



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct.:** "Socktober" - Sock drive for FWCS Clothing Bank
- Oct.:** "Bake Someone Happy"
- Nov.:** Christmas Angel Projects
- * Byron gifts & "Share the Feast" Food Collection
- Nov. 7:** Project 216 Event
- Dec.:** Christmas Angel Projects
- * CASA Gifts
 - * Christmas Offering
- Dec. 12:** Covenant Craft Show



October Food Bank Donation

"Bake Someone Happy" with Pantry Items:
flour, sugar, Crisco,
baking powder, baking soda,
salt, or mixes for cakes, muffins,
cookies or brownies

Project 216 Food Packing Event!

Help pack more meals than we've ever packed at
Covenant's Project 216 Food Packing Event
Saturday, November 7 from 8:30-noon



Signup now at the Welcome Desk or at Covenantumc.net

Where the name "Project 216" comes from:

- ⇒ Every box that is shipped contains **216 meals**.
- ⇒ Every 2 hours each volunteer will pack an average of **216 meals**
- ⇒ **James 2:16** "If one of you says to those in need, 'Go in peace, keep warm and well fed' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

Each meal provides all the vitamins and minerals a child needs for a day. The food Covenant packs on November 7 will be sent to Mission of Hope in Haiti and to Inasmuch Ministry in Fort Wayne.

We need at least 120 people to help with the packing. All ages are encouraged to participate (those younger than 7 should be accompanied by an adult). Child care will be available for very young children.

Signups are required to allow set up of enough assembly lines.

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at janet.hall60@gmail.com

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

In 2027 the Mission Team will not receive a portion of the church's Operating Fund.

To support the work of the Mission Team you will be asked to complete a Faith Promise Giving Commitment Card 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, UMCOR, and other needs as they arise).

What won't change?

- ⇒ You may still make donations to designated ministries - indicate where you want your donation to go
- ⇒ We will still collect a Lenten Offering for Project 216, an offering for UMCOR Sunday and a Christmas Offering

?S Contact Barb Hering (barbhering@gmail.com / 414-2907) or Keith Hering (khering2@gmail.com / 414-0546)

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)



Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) strengthen United Methodist response to humanitarian crises around the world through disaster relief & recovery, migrant & refugee support, environmental sustainability, agriculture & food security.

In 2026 UMCOR has continued to respond to disaster relief across the globe with grants for immediate relief, including safe drinking water & water storage containers; emergency food assistance; hygiene & cleaning kits; flashlights, batteries, & other essential emergency supplies; and direct assistance to older adults, people with disabilities, families with children & other vulnerable populations.

In 2026 UMCOR has been involved in the following disaster relief across the United States:

- In **Puerto Rico**, drought conditions combined with issues from dated infrastructure led to water shortages and emergency water rationing measures across the island.
- In **West Virginia** heavy rain caused severe flash flooding damaging roads, homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure.
- On March 6 at least three tornadoes impacted communities in **Michigan** causing the deaths of at least four people and damaging homes and livelihoods.
- In mid-March **Hawaii** was impacted by two major Kona Low storms that dropped more than 52 inches of rain over two weeks, resulting in hundreds of emergency rescues, thousands of power outages and evacuations, and millions of dollars in damages.
- In April thousands of acres burned in the southern part of **Georgia**, destroying homes and causing air quality issues across the region.
- In mid-June, southern **Mississippi** experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, and widespread flooding associated with Tropical Storm Arthur. More than 500 homes were damaged.
- In mid-June the Upriver Fire in **Spokane County, Washington**, began to quickly spread across the region, rapidly burning through acreage and displacing thousands of residents.
- In late June **Kentucky and Tennessee** were impacted by severe flash flooding.
- The people of the **Texas** Hill Country experienced another deadly flash flooding event a year after communities in the region were still recovering from the devastating July 4, 2025 Guadalupe River Flood.
- In late-July Eastern **Wisconsin** was hit by a destructive tornado, bringing heavy winds, rain, and baseball-sized hail causing widespread damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure.

