



Fairlington UMC Giving: Questions and Answers

As Fairlington Church continues social distancing and we adjust to our new norm of congregating via Zoom services on Sundays, we would like to provide you with information regarding financial giving of our tithes and offerings through E-giving and texting. Please find below information we hope you will find useful. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at the email addresses below.

- 1. How do I create an online E-giving account?** Go to: <https://fairlingtonumc.org/give/donate>, click on the “Donate” box which will take you to our E-giving page. On the right side of the page is “Create Your Online Profile.” Click “Create Profile.” There you will be prompted to create a password, enter your address and financial information. You can connect your E-giving account to either or both a credit card and bank account. The system will guide you through the process of identifying your bank routing and account numbers to connect to your E-giving account.
- 2. I normally write a check and place in the offering plate during service. I recently created an E-giving account but am confused by the categories of donations on the E-giving page. Where should I enter my offering?** Under “General Fund” there are several categories. “Current Yr Pledge” is for regular pledge giving as if you were using a pre-printed offering envelope. “Regular Giving” is for gifts that occur on a regular basis, but an annual pledge commitment has not been made. “Plate Donation” is for gifts made as if the plate were being passed during normal offering when physically at church.
- 3. How do I give by texting?** Simply text any dollar donation amount (i.e. “\$100”) to 703-454-8702. You will receive a text back with a link to our E-giving account. Click on the link and enter the appropriate information. This linked page looks very similar to the one connected to our website, with similar donation categories. Note that only credit or debit cards are accepted for E-giving by texting.
- 4. I mail my offering to the church but noticed that my checks have not been cashed yet. Why?** The church has been experiencing postal service issues over the past few weeks. The Bradlee Center Post Office which services the church has been experiencing closures due to the Coronavirus. The church’s mail is being held there and will be retrieved by staff when the facility is open.
- 5. Important note for current E-givers.** Recently, Pastors Janine and Devon discovered that their E-giving was not being deducted from their linked accounts for the first three months of 2020. They realized that their automatic giving was set to expire on December 31, 2019 (“Donation End Date”). As such, no gifts were being contributed in 2020. If you are an E-giver with an automatic reoccurring deduction, please log onto your account to make sure your giving date has not expired, your linked credit card has not expired, and your automatic deduction matches the amount you pledged for 2020.
 - The system will not know to restart your reoccurring gifts until you enter a new date and/or credit card number and expiration date. The system will not automatically deduct gifts from your linked account going back to the first of the year. You will need to make a separate “Current Yr Pledge” or “Regular Giving” donation to bring your automatic E-giving amount up to date.
- 6. My financial situation has changed because of the Coronavirus crisis. Can I adjust my annual pledge?** Yes, you can adjust your pledge at any time throughout the year. Contact the church office by leaving a voice mail at 703-671-8557 or emailing **Michelle Tello** at michelle@fairlingtonumc.org.

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7. **Will Fairlington be establishing a separate giving fund to address needs arising from the Coronavirus crisis?** In order to best serve the needs of our congregation and neighbors who have been most adversely affected by the Coronavirus crisis, we encourage those who wish to make a special donation to give online to either the “*Pastor’s Discretionary Fund*” or to use the “*Other*” category. Both options are located toward the bottom of our E-giving page, and both have an open text box where you may write “**COVID Response**” in the space provided. If you would like to contribute through a check, please write “**COVID Response Fund**” in the memo section.

Many of us are trying to find meaning and ways to practice generosity in the midst of this uncertain time. With such things as planned vacations going untaken, trips to the shopping mall going unmade and concert and sporting event tickets being refunded for cancelations, these funds can be channeled to those in need through additional offerings made to the regular ministry of Fairlington or through a special donation to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. We are also mindful that some may want to direct part or all of the federal government stimulus checks to supporting our church.

We are grateful for your generosity and continue to pray for everyone’s health and safety during this public health crisis.

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