

**First Presbyterian Church
of Murray, Kentucky**

2019

Alternative Christmas Gift Market



Catalog of Participating Organizations



In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" -Acts 20:35

Dear Friend,

Since its inception in 2003, the Alternative Christmas Gift Market has become a beloved tradition for members of First Presbyterian Church of Murray. Simply put, it helps us remember the true meaning of the Christmas Season. Sponsored by our Outreach Committee, this annual opportunity to give an "alternative" gift that benefits God's world and His children has become a favorite way to shop for friends and relatives who already seem to have everything. Alternative gifts may be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one and offer a unique way to give a meaningful gift that gives twice. Truly!

Sincerely, FPC Outreach Committee

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SEASON

With the Alternative Christmas Gift Market at First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky.

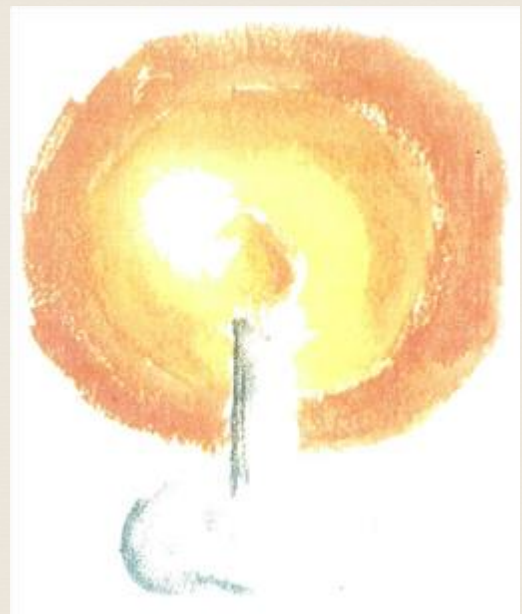
Donate to a selected charity (or several) from among those listed in this catalog, and then send gift announcement cards to let your friends, neighbors, teachers, or loved ones know that you have donated to a charity in their honor (or in memory of someone they love).

This catalog describes each of the gift opportunities available for your consideration. Simply select your favorite choices, fill out your order form, and bring it and your check to First Presbyterian Church. You will be given a lovely gift card that was created by Brenda Marquardt, a former member of First Presbyterian Church, to send to your gift recipient. Descriptions of individual charities will be available to include with your gift card.

Please make your check payable to "First Presbyterian Church". Contributions to each particular charity will be added together and sent to the charity as one large amount. Your donation will be recorded on your Quarterly Statement from the church.

Please review this catalog to find the gifts of healing and hope that speak most to you. Giving to others less fortunate is an integral part of Christianity. As believers, we strive to be imitators of God and give to others as He has given to us. God has so richly blessed each of us. Let us give Him thanks by generously sharing our resources.

Thank you for supporting our Alternative Christmas Gift Market!



*Candle of Light Gift Announcement Card
Designed by Brenda Marquardt*

"God is light; in God there is no darkness at all."

1 John 1:5

1. Lost But Loved (LBL) Animal Rescue (Local)

Cost: \$5.00



This organization rescues local shelter animals from euthanization by placing them in foster homes, here and as far away as Cape Girardeau and Nashville. The animals are fully vetted, spayed/neutered, and tested. They are treated for diseases such as parvo and heartworms. Bills for treatment can run as high as \$1,500. LBL also rescues abused and neglected horses, donkeys, pigs, birds, and other animals, returns them to health, finds foster homes, and then adopts them out. LBL educates the public on the importance of spaying/neutering pets, as well as the importance of ID tags and/or micro-chipping. They have rescued well-over 3,000 animals and they built and maintain the Dog Park in Murray. LBL offers the opportunity to plant trees in the Dog

Park in memory of a pet or a person. LBL works with the "Pilots and Paws" program to fly pets to their new home in other states. They rely completely on donations and do not receive any government funds or money from United Way. LBL consists of a small group of people who donate their time, homes, and weekends to help animals find forever homes. For more information, call Laura Jones at (270) 293-5180, email lblrescue@hotmail.com, or visit www.lblrescue.com.

2. Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Local)

Cost: \$5.00



The Pastor's Discretionary Fund helps provide assistance for local families in need. Our church works in collaboration with other churches and non-profit organizations in Calloway County to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing a financial crisis. These folks are referred to us by Need Line, an organization we greatly depend on to help those who are struggling. Some weeks we receive no referrals, yet other weeks we have received as many as ten. Utilizing the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we have been able to help people pay for their electric and gas bills, utility bills, and monthly rental payments. The relief these individuals feel when we tell them we are able to help is overwhelming and usually ends in tears of joy

and an exchange of a hug. This special time of year should be filled with joyful anticipation for the holidays. Sadly, we will see an increase of referrals due to extreme temperatures and higher-than-usual bills. Please consider donating to this fund so we may continue to help these precious families focus on the true meaning of Christmas, instead of worrying about making ends meet.

