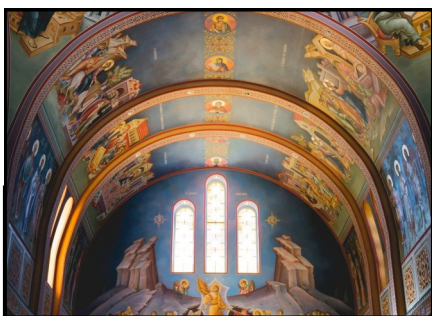
The remaining funds were held back for future use for Rising Stars, Life for Children Ministry Projects, Mission Guatemala and a Reserve Account.

Questions? Contact Keith Hering at khering2@gmail.com



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 6/30/26)

Every summer while working for Cru, we have a summer assignment. This summer, part of my (Amy's) assignment was taking a Cru seminary class, Global Church History. I truly look forward to taking these classes as they encourage and help equip me for ministry. Global Church History so far has been an overview of the church as it has moved throughout the world and how it has grown and expanded on every continent.



The Greek Orthodox Church
Amy visited

I tend to think of the history of the church being primarily based in Europe, however this class highlighted how the gospel has moved forth into all of the world. We learned about the history of the church in each specific continent. It was encouraging to see how God's plan for the church is truly for every person in every language on every continent. It was also cool to see how individual pastors and missionaries positively influenced the growth of the church.

During the class, one of our assignments was to visit an orthodox church. I visited a Greek Orthodox church. This church was unique and

different from the church we attend. I loved being able to see how the church has a holy reverence for God and his word. They had many traditions that were also beautiful to experience as well like a 40 day ceremony to dedicate babies. Overall, it was a unique experience and one that helped me see that Western Christianity is only a small part of God's kingdom throughout the world and over time.

The rest of the summer, we are excited to be raising some support and continuing our summer Cru meetings with our students as we prepare for the upcoming school year! Thank you so much for partnering with us!

Caleb and Amy Cox



Caleb, Amy and
Julia Cox



Summer Cru

PAST - Praise God for the seminary class we are taking this summer and for the change of pace that summer brings.

PRESENT - Pray for our students who just attended our Rocky Mountain Getaway in Colorado this week. Pray that they would continue to be refreshed as they come home.

FUTURE - Pray for our student leaders who we are working with to start Cru up in the fall. Pray for our summer Cru meetings, that students would bring friends who are not able to attend during the year.

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



Roger Reece, Executive Director of Associated Churches, has reported that \$22,000 was raised thru the 5K Run, Walk, Ruck to help support their many ministries.

Visit associatedchurches.org for a list of ministries.

For more information on what the Mission & Outreach Team is doing or to become involved with the team contact:

Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com.
We welcome your interest, ideas and questions!