The disasters listed here cover just over 6 months of 2026. There are more natural disasters that have occurred or are now occurring in the U.S. and around the world since the writing of this article and UMCOR is responding!

How can you help?

- ⇒ Your donations to Faith Promise Giving allows the Mission Team to use a portion of that money to send to UMCOR of which 100% will be used to fund relief for those in need.
- ⇒ Write a check to Covenant and indicate "UMCOR" on the memo line (100% of your donation will be used to help those in need).
- ⇒ Give to UMCOR directly at gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/active-missions and choose a specific project where you want your gift to be used.

To learn more about UMCOR visit umcmmission.org

Faith Promise Giving is just that, GIVING financially to missions - to support, aid those in need and spread God's love locally and internationally. We are to give generously, joyfully, and sacrificially because Christ first gave himself for us.





"God and Country" Movie at Covenant on October 20 at 6:00pm



Join us in the sanctuary for a screening of the independent documentary *God & Country* presented in partnership with Hoosiers United. The film explores the rise of Christian nationalism and invites us to consider what happens when faith and political power become intertwined. Following the film, we'll gather for refreshments and conversation about what we've seen, what it means for our communities, and how people of faith can engage thoughtfully in the world around us.

Questions? Contact church members
Key Beemer (260-467-0007) or
Eric Beemer (260-479-9195)

"Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.⁹ Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor." Proverbs 31: 8-9 CEB

OUT OF A JAM

Out of a Jam is a local nonprofit that has been helping feed the greater Fort Wayne area, while helping individuals find a path to success. Paula & Bernie Kaufman have a mission to provide food to people who might not know where their next meal is coming from.



Out of a Jam
Feed, Nourish & Transform

"When COVID hit, we knew that there was going to be a great need," Paula said. "There was an abundance of food that was being thrown away, so we started to rescue that food. We turned it into 2-pound ready-to-eat meals that are high protein, moderate carbohydrates, lots of vegetables, low in sodium and sugar and fat, all of those kind of things."

Whether it's at the VA hospital, Purdue Fort Wayne, or helping church pantries, Paula and Bernie are committed to helping the community.

How does "Out of a Jam" do it? They...

- ... **find the food** by working with grocers, restaurants, event centers, farmers, food suppliers, food banks
- ... **gather the food** by collecting it and organizing the food items safely in their warehouse
- ... **make delicious meals** from the rescued food with a highly skilled and safety certified team
- ... **feed the community thru partnerships** with churches, schools, food banks and community organizations

Other programs at Out of a Jam

- "Shop, Cook & Eat!" is a program to teach busy parents how to shop wiser, cook more often and quicker to eat better. Each 2-3 hour class teaches how to plan, prep and prepare delicious meals.
- "Feeding Fort Wayne Kids" uses a hands-on approach to create lifelong healthy habits by exposing kids to nutritious foods in a fun and engaging way

Meal prepping is done on Mondays & Tuesdays from 9-11:30 and meal packaging is done on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 at 2310 Weisser Park Ave. [Sign up to volunteer here](#). Covenant members, Nikki Miller, Janet Hall, and Terry Pargmann have participated in both the prepping and packaging of meals.

To learn more visit outofajamfw.org or contact Covenant member, Nikki Miller at Nicole.miller@frontier.com



2027 Missions at Covenant will be financed by **Faith Promise Giving** which is a promise to give a certain amount of money on a consistent basis over and above the tithe to Missions.

Don't forget to sign-up now for the
Project 216 Food Packing Event on
Saturday, November 7 from 8:30-noon!



Signup at the Welcome Center or online
at Covenantumc.net

You won't want to miss this fun way to serve!



Join the students at Lincoln School in collecting NEW socks of all sizes and colors for the FWCS Clothing Bank during October.

Small or BIG or even in-between or **Orange** or **Blue** Socks.

As long as they are **NEW** socks!

