



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

September 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept.: "Rub-a-Dub-Dub" personal care items for the food bank

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



An update on what you have done in the last few months with your generous giving!

The total donations raised for UMCOR Sunday, which helps to cover administrative costs, was \$4,746!

VBS participants gave offerings which totaled \$300 and were sent to the FWCS Clothing Bank!

132 wipe off markers and 38 boxes of tissues were donated to Lincoln School!

In July, 99 cans of meat and a variety of other foods were donated to the Gethsemane Lutheran Associated Churches Food Bank.

The Faith Café Sunday School Class donated diapers, baby clothes, bibs and more to A Mother's Hope!

You have made a difference in so many lives! THANK YOU!!

COVENANT MISSIONS WILL BE FINANCED BY FAITH PROMISE GIVING IN 2027!



The Mission Team will NOT receive funds for their work from the money you pledge to the annual Stewardship Drive for the church's Operating Fund. Your tithes and offerings will be used for church programming, salaries for staff members, upkeep of the parsonage, church building maintenance, supplies, etc.

To help support the work of the Mission Team you are asked to make a Faith Promise along with your annual pledge to the Operating Fund.

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 and Kenya (Missionaries Caleb & Amy Cox and Michael Agwanda, Inasmuch Ministry, Forgotten Stones, Rising Stars, Life for Children Ministry, Food Bank). The Mission Team will make the determination of where the funds you've provided through Faith Promise will be used.

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)

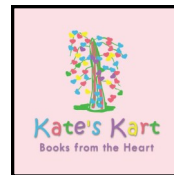
To ensure your donation goes to Faith Promise, simply indicate "Faith Promise" on a check memo line, or donate online at covenantumc.net

"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.

Kate's Kart Report & Need

Report: Thank you to everyone who made Kate's Kart's 2026 Ice Cream Social a huge success! The event raised \$159,637.55!



Need: 24 pack of Crayola Crayons and 12 or 24 pack Crayola colored pencils. Please be aware that they are asking for the Crayola Brand and specific number per package. Leave your donations at the Mission Collection Center. Each month 750 boxes of crayons and 400 boxes of colored pencils are given away!

By the Numbers as of July 1, 2026: 561,128 total books distributed to 26 hospitals in 17 counties Throughout NE Indiana and NW Ohio with 49 Karts filled and pushed by volunteers and hospital staff

How You Can Get Involved: Visit kateskart.org/get-involved to learn of the many ways you can help.



Covenant Missions will be funded in 2027 by your Faith Promise Giving:
Faith Promise is an agreement that, as God provides, you will give a specific amount on a monthly or weekly basis to missions.

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."
- John Wesley



Important information about donations to the FWCS Clothing Bank!

What happens to the clothes taken to the clothing bank?

1. All clothes used by the clothing bank are laundered & given to students & their families in need as requested by school case managers. Remember, all underwear and socks must be new to be given to students!
2. If the clothes can't be used for any reason they are sent to Inasmuch Ministry.
3. If Inasmuch Ministry can't use the clothing they are loaded on a semi and taken to a recycling facility on the east coast.

This means you can donate clothing in any condition because if not usable the cloth will be recycled.

Questions? Contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

Blood Drive at Covenant September 26!

Mark your calendar now and be part of the life saving blood drive on Sept. 26 from 8:00-12:30!



- ◇ When you give, others live!
- ◇ Blood is needed every day of the year.
- ◇ There is no substitute for blood.
- ◇ Your donation can save up to three lives!
- ◇ There is a critical need for blood because of a nationwide shortage!!!!

Questions or to signup: contact Gina Loomis at 438-2801 or sam-gina@frontier.com



October is Covenant's month to provide volunteers at Associated Churches Food Bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church

(1505 Bethany Ln., off North Clinton St.)

A huge THANK YOU to all the past faithful volunteers!

Now volunteers are needed this October on October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 8:45 - 11:45

You choose the day you can help!

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Shannon Clever at

shannon_clever@yahoo.com or (260) 312-5443



September Collection:
Donate personal care items:

Soap, Deodorant, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Shampoo, Conditioner, Tooth Brushes & Toothpaste, etc.
Donations will be delivered to the Food Bank.



Northrop students LOVE donations of INDIVIDUALLY packaged snacks for their Peace Room: chips, pretzels, cookies, crackers, pop tarts, energy bars, etc. You have been extremely generous in your donations and they are appreciated!!



Social Justice in Action

We, at Covenant United Methodist Church, believe that being actively involved in social justice is a call upon each and every one of us as United Methodists.

We believe, as *The Book of Resolutions* states, that "God's love for the world is an active and engaged love...", and it is our responsibility to act upon that love.

What is the difference between Missions and Social Justice?

