



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Robesonia, Pennsylvania 19551

301 West Penn Avenue

Phone: 610-621-5770 Office@sprucc.org

www.SPRUCC.org

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin D. Motz, LMFT, Pastor



New E-Giving Offered *Win \$100*

St. Paul's UCC is now offering electronic giving, which means you can make your regular contributions either through: (1) checking account; (2) savings account; or (3) through one of the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card. E-giving works the same way as what many utility companies and other non-profit organizations now offer their customers.

With e-giving you get to pick the date, you can make regular contributions either: (1) weekly; (2) bi-monthly; or (3) monthly. You can increase, decrease, cancel, or place your giving on hold by notifying the Financial Secretary or by going online and signing into your account.

To encourage members to sign up, gift cards have been donated. Everyone who signs up for regular electronic giving by March 2017 will be entered into a drawing. The top prizes are a **\$100 Target Gift Card** and a **\$100 Best Buy Gift Card**. The drawing will be held in April 2017.

For the drawing, there is no minimum amount needed for your donation (signing up for any regular e-giving donation for the year will enter you in the drawing).

Look over the "Electronic Contribution Authorization Form" enclosed in the January newsletter (or request a form from the church office or download one from our website at www.sprucc.org) and see if it is right for you. If it is fill it out, put it in an envelope marked to the attention of the Financial Secretary, and either mail it back at the address below or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, and you will be entered into the drawing.

St. Paul's UCC
attn: Financial Secretary
301 West Penn Ave
Robesonia, PA 19551

Additional forms can be obtained from the church office or Financial Secretary. If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Secretary, Terry Pastor, at office@sprucc.org or 610-621-5770.

In addition, we will have a table set up January 8, 15, and 22 after worship, manned by the Financial Secretary and/or a Deacon, for you to ask questions, get additional forms, receive assistance in filling out the forms, etc.

Why are we encouraging e-giving?

For the individual member, some of the benefits include:

- + You don't have the cost of a check;
- + You might even get reward points, cash back, miles, etc. depending on which credit card you use and the terms of your card;
- + You don't need to worry about remembering to write a check or bring your envelope (in the pews we will have cards that say "I give electronically," which you can simply place in the offering plate);
- + You don't need to remember to stop at an ATM before a worship service;
- + There is greater confidentiality, as e-giving contributions are not handled by the usher teams or the counting teams, but are reported directly to the Financial Secretary's computer records;
- + You get the piece of mind that you are a regular supportive member;
- + It saves you postage in mailing in your offering when you are unable to be here; and
- + It creates the wonderful spiritual discipline of setting aside your offering to God first.

For us as a church, some of the benefits include:

- + E-giving evens out the giving over the year;
- + The Treasurer is not in a panic waiting for people to come back from vacations, snow cancellations, or holidays, even if we have had snow storms for a couple of weeks in a row, the funds needed by the Treasurer will be available for her to pay bills without us incurring late fees or penalties;
- + An increasing number of younger people do not have checkbooks, and this increases the ability of those without checkbooks to participate more fully in the stewardship of their church;
- + It is safer in regard to theft or fraud than paper checks;
- + It is safer for the counting teams, because it means they are transporting less cash to the bank;
- + It means reducing the time it takes for our counting teams to count the Sunday morning offerings;
- + It gives the leadership a more concrete idea of how much is coming in, to make better financial plans and decisions; and
- + It helps all of us to be more fully supportive of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through his church.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Question: "What would I put in the offering plate on Sunday morning?"

Answer: You will still get your offering envelope packets. What many of our e-giving members do is simply write "EFT" (Electronic Funds Transfer) on that day's envelope and place it in the offering plate.

In addition, we will have "I give electronically" cards in the pews, so you do not even need to remember your offering envelope; you just put one of those provided cards in the offering plate.

Question: "Can I cancel or place a hold on my donation?"

Answer: You can cancel or suspend donations by notifying the Financial Secretary or by going online and signing into your account.

Question: "If I sign up for e-giving, will I still receive an offering envelope packet?"

Answer: For 2017, the answer is, Yes. The 2017 envelopes will have already been labeled and begun to be handed out prior to our rolling out the e-giving program for the New Year. Plus, in addition to the Sunday envelopes, there are over 20 special envelopes in the packet, which we hope you will use to support those particular church ministries.

Question: "Is there a fee for me to sign up?"

Answer: No. There are no fees for the individual. There are the same banking and credit card fees for the church that any non-profit or for-profit organization would need to pay for e-giving transactions, but there is *no* additional fee for you as an individual contributor.

Question: "Will my e-giving donations appear on my annual giving statement for tax purposes?"

Answer: Yes. Through e-giving, our computer receives a secure electronic report from the banking computer, resulting in your transaction being recorded in your giving statement automatically, which will make the record keeping more accurate, as well as making the record keeping easier for the Financial Secretary.