

2025

FFC

Christmas
Catalog

First Federated
Church of Peoria

3601 N Sheridan Road
Peoria IL 61604

2 Corinthians 9:7
tells us
"Each of you should give
what you have decided in
your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under
compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."

2025 Mission Committee

Sally Stone	Marylee Bales
Karen Henderson	Greg Johnston
Brenda Hendrick	Cheryl Resnick
Janet Vaughn	Theresa Pfeiffer

A Message from the
FFC Mission Committee

*Peace On Earth,
Good Will To All*

You hold a special catalog that can help you experience the true meaning of Christmas. Almost two hundred years ago Charles Dickens wrote in his classic *A Christmas Carol*, "A few of us are endeavoring to raise a fund to buy the poor some meat, drink and means of warmth. We choose this time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices".

As we look among our friends and family, we must surely feel blessed for God's gifts in our lives. Luke 12:48 tells us "To whom much is given, much will be required". Unfortunately, even in our community and certainly around the world, others have not been as blessed. We can share some of our good fortunes by assisting others in the Peoria community who need a helping hand, thus rekindling their light and ours.

Additional Information

First Federated's Christmas Catalog offers one of many ways for our members to "live their faith" by financially supporting agencies serving the less fortunate. Many of you also give of your time, and to you, we offer a heartfelt "thank you".

Mental health issues, especially among children, and food insecurity remain our community's most significant areas of concern. Therefore, your Mission Committee selected eight agencies with specific programs targeting these areas.

This is how the Christmas Special Offering works:

Read through the catalog descriptions, decide which organizations you want to support.

You may choose any number of agencies, up to 8. If you don't specify a recipient, your donation is equally divided among all 8.

You may use the selection page at the back of this catalog to make your choices, add the amount for each in the **\$** column. Add the total and your contact information.

Two Ways To Choose:

Complete the selection page at the back of this booklet, place in the included envelope and drop off or mail to the church.

Scan the QR code to visit our website, click the catalog selection link. Complete the form, click on submit.



Two Ways To Pay:

Include a check made out to First Federated Church for the total amount, include with your completed selection page at the back of this booklet, place in the included envelope and drop off or mail to the church.

Scan the QR code to visit our Vanco Giving page, click on Christmas Catalog cover. Complete Vanco donation page using your Christmas catalog total.



The Mission Committee recognizes that a favorite agency of yours may not be one of the 8 agencies listed. In that case, please write the agency name on your contribution form. We will make sure they receive your donation.

If you need assistance with making an electronic payment, reach out to Theresa Pfeifer at theresa.pfeiffer@eyefinity.com

Center for Prevention of Abuse

Focus: Mental Health

For over half a century, the Center for Prevention of Abuse has stood as a beacon of hope and safety for women, men, and children escaping the horrors of violence and abuse. Every day, individuals facing domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and exploitation of vulnerable adults find refuge and support through our comprehensive, free, and confidential services. These include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, therapy, medical and legal advocacy, and supportive housing – services that save lives and restore dignity.

But prevention is the key to breaking the cycle of violence before it starts. Our Violence Prevention Education program reaches into the heart of our community, delivering vital education to over 41,000 local students *annually* in more than 100 local schools, daycares, and summer programs. From pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, children and teens learn critical skills about bullying and cyberbullying, body safety, conflict resolution, and building healthy relationships. This early intervention fosters safer school environments, reduces classroom disruptions, lowers absenteeism, and supports higher academic achievement – laying the foundation for a peaceful, thriving future generation.

Your donation directly fuels these life-changing programs. Every dollar stays local, ensuring that our neighbors receive the support and education they need to live free from fear. By giving to the Center for Prevention of Abuse, you become a vital part of a community committed to ending violence and nurturing healing and hope.

This is not just charity; it is an investment in safer homes, stronger families, and a kinder society. Together, we can build a community where everyone can live with dignity and security. We deeply appreciate your generosity and partnership in this essential mission.

www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org

EP!C

Focus: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

At EP!C, our mission is to enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For 75 years, we've been dedicated to empowering individuals to live independently, find purpose through meaningful work, express themselves creatively, and be fully included in their communities.

Your holiday donation helps turn EP!C's mission into real-life moments of joy, belonging, and possibility for the people we support. Your generosity directly strengthens programs that make a lasting impact, including:

- **Community Living** – safe, welcoming homes where people can celebrate the season
- **Employment Services** – meaningful jobs that build confidence and independence
- **Transition and Day Services** – developing life skills and friendships
- **EP!Casso** – fostering creativity and self-expression.
- **Behavioral Health Services** – compassionate care for emotional well-being

Every dollar you give helps someone discover their potential and live with dignity and purpose all year long. Together, we can make this season brighter for everyone in the EP!C community.

www.epicci.org

FamilyCore

Focus: Mental Health

Family School Liaisons

Student needs are not always identifiable. How do you tell if children come to school hungry or if they are having trouble at home? FamilyCore Family School Liaisons (FSL) are trained to recognize behavioral, social, and emotional stressors. They provide crisis intervention, individual or group life-and-social skills training, home visits, classroom observations, and basic needs (school uniforms, food, school supplies). They help students regulate their feelings and offer a trusted adult to confide in. The goal is to meet children's social and emotional needs, so they are ready to learn. Family School Liaisons are in more than twenty schools across the Peoria and Tazewell counties and serve over 5,100 students annually.