- We already have a very active Mission Team which offers many ways to serve and to help those in need. Missions emphasizes meeting immediate, tangible needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and basic care for individuals and communities
- Social justice, in contrast, focuses on changing the systems and structures that create barriers to human dignity and opportunity. It addresses the root causes of inequality, such as systemic poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education or healthcare and unjust laws.

What does scripture say about Social Justice?

- Jeremiah 22:3 *"Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor."*
- Proverbs 31:8-9 *"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."*
- Michah 6:8 *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord requires of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."*

Throughout the New Testament we read about Jesus' life and ministry and how he showed a deep concern for the poor, the sick, and the outcast. He fed the hungry, healed the blind, defended women's rights, and challenged the rich and powerful to give to the needy. His parables often addressed themes of mercy, fairness and the Kingdom of God's priorities. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus declares His Mission: *"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed to proclaim the of the Lord's favor."*

A new team has been established at Covenant - the Social Justice in Action Team. This team is interested in being educated and in educating the congregation about issues they feel are important. The team realizes they can't tackle all of the problems and will be discerning what 2-3 issues to focus on.

Our next team meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 at the church. If you choose to attend, you are not obligated to any further participation.

[Click here to receive Covenant's Social Justice in Action newsletter](#) for the latest information delivered straight to your inbox.

Questions? Contact Pastor Allison Yankey at pastorallison@covenantumc.net.



In 2027 Covenant Missions will be funded by your Faith Promise Giving :

Faith Promise Giving is NOT sacrificial giving that happens in times of great need or compassion.

Mark your calendar now!

Project 216 Food Packing Event is
Saturday, November 7 from 8:30-noon!

Signups will be available starting in October.
You won't want to miss this fun way to serve!



Lincoln Elementary School - how Covenant welcomed teachers and staff back on August 10



- * 25 volunteers helped at the Lincoln work day - cutting, sorting, stapling, sharpening pencils, prepping classroom materials, and preparing Survival Kits
- * provided individually wrapped snacks - breakfast bars, pop tarts, pretzels, trail mix, cheese sticks & oranges
- * teachers and office staff members were given Survival Kits which included a **Paper Clip** to keep things organized; a **Rubber Band** as a reminder to stay flexible; a **Band Aid** to mend hurt feelings; a **Nickle** to have the "cents" to realize how valuable they are; a **Crayon** to color their days; **Lifesavers** because THEY are a life saver to many children; **Starburst candy** for a boost of energy; a **Pen** to jot down all the reasons they're amazing; **Chocolate kisses** for stress relief and to know they are loved & appreciated; **Tissues** to wipe away any tears, theirs & their students; **Marbles** to replace ones they've lost; and a **Prayer card** to start their day
- * 132 wipe off markers and 38 boxes of tissues were donated
- * invitations to attend the "Blessing of the Backpacks" services and church picnic were distributed
- * offers of classroom help were placed in teacher's mailboxes
- * volunteers are writing encouraging notes monthly to an assigned teacher

For information on how you can become involved at Lincoln, contact Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com.



Covenant member Barb Clark's report on her mission trip to Asheville, N.C.

"On July 11th my husband, Perry, and I, along with 25 men, women and youth (ages 7-79), from Auburn First United Methodist Church travelled to Asheville, North Carolina to assist with repairing the damage from Hurricane Helene, which occurred in September 2024.

We worked along side Jennifer and Josef, who had emigrated from Israel with the dream of creating their 4-acre homestead. In the 10 years since their arrival they built a home, an Airbnb, a chicken coop with 30 chickens, honey bee hives, 38 raised gardens and a high tunnel (like a greenhouse but built of steel instead of wood and the plastic is thinner and can be partially raised). In a matter of a few hours it was all destroyed and they, their dog and duck had to climb a steep mountain to escape the raging mud and water.

While we were there, we celebrated Josef's 42nd birthday which was very special because he had suffered a cardiac arrest following multiple hornet stings on his last birthday. The biggest blessing with all that had happened to them is that they found God and Jesus. We all benefitted from getting to know them. Our jobs included levelling the creek bottom, building a path to the creek, replacing fence posts and fencing, firing the wood to make it last longer for the raised gardens, cleaning and organizing the car port, weeding and fertilizing the gardens and securing the high tunnel.

We also worked at three other sites which included: cleaning the basement of a school which suffered from 15 feet of mud and water, sorting 10,000 books and painting walls at a church, gardening at a Veterans' Center. It was amazing to see that somethings were back to normal and others were in the same state of destruction as last year."

To learn more contact Barb Clark at barbaraclark04091947@gmail.com.



Jennifer & Josef

The Three Parts of Faith Promise Giving

1. Faith Promise Giving acknowledges everything in the Christian life requires **FAITH** in order to be pleasing to God.
2. Faith Promise Giving is simply a **PROMISE** to give to God a certain amount of money on a consistent basis over and above the tithe.
3. Faith Promise Giving is just that, **GIVING** financially to missions – local & international.