Leave donations in the marked box at the Mission Collection Center

Faith Promise Giving

is simply away to glorify God by giving to Missions, over and above your tithe to Covenant, to partner with God in making Jesus known to all people through your love and caring.



Appeal for Street Boys Feeding Program Funding from Life for Children Ministry

The following is from an email from Life for Children Ministry:

"Dear Friends and Partners,

Our Street Boys Feeding Program in Kisumu continues to be one of the most impactful ministries we offer. Every Wednesday night, the LCM staff reach out to these vulnerable boys who sleep on benches, in alleys, and in open spaces throughout Kisumu and provide them with bread and milk. On Sundays the boys attend the LCM-sponsored worship service and receive a hot meal, encouragement, and the assurance that they are seen and loved.

Right now, the program is facing a serious financial shortfall. We currently have \$600 in the account, but it requires \$1,200 each month to provide consistent meals, basic hygiene items, and the fellowship these boys depend on.

Michael shared that the funds are nearly depleted, and without additional support, we will be forced to reduce or pause the weekly feeding - something none of us want to see happen. If God places this need on your heart, would you consider helping sustain the program this month? A gift of any size - \$25, \$50, \$100, or more - will go directly toward feeding boys who often have no other source of nourishment.

Your generosity keeps this ministry alive. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to show Christ's love in practical, life-changing ways.

With gratitude, Life for Children Ministry"



Street boys scavenging for food

[Donate to the Street Boy Feeding Program](#) or donate to Covenant, indicate LCM, or donate to Faith Promise Giving to provide funding for Life for Children Ministry and the work they do.



Northrop's Peace Family Lunch Table

School is back in session which means its time for the monthly Peace Family Lunch Table. Caring and concerned adults meet monthly in Northrop's common area during the lunch hours. During that time tables are set up with candy and questions for students to answer. Many students visit the table - some engage with the adults and some don't, but that's ok because the reason we're there is to show we care about them.

You've donated the snacks now it's time to meet the students. Join the group from Covenant and other churches on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:45 (first lunch is at 10:00) until noon. You do not need a background check to participate but you must show your I.D. in the school office when you arrive.

[If interested, please sign up here.](#) If you have questions, contact Covenant member Mary Lee at mlee6611@gmail.com

Mary Lee & Barb Clark
at the Sept. Lunch Table

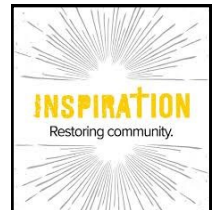




BECOME A MENTOR with **JOURNEY BESIDE MOTHERS** - a ministry of Associated Churches
You can make a meaningful impact in the lives of local mothers with infants and young children by mentoring with Journey Beside Mothers!
Please click [here](#) to contact Journey Beside Mothers for more info!

Heritage House Serving Opportunities

Heritage House, a part of Inspiration Ministries, is a recovery residence for men. Located at 1825 W. Shoaff Road on property owned by Ben Mains, a Covenant member, who is very involved with the House and is employed by the ministry. Ben has expressed a need for volunteers to interact with the residents and build relationships with them on weekends.



Residents go to church on Saturday night & Sunday morning but their weekends are pretty empty. During the week the residents' time is taken up with jobs and classes. Here are some ideas Ben has suggested:

1. **Birthday Celebrations** - provide a requested dessert for the house to celebrate a resident's birthday
Contact [Covenant member, Nikki Miller](#), if you want to learn more and help with the celebrations.
1. **Pantry Manager** - work with a resident on a regular basis, maybe once a week for 30-40 minutes to keep the pantry organized, identify needed items and ones that are getting old and need to be used
2. **Car Purchaser** - Reliable transportation is a big hurdle for the residents transitioning to independence. There is money available to purchase cars, but there's a need for someone with experience willing to find the most reliable cars under \$4k.
3. **Recreation / Hobby Mentors** - mentors are needed to share their time, hobbies and recreations with the men. For ex: golfing, fishing, woodworking, bike riding, painting, ping pong, playing sports (basketball, pickleball, disc golf, etc.), playing board games & card games, photography, and more.