Parent testimonial: "I've seen a big change in my child, and she has a great bond with her liaison."

Teacher testimonial: "I cannot imagine working without our FSL support. They are an important part of the lives of our at-risk students and in preventing others from falling into the risks that greatly affect academic success."

Single Parent Support

It is well documented that, as a population, single parents face additional challenges to the stability of their family. For example, single-headed households may be at increased risk for food and housing insecurity, financial difficulties and may have problems accessing resources. In addition, children in these households may be at greater risk for school disruptions.

The Multi-Services for Single Parents (MSSP) Program supports single parents in navigating some of the challenges they may face, while walking alongside them to build self-sufficiency skills. This program, which has no cost to clients, helps single-headed households by assisting them in accessing community resources, building a stable home environment, and reinforcing positive parenting.

www.familycore.org

Hult Center for Healthy Living

Focus: Mental Health

Hult Center for Healthy Living has been serving the Tri-County community since 1990, providing health education to people of all ages. The acquisition of the Mental Health Association of Illinois Valley in 2013 was a pivotal point for the Hult Center team to focus on helping our youth, adolescents, families, and health providers navigate mental health matters through health education.

Today, the Hult Center for Healthy Living continues to provide programs and services to improve our community's most significant health concerns. We have continued to see a growing need for people of all ages, and particularly among our youth, as multiple local community health assessments show that anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts are impacting our community.

Our team responds to this growing mental health crisis by adapting our programs and services to focus on depression awareness, suicide prevention and fostering social-emotional learning. For children as young as pre-K through Grade 3, programs focus on developing foundational social-emotional skills like empathy, understanding emotions, and conflict resolution; keys to managing adversity and developing resiliency later in life. For older students, the curriculum addresses identifying the difference between everyday and overwhelming feelings, recognizing the signs and symptoms of depression, and connection to thoughts of suicide. These programs also equip youth to advocate for their own mental health by providing them with coping skills, knowledge of resources, and guidance on how to talk with a trusted adult or friend about struggling with mental health or concerns that someone else is facing a mental health challenge. Furthermore, Hult Center empowers supportive adults, such as medical residents, nurses, providers, caregivers, faith-based groups, counselors, and other professionals, with essential tools so they can confidently identify mental health warning signs, navigate these conversations, and connect at-risk individuals with help.

Your donation to Hult Center would help allow us to continue our vital work promoting health and wellness education throughout the community and Central Illinois. By contributing, you are helping us maintain our commitment to providing impactful resources, supporting our dedicated staff, and ensuring the sustainability of our mission to empower people of all ages to live healthier lives. Thank you for being a dedicated partner in building a healthier future for everyone we serve.

Midwest Food Bank

Focus: Food Insecurity

As a faith-based organization, Midwest Food Bank's (MFB) mission is to share the love of Christ by alleviating hunger and malnutrition locally and throughout the world and providing disaster relief -- all without discrimination.

MFB'S four core programs are:

- Food for Nonprofit Partners (food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs, and child feeding programs).
- Disaster relief in concert with The Salvation Army and other partners.
- Tender Mercies, MFB's nutritious bagged meal of rice, beans, and soy protein.
- Hope Packs, MFB's student feeding program that provides food-insecure children with supplemental weekend food.

MFB provides industry-leading food relief to those in need while feeding them spiritually. MFB has ten US and two international locations and is committed to supporting the Peoria community despite the challenges of:

- 28% increase in food demand
- 60% increase in overall food purchasing costs
- 26% increase in fuel and transportation costs

In addition to rising costs, the Peoria tri-county area agency partners have seen a recent decline in products they receive from resources beyond MFB, due to the Peoria Area Food bank closure (August 2025), which has increased the demand and requests for agency partnership and food from Peoria MFB and we need your help and support to address the increased demand, so we can better serve our community and continue to do so at no cost to our agency partners and the recipients of the food we provide.

MFB's Peoria location is on track to distribute over \$40 million of food to 360+ nonprofit partner agencies in 2025, but we need your help. With your financial support, the diligence of MFB staff, and collaboration with volunteers, we can continue to do our best and trust that God will do the rest

www.midwestfoodbank.org/locations/peoria-il

Paws Giving Independence

Focus: Mental Health

Paws Giving Independence (PGI): Empowering Lives Through Service and Facility Dogs

Since 2008, Paws Giving Independence (PGI) has been an all-volunteer organization dedicated to training and placing service and facility dogs. Our service dogs provide critical support for individuals with disabilities, helping them regain independence and confidently navigate daily life. In addition, PGI places trained facility dogs in schools, therapy centers, law enforcement agencies, and child advocacy settings—bringing comfort, emotional healing, and support to those in need.

One of the hallmarks of our mission is that we place these dogs at no cost to recipients, ensuring access to life-changing support regardless of financial circumstances. Since we don't charge for our dogs we have to raise the money to cover the expenses of the dogs during their two years of training. We provide high level veterinary care, immunizations, monthly preventatives, hip, elbow and eye evaluations and all of the equipment the dog will need to be a working dog.