Forgotten Stones - Making the Homeless Known

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.

Where did the name "Forgotten Stones" come from?

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

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of God's Kingdom. Built upon Him are believers, each one like a stone placed with purpose to form something strong and lasting. Yet too often, some of these stones are overlooked, rejected, or forgotten by the world. Forgotten Stones exists to serve those people.

In Fort Wayne, we walk alongside our neighbors experiencing homelessness, many of whom are unseen and dismissed by society.

We believe they are not forgotten by God. They are living stones, created with value and meaning, meant to be restored and placed where they belong within God's Kingdom.

Our mission is to find those forgotten stones, remind them of their worth in Christ, and help rebuild lives through compassion, dignity, and hope so that together we can build God's Kingdom as He intended."

Written by Luke Williams, who was a senior at Carroll High School when he did his senior internship at Inasmuch Ministry in the fall of 2024. At this time Inasmuch was preparing to house their first homeless person with income and Forgotten Stones was started as a separate entity from Inasmuch Ministry. Luke was given the assignment of naming the new organization since he had already been interacting with many of the unhoused and had heard their stories. He presented the name Forgotten Stones for 2 reasons. First, Jesus is the Corner Stone and wants all of us (stones) to come under His love, mercy and grace. Secondly, think of society as being like a stone fence (foundational) the homeless are not part of that structure, though they should be, they are forgotten.

SERVICES OF FORGOTTEN STONES:

Housing: Individuals experiencing homelessness who have a source of income can collaborate with Forgotten Stones to obtain safe and stable housing.

Circles: A community driven program empowering individuals by providing lessons in budgeting, financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and other essential skills to help them rise out of poverty.

<https://www.circlesoffallencounty.org/>

Employment: Forgotten Stones collaborates with each person to create a tailored professional resume and provide support during the process.

Social Security Signup: Helps individuals enroll for their Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

Day Shelter: Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am-11am, provides a secure environment where each client can embark on their healing journey by connecting with representatives from on-site community social service agencies. They start to foster a sense of community through participation in activities, sharing meals, and supporting one another. Every day, lives are transformed!

Representative Payee: Safeguards individuals by managing their finances and ensuring prompt bill payments while also offering guidance on effective money budgeting techniques.

To learn more about Forgotten Stones visit forgottenstones.org



Your pledge and faithful giving to Faith Promise Giving allows the Mission Team to continue supporting Forgotten Stones and the work they are doing.



Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received July 26)

Every summer, we take high schoolers to Estes Park, Colorado for Rocky Mountain Getaway. Getaway is our annual summer conference where we join hundreds of students and staff in Cru high school ministries across the country.



Plano students at Getaway

This conference gives students a chance to step away from the distractions of everyday life, grow in their relationship with Christ, and be equipped to live out their faith. Through worship, Biblical teaching, breakout sessions, and training sessions, students were challenged to know Jesus more deeply and boldly share him with others.

One of the highlights of the week is evangelism. After spending the week growing in their faith and learning how to share the gospel, we took them into the community to put it into practice. Stepping out in faith, they initiated 481 spiritual conversations. They

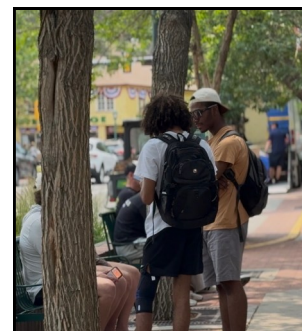
shared the gospel with 100 people and saw 27 people place their faith in Christ!

Seeing firsthand how God used them during evangelism gave students greater confidence that he can work through them. They returned home excited to take new steps of faith! They are eager to see how God will use them as they share Christ with their families, teammates, classmates, and friends throughout the school year.

As always, thank you for partnering with us to reach students for Christ and equip them to share his love with others!



Caleb, Amy and
Julia Cox



Students sharing the
gospel in Estes Park

Caleb and Amy Cox

PAST -

Praise God for bringing 27 people into a relationship with him through evangelism at Getaway!

PRESENT -

Pray for the students who went to Getaway to keep investing in their relationship with Jesus. Pray that he would be their first love.

FUTURE -

Pray for us as school starts on August 11 and we start Cru up again. Pray that God would bring new students to Cru to learn about him and grow in their relationship with him.

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



Faith Promise Giving - how Missions will be funded in 2027.

Faith Promise is NOT what we give in Stewardship such as tithes and offerings.

Faith Promise IS giving over and above the tithe.

Lincoln School has asked for:

- ⇒ **PRAYERS**
 - ⇒ Black EXPO dry erase markers
 - ⇒ Tissues, are needed throughout the school year
- Leave items at the Mission Collection Center.