If interested in learning more, contact Ben Mains at Benjamin.mains@heritagemission.org or 260-444-9112.

Rise & Shine
It's breakfast time

In August Covenant took the following to Gethsemane Lutheran Food Bank:

- 56 boxes of cereal,
- 17 boxes of instant oatmeal,
- 16 cartons of shelf stable milk,
- 17 boxes of pop tarts,
- 21 boxes of pancake mix,
- 17 bottles of syrup
- 7 jars of peanut butter



Thank you for making a difference!

MISSION MOMENTS

MISSION MOMENTS ARE NOW ONLINE!

View the monthly Mission Moment online at covenantumc.net below the Mission Newsletter link.
A huge **THANK YOU** to Pat Clouse (writer & drama coach), Ron Miller (Chett Champion) and Greg Krempel (technical expert). Please take time to offer your thanks to them.



Faith Promise Giving takes God at His word and gives accordingly. Such faith enables us to keep our promises even when it seems humanly or economically impossible and is demonstrated by consistent giving even in hard times.



Recipes for Forgotten Stones

For the people Forgotten Stones have housed or even people who have been housed a long time, cooking may be a challenge so Forgotten Stones is assembling a cookbook of recipes of

5 or less ingredients (salt and pepper don't count), to distribute

Please keep the ingredients to ones that are easily purchased or aren't terribly expensive.

If you have a recipe of 5 or fewer ingredients to share, email it to rental@forgottenstones.org or iamvolunteer@inasmuchfw.org. You may include your name (if you'd like), an inspirational quote or verse or something encouraging, or even where you got the recipe.





Caleb & Amy's Adventures in Ministry with Cru (received 9/18/26)

The school year has started up again, and we are so grateful to be in our 11th year of ministry! We have started getting into our rhythms including weekly meetings, sports chapels, and Bible studies. One particularly cool way that we have watched the Lord work this year is drawing students into our ministry seemingly out of nowhere.



Making crafts at our 1st Cru meeting of the school year

We had a huge class of students who graduated last year. This included all of our leaders for our Monday night Cru meeting. However, we have seen the Lord raise up 10 new leaders. Most of these leaders have invited their friends to Cru. We have seen over 60 students at our weekly meetings, the vast majority of which have never come before. While we don't believe ministry is about numbers, we feel encouraged that the Lord is continuing to work and draw students to us, so that he can ultimately draw them closer to himself.

In personal news, I (Amy) am currently 31 weeks pregnant. We will be expecting another girl, in November. We would love and appreciate your prayers that the baby continues to grow safely and that we would both be safe through labor and delivery.

We are currently taking some time before the baby comes to focus on raising more financial support for our growing family. We would also appreciate your prayers as we trust God for \$1,500 a month in new support to make up for lost partners. We are so grateful to have a team of people behind us praying for us and supporting our ministry with Cru! Thanks so much for your sacrifice!

Caleb and Amy Cox

PAST -

Praise God for a new school year and all he is going to do this year.

PRESENT -

Pray for our current pregnancy. Pray that the baby is healthy and safe.

FUTURE -

Pray for us as we seek to raise more financial support, continue the school year, and prepare for our transition with our baby in November!

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



Caleb, Amy and Julia Cox



Amy, Julia and Caleb waiting for the new family member

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 with a donation to Covenant (indicating Caleb & Amy Cox) or visit give.cru.org/0864190



Faith Promise Giving is giving over and above the tithe, which is used for the local church and its ministries.

Faith Promise Giving will provide funds for the Mission Team to help support our missionaries (Michael Agwanda and Caleb & Amy Cox) and ministries determined by the Mission Team (Inasmuch Ministries, Forgotten Stones, Rising Stars, Life for Children Ministry, Food Bank, and other needs as they arise)