

The Outreach Committee of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Murray is pleased to present the Alternative Gift Catalog.

Opportunities to “shop” are available throughout the year. Consider this an opportunity to give meaningful gifts to those who do not really need anything, but to whom you want to remember with an “alternative” gift for Christmas, birthdays and other special events. The gifts benefit God’s world and God’s children both locally and around the world. We hope that many of you will take this opportunity to make donations to help the poor, sick, or needy through a gift given in the name of honored friends and/or family.

This on-line catalog describes each of twelve gift opportunities and includes a gift order form. A printed catalog and order form may be obtained by contacting the church office at 270-753-3824. To place an order, make your choices on the form and put in the dollar amount to be donated for each choice (the minimum amount for a choice is included in both the catalog and on the form), and include the name of the recipient and their address. If you wish to give alternative gifts for Christmas, your order form should be into the church office by January 6, 2020.

Please make out checks to “First Christian Church” with a line notation of Alternative Gift. Then, attach your check to the order form. The amounts specified on your order form will be sent to the charities you have chosen.

Search in this catalog for the projects that speak most to you. God has so richly blessed each of us. Let us give thanks by generously sharing our resources.

11. *West Kentucky Mentoring, Inc.* \$5



WKYM began August 2011, after providing services as Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Murray/Calloway County for 15 years. BBBS regional office discontinued services and dissolved the agency. Because our community had the support and resources available to continue mentoring services, local community leaders banded together to become the Board of Directors for a new agency (WKYM).

Mentees come into the program by referral or parent/guardian enrollment. Particular care is given to the preferences of the parent/guardian in the matching of the child with a caring, adult Mentor. The preferences of the Mentor are considered as well.

Mentors and Mentees, once matched, meet in a variety of sites: schools, churches, our office and homes. By building relationships, “together with like-minded community partners, volunteers, and parents/guardians, we aspire that each child in our program will develop higher personal goals, avoid risky behavior, and enjoy academic success while becoming persons of upstanding character.” Whether that happens eating lunch, playing games, helping with homework, or going to the park or the movies together, our goal is **changed lives**.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/West-KY-Mentoring-INC/128493427256309>

12. *Habitat for Humanity – Murray/Calloway* \$10



Murray Calloway County Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses then are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged. The late Rev. Dr. David Roos was an enthusiastic supporter of the Murray chapter of Habitat for Humanity. “When you give to Habitat you are investing in an unlimited future,” Roos stated at the dedication of one Habitat for Humanity home. He called donations to the program “not so much charity as capital and instead of a handout, a hand up. This is the better way in the long run for us all!”

<http://www.murraycallowayhabitat.org>

8. ***Soup for the Soul*** **\$10**



...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in...Matthew 25:35

Soup for the Soul is a place that anyone can come to get a warm meal and fellowship. It is operated by volunteers and donations from the community.

<https://www.facebook.com/Soup-for-the-Soul-1570512796528153/>
<https://www.soup4thesoul.org>

9. ***CASA by the Lakes*** **\$10**



A non-profit organization that recruits, trains, and supports quality volunteers whose mission is to advocate for the timely and safe placement of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers speak for the best interest of children in court and advocate for each child

to have a safe, permanent home. Volunteers also offer encouragement, stability, and hope during a complex and critical time in the lives of these children.

<http://casabythelakes.org/>

10. ***Week of Compassion*** **\$10**

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

CORE VALUES:

CONNECTION: Partner with individuals, congregations, and organizations to serve the needs of the world;

INTEGRITY: Honor the commitment to faithful stewardship; ensuring gifts entrusted to Week of Compassion are making the most impact

ACCOMPANIMENT: Embody God's grace by committing to a long-term presence with communities in need.

<http://www.weekofcompassion.org>



1. ***Murray's Kids Care For Hunger In Calloway*** **\$2**



Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit humanitarian organization with a mission to provide fully nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world...and around the corner. The goal of the organization is for the meals to provide a stable nutritional base from which recipient families can move their families from starvation or food insecurity to self-sufficiency AND to teach children at an early age the importance of helping others and to make the world a better place.

Murray's Kids... is a satellite of Kids Against Hunger and has the mission to feed the hungry people of Calloway County.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Murrays-Kids-Care-for-Hunger-Association-155182781164972/about/?ref=page_internal
<https://www.kidsagainsthunger.org/>

2. ***Murray Calloway County Homeless Coalition*** **\$10**

The Murray Calloway County Homeless Coalition is a relatively new organization in our community. It is working to share the love of God by providing shelter and life-skills training to underserved members of the Murray Calloway County community who need safe and secure shelter in order to improve their quality of life.



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

<https://www.facebook.com/Murray-Calloway-County-Homeless-Coalition-277931719502649/>

3. ***Church World Service*** **\$5**

Church World Service (CWS) was born in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission is to: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged and shelter the homeless. CWS is active in more than 30 countries globally (including the United States) eradicating hunger and poverty; promoting peace and justice; providing assistance to communities impacted by disaster; and providing clean, safe water.



<http://www.cwsglobal.org/>

4. ***Calloway County Adult and Family Education***
– Test fees **\$5**



The Adult Learning Center helps adults prepare for their GED and even for entrance exams for post-secondary education. Some of the students are unable to afford the cost of transportation, day care, and the test fees. This fund allows the Calloway County Adult Learning Center to provide scholarship monies for test fees to facilitate the student's dream of obtaining an education which will allow them to become a more productive member of society.

5. ***Main Street Youth Center*** **\$5**



Located in Murray, the Main Street Youth Center is a community youth center open to children 6-15 years old. Its mission for more than 25 years has been to support and strengthen youth in body, mind, soul, and spirit. To meet their goal, MSYC offers several programs. You may call 270-753-8336 for more information.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/mainstreetyouthcenter/about/?ref=page_internal

6. ***Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House***
\$10



The Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House began accepting patients in November 2016. It's mission is to serve terminally ill patients who will live in home-like rooms in the house. There are 6 patient rooms equipped to care for patients and their family. Each room has one twin size bed for a family member to stay with their loved one as well as a private, covered patio that allows the patient or family members to spend time outside.

Community contributions, both large and small, are necessary to continue this blessing to our community.

<https://www.murrayhospital.org/Service.aspx?PageID=384>
https://www.facebook.com/pg/AnnaMaeOwenHospiceHouse/about/?ref=page_internal

7. ***Starfish International*** **\$10**

Our mission is to uplift Gambian girls by providing them with a world-class education that is focused on service to humanity while at the same time providing international service-learning opportunities for our volunteers.

Our vision is to establish a state of the art Academy of Excellence that will provide the Gambian girl-child an exceptional education from pre-school to graduate school. Every participant in this endeavor, including administrators, teachers, volunteers, and students, will be motivated by the end goal of *service to humanity* and challenged to find effective ways of infusing service to others into their daily work.

Our values and the 5 Qualities highlighted in Starfish International are *Nobility, Independence, Courtesy, Knowledge, and Service*.

Director of Starfish, Mam-Yassin Sar, her family and two Gambian women traveled to Murray in 2018 to present a program on Starfish International and what this program can mean to the young women of The Gambia. Summer 2019, inspired by the story, two of our church members, Anna Thornton and Nina Natividad traveled to The Gambia to spend a month participating in both teaching as well as learning. It was a blessing for both.



<https://starfishinternational.org>

First Christian Church Of Murray

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First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
111 N. 5th St.
Murray, KY

Phone: 270-753-3824

Email: fcc@fccmurray.com

Web address: <http://www.fccmurray.com/>