3. Soup for the Soul (Local)

Cost: \$5.00



Murray's Soup for the Soul, at 411 Maple Street in downtown Murray, serves hot meals for up to 100 people each weekday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Co-founded in June 2015 by Debbie Smith, the soup kitchen is housed in space provided by Murray Family Church and runs entirely on community donations and volunteer staff (including crews from First Presbyterian!). In addition to

nutritious dinners, Soup for the Soul offers a restaurant atmosphere that encourages conversation and fellowship. The soup kitchen welcomes everyone, not only low-income people. However, for many of the regular guests, Soup for the Soul provides their only hot meals of the week. Website: info@soup4thesoul.com

4. Medical Benevolence Foundation (International)

Cost: \$10.00



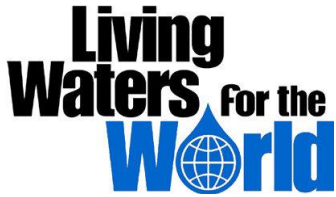
For over 50 years, Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) has been an ecumenical, Christ-centered organization dedicated to transforming lives by building sustainable medical ministries in developing countries. Through long-term partnerships, MBF equips indigenous churches with tools and resources that allow them to meet the health care needs of their community and share the Gospel. This translates into a set of medical ministries that serve the poorest of the poor in the developing world. In

the past, First Presbyterian, Murray, has provided MBF with funds for malaria nets, immunizations, hurricane

relief, moringa seeds and other items. Now MBF seeks funds for their “Greatest Needs,” which are the current critical needs in their sustainable medical ministries around the world. Funds are also sought for supplies and scholarships at Nursing Schools, for critical health services for women and children, such as delivery/pre and post-natal care, pre-natal vitamins and iron supplements. They also need funds for hospital and clinic support and development so they can train doctors and nurses, as well as repair decaying facilities, and to train medical staff in spiritual ministries. For more information, contact the Medical Benevolence Foundation at: MBF, P.O. Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090 or at www.mbfoundation.org.

5. Living Waters for the World (International)

Cost: \$10.00

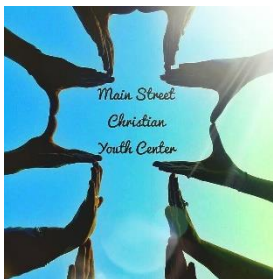


This organization serves as a resource to churches of all denominations and others in the mission field, enabling them to bring pure water to those in need and to empower their new partners in needy communities to purify their water on an on-going basis. Their goal is to provide simple, sustainable, affordable water purification systems for people in all parts of the world. They also work to train local leaders to provide health, hygiene, and spiritual education that stimulate the demand for and the

understanding of the benefits of purified water. In addition, LWFTW seeks to partner with recipient organizations to be responsible for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the water purification system. Living Waters for the World operates “Clean Water U”, a simulation experience that equips mission teams with the skills necessary to form partnerships with communities in need of clean water, install the water purification system, and equip local leaders to continue the effort. Three of our own church members have attended “Clean Water U”: Tim Belcher, Whitey Adams, and the late Betty Shepperson. For more information, contact: Living Waters for the World, 5016 Spedale Ct #399, Spring Hill, TN 37174, or at www.livingwatersfortheworld.org.

6. Main Street Youth Center (Local)

Cost: \$10.00



Located in Murray, the Main Street Youth Center is a community youth center open to children 7-18 years old, after school from 2:30-5:30 p.m. on MWF, and from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday nights. Its mission is to support and strengthen youth in body, mind, soul, and spirit. The children receive a meal each day of pizza, chips, and a drink. To meet their goal, MSYC offers recreational programs for children, including After School Outreach, Open Hours, Juvenile Community Service Hours, Dove Program, and Boys 2 Men. Their goal is to keep their doors open for the children. They served 100 individual children a week. No longer a United Way agency, MSYC needs generous local contributions to continue its mission. Its staff are all volunteers. It also needs funds to

add new and different games and play materials and replace others that wear out. Donations are also needed to buy healthy snacks. Prayers to keep the doors open are requested. For more information, call (270) 753-TEEN or David Hudspeth at (270) 293-2137 email: dh@murray-ky.net