PGI thrives through collaboration. We've developed strong partnerships with Bradley University and Illinois State University, where student trainers receive valuable hands-on experience working with our dogs and recipients. These experiences not only support our mission today but also inspire students to carry the spirit of service into their future careers and communities.

Our collaboration with Logan Correctional Center is particularly meaningful. It not only provides essential training for our dogs but also equips incarcerated women with valuable life and vocational skills—fostering empowerment and aiding in their reintegration into society.

The more than a decade-long support from First Federated Church has been pivotal in sustaining our work. Most recently a group of adults and youth came to watch Mango, a dog your youth group named, graduate and begin his journey as a hearing dog and Marty, another dog named by your youth group, is finishing up his training and getting ready for placement. Your ongoing generosity and belief in our mission helps ensure that PGI continues to serve individuals and communities who need it most. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and partnership. Together, we are changing lives—one dog, one person, and one community at a time.

www.givingindependence.org

Peoria Grown

Focus: Food Insecurity

Peoria Grown is dedicated to reducing food and nutrition insecurity in our community by providing fresh, affordable, and nutritious food to families who need it most. Our mission is to create a healthier, more self-sufficient Peoria where every resident has access to real, nourishing food and the tools to make lasting lifestyle changes.

We believe that dignity and empowerment should always take precedence. Through our programs, we're helping families take control of their health, reduce reliance on handouts, and build stronger, more connected neighborhoods.

Our Core Programs

Market 309

Operating year-round, Market 309 brings affordable produce directly to residents at two locations: Trewyn Park on Sundays and Bradley University on Fridays during the school year. Produce is priced between \$1 and \$4, making healthy food accessible to all while supporting local farms and regional suppliers.

Fruit Stands

In partnership with local community centers, schools, and nonprofit agencies, Peoria Grown provides free, fresh fruit to ensure that everyone, especially children and families, has access to nutritious options throughout the day.

Nutrition and Wellness Education

Led by local dietitians, our classes teach practical cooking skills and healthy eating habits. Participants take home ingredients to recreate meals and apply what they've learned in their own kitchens.

How Your Gift Makes a Difference

Your donation directly sustains these programs and supports the health and well-being of families across Peoria. Recurring monthly gifts help sustain Market 309 and our year-round programs, allowing us to plan and continue expanding food access.

\$180 replenishes one of our community fruit stands with fresh produce.

\$150 covers the ingredients and supplies for one nutrition class.

By supporting Peoria Grown, you are investing in a healthier, more equitable community. Together, we can ensure that families in Peoria have access to fresh food, nutritional education, and the opportunity to thrive.

www.peoriagrown.com

South Side Mission

Focus: Youth and Food

Peoria's 61605 zip code, where South Side Mission serves, is one of the 100 poorest ZIP codes in the country. In a Christian setting, South Side Mission assists with both, providing over 30,000 meals to the south side community and its residents yearly.

Our feeding numbers include:

- The daily **soup kitchen** is open Monday through Friday. We provide devotions and approximately 125-150 free lunch meals per week.
- Our **after-school program**, Greater Academic Progress, provides a daily meal to the 110 students who attend.
- Our **Holiday Meal Ministries**, provide meals and visits to area shut-ins, disabled and seniors. We prepare and deliver around 2800 each Thanksgiving and Christmas and have sit-down meals for another 150-200 each holiday.

South Side Mission's Youth Department and the Greater Academic Progress Program provide:

- **Daily devotions and a meal.** Average daily attendance is 110.
- **Tutoring**, through Bradley University and America Reads collaboration.
- A **Youth Culinary Demonstration kitchen**, where youth learn how to prepare and serve delicious meals.
- **STEM** activities, including a 3D design and print lab.
- **Garden & Greenhouse-** Youth plant and cultivate flowers and vegetables, including tomatoes, lettuce and watermelon, which is used in Youth meals and the Soup Kitchen.
- **E Sports** activities & recreation.

South Side Mission encompasses a wide variety of initiatives and continues to build for the future through strategic implementation of services. It receives no United Way funding. The Mission relies on the generosity of local churches, individuals and businesses who are committed to spreading the word of God in a compassionate manner.

South Side Mission has been serving those in need since 1925 and is celebrating its 100th year in ministry this year.

www.southsidemission.org

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Selection Card

Name: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

\$ _____ Center for Prevention of Abuse

\$ _____ EP!C

\$ _____ FamilyCore

\$ _____ Hult Center for Healthy Living

\$ _____ Midwest Food Bank

\$ _____ Paws Giving Independence

\$ _____ Peoria Grown

\$ _____ Southside Mission

\$ _____ TOTAL

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“ ...For I was hungry
And you gave me food,
I was thirsty
And you gave me drink,
I was a stranger
And you welcomed me,
I was naked
And you clothed me,
I was sick and you visited me,
I was in prison,
And you came to me.”

Matthew 25: 37-39

First Federated Church of Peoria, Illinois

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**First Federated
Church of Peoria**

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Peoria IL 61604

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