

Mission Spotlight

Glenn Stephens School Partnership

In May, Covenant Pen Pal volunteers gathered at Glenn Stephens School to meet their fifth-grade writing friends in person. They talked about summer plans, the end of the school year, and celebrated a school year of correspondence. One of the projects of Covenant's longstanding partnership with Glenn Stephens School, our pen pal program gives students the opportunity to polish their writing skills and to connect with a community member throughout the school year. Another project of the partnership is the Healthy Snack Initiative which provides a fruit snack for all students most months of the school year.

In the early days of the Covid pandemic, it became necessary to suspend these hands-on projects. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the Mission Committee was able to establish a Covid Fund that provided financial assistance to struggling families for groceries, rent, and utility payments to ensure students could continue to be online for classes.

While our healthy snack initiative remained on pause when in-person learning resumed in 2021, we were able to welcome the staff back to the building that fall with snacks for their workdays along with "welcome back to school" notes of encouragement from the congregation. We were also able to provide some financial assistance to families for emergency transportation and winter clothing.

The Pen Pal Program and the Healthy Snack Initiative are both back in full swing. They will continue this school year and we will again welcome staff back to school with snacks for their workdays.

In addition, this year the Mission Committee will conduct a **School Supply Drive from August 11–30**. School supplies have become increasingly expensive and are difficult for many families to purchase. If you would like to help with this effort, please bring school supplies to the gathering space in the narthex. Look for the wagon! A list of the most required supplies is in the yellow box.

With continued thanks,
Covenant's Mission Committee

School Supplies needed:

- Pencils (sharpened if possible)
- Spiral notebooks (1 subject/ wide-ruled)
- Crayons
- Pencil boxes
- Crayola washable markers (classic colors)
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors (Fiskars brand pointed kids' scissors preferred)
- Black sharpie permanent markers (fine tipped preferred)
- Dry Erase Markers (Expo preferred)
- Elmer's Glue bottles (4 ounce)
- Plain two-pocket plastic folders without prongs in multiple colors
- Composition books
- Backpacks big enough for a folder to fit in

Triangle Community Meal Monday, September 9

Would you like to help feed hungry people in Madison? Join us to provide dinner for the residents of the Triangle Community. There are multiple ways to become involved: grocery shopping, baking desserts, meal prep, and serving (and eating with) the residents. **Sign up at the Volunteer HQ bulletin board** right outside the sanctuary. Contact Frances Parker at frances@xlk9online.com with questions.