7. Laundry Love

Cost: \$10.00



The Laundry Love Initiative been adopted across the country and consists of regular opportunities to come along side people who are struggling financially, assisting them with their laundry. Laundry Love partners with groups and local laundromats in washing clothes of low income or no income

families and individuals. Each of us understands the monumental task of getting laundry done for a family, or just for one individual. If no washer and dryer are available, the task grows even more daunting. The cost of providing clean clothes for a family is also a burden in some instances. This program was introduced to our community in 2018, to alleviate this burden for those of us who face this struggle. Our ministry is sponsored by three local churches and is offered on the last Monday of each month. All costs of washers and dryers, as well as detergent and softeners are provided. Volunteers staff this effort and as this program has evolved, so have friendships and a tremendous fellowship between our ‘family’ of community.

8. Neartown & Hertown Addiction Recovery Centers

Cost: \$10.00



Two new recovery centers for people struggling with alcohol dependency or drug addiction have opened in Calloway County. In January, 2019, Neartown, a retreat center for men first opened, and is located on Soldier Creek Road. Over 6,000 square feet, it has 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, a multipurpose room, twenty acres and a pond. It is not a formal, structured treatment center, but a retreat center where the spiritual dimensions of recovery can be enhanced and emphasized. Turning Point Ministries and Neartown Sober Living partnered to make the idea a reality. The second recovery center that opened in 2019 is called "Hertown", a sober living facility for women. It provides the same services as Neartown does for men. It is an eight women facility and is a six-month program, though it women to stay longer if they wish. Residents for either facility will have to have come out of at least a 30-day treatment facility or some other long term treatment. They also accept people out of a jail substance abuse program. As part of Neartown, Hertown will help teach women in recovery how to budget, save, and live a sober life. For more information visit neartownmurray.org.

9. Murray-Calloway County Homeless Coalition (Local)

Cost: \$10.00



The Murray-Calloway County Homeless Coalition is a nonprofit organization that opened the doors of a homeless shelter in a renovated dwelling at 118 S. 5th Street this past summer. This recently renovated house, named OpportUNITY House, provides five apartments that support the needs of the homeless in our community. The Coalition also has a goal of eventually building a tiny home community for those in need. OpportUNITY House provides shelter while that dream is in the planning phase. Approximately 16% of Calloway County's population is currently living in poverty. This facility is within just a few blocks of Soup for the Soul, the Weaks Center, and is within walking distance of some local schools, the library, as well as doctor's offices and the hospital. Jennifer Riley is the director of the Homeless Coalition.

10. CASA By The Lakes (Local)

Cost: \$15.00



CASA by the Lakes provides advocacy for abused and neglected children in our community. Family Court judges assign cases to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers, who research and report to the court their recommendations of the services, visitation plans, and placements that would be in the best interests of the children. CASA volunteers also offer encouragement, stability, and hope during a complex and critical time in the lives of these children. Volunteers continue to monitor each child's situation to ensure that safety and basic needs are being met, staying with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. 100% of the money donated to CASA by the Lakes stays in the local communities of Calloway and Marshall County. For more information on ways you can support CASA by the Lakes, visit the website at <http://casabythelakes.org/>

11. Doctors Without Borders (International)

Cost: \$20.00



This is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people in more than 70 countries who have been affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or human-made disasters, or exclusion from health care. Each year from all over the world, volunteer doctors, nurses, water-and-sanitation experts, logisticians and others depart on more than 3,800 aid missions. This organization is a non-governmental, non-profit group whose mission is to both provide emergency medical assistance and to bear witness publicly to the plight of the

people it assists. They are often one of the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency, and they hit the ground with specialized medical kits and equipment needed to immediately start saving lives. These international volunteers frequently work in the most dangerous or remote parts of the world, make themselves available on short notice, and usually dedicate 6 to 12 months to each assignment. www.doctorswithoutboarders.org

12. Heifer International/Honeybees (International)

Cost \$30.00



As you may already know, honeybees are in trouble due to environmental factors that are still being identified. Heifer International helps people in developing countries by teaching them new skills and providing materials. Given the die-off of honeybees in the U.S., it is even more important that we help strengthen their population in other parts of the world. Your gift will help provide a family from developing countries with bees, a box and hive, masks,

smokers, and brushes plus training in beekeeping. Because bees will pollinate crops on a family's farm, a healthy beehive can double fruit and vegetable yields. Income from the sale of honey, wax, and pollen can be put toward food, clothing, medicine, and education.

It is critically important that the number of healthy honeybees is stabilized around the world, so your sweet Christmas gift is helping in many different ways. For more information about Heifer International and its programs, call 1-877-663-1684 or visit www.heifer.org.