

ONLINE GIVING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Online Giving?

Online Giving is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from your checking, savings, or credit/debit card account into the church's bank account. You can utilize online giving for a one-time gift, or subscribe for automatic giving on a schedule that works for you.

2. Are there fees associated with Online Giving?

While there are small fees paid by the church associated with online giving, most churches experience a net financial gain with the implementation of online giving. This gain is, in large part, due to increased consistency of giving with subscribed givers, and increased convenience of giving. (Additionally, our fees for online giving using your checking account, are lower than fees for online giving using a debit or credit card. Both of these options are available to you through our online giving program.)

3. If the church pays a fee when I give online, wouldn't it be better for to just continue giving by check or cash?

If you are the type of giver who never forgets their contribution, or always makes up later for giving that is missed, whether by vacation, illness, weather, etc... then, by all means, continue giving by check or cash. However, the above is not true for many of us. If you are a person who may miss even one instance of giving throughout the year, the additional funds brought in from utilizing online giving as either a subscription or a one time instance when you're away would far exceed the small cost to the church for the availability of online giving.

4. What are the advantages of Online Giving?

It makes it easy to fulfill stewardship commitments, even when you can't attend church. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically for many people also helps the church financially (see question 3) and improve its budget!

5. I feel like participating in the offering during a church service is part of my time of worship. What if I feel like I'm missing out on part of my worship by not participating in a physical offering?

You are not alone in feeling this way. Many people feel that placing their gift in the plate feels like an act of worship. And, it is just that. If you give online, you can still participate in the offering during the church service. Each week, in the bulletin, slips will be available for you to indicate your online giving and drop it in the offering plate. While this is completely optional, it is available for those who give online, but may want to participate physically in the offering during a worship service.

6. How are my contributions automatically deducted from my account?

Once you complete the online registration form, the contribution amount you specify will automatically be transferred from your account to the church's bank account.

7. When will my contribution be deducted from my account?

Your electronic contribution will be debited on the date(s) you specify on the donation form.

8. If I do not write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?

Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement as well as your online reports. You can also log into your giving account and see a record of your donations at any time.

9. Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?

Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transactions as well as your online reports. You will also receive email receipts for each online donation. Also, as mentioned above, you can log into your giving account and see a complete record of your donations. The church will also continue to provide you with annual giving statements at the end of each year.

10. Can I subscribe to have different amounts given at different times?

You can set up subscriptions for different amounts at different times.; HOWEVER you will have to do each one separately. You will receive an email receipt for each one.

11. What if I change bank accounts?

Login and update your account information.

12. Is Online Giving risky?

It's less risky than writing checks or bringing cash to church. Electronic contributions cannot be lost, stolen or destroyed and have an extremely high rate of accuracy.

13. What if I try Online Giving and don't like it?

You can cancel your subscription at any time by logging into your account.

14. How do I sign up for Online Giving?

Go to www.gracecommunitychurch.info/give and click the "Give Online" button. You can also sign up by text message by texting the amount you want to give to 267-23-GRACE (267-234-7223) and you will receive a reply with setup instructions. Complete the online registration form and select the donations and the amount you would like to donate along with your bank account, credit, or debit card information. It's that easy!

If you have additional questions, please feel free to see one of the elders or administrative deacons. Thank you!