

New Options for Donating Online

By Rev. John King

I have faith. I have faith that we will get through this pandemic. It is a difficult and strange challenge. But Richfield UCC has faced difficult and strange challenges before.

We kept gathering before we had a building at all. We kept gathering through the Civil War. We kept gathering when our sanctuary burned to the ground. In fact, the first thing they did after that fire was to take up a collection. This would not be the end of their church.

Church donations have changed through the years. 150 years ago, families donated by reserving their favorite pew. Then that phased out and they started passing the plate.

Now giving must change again. We cannot pass the plate physically, so we are transitioning to online donations. Pandemic or no pandemic, I think you're going to like online giving. Once I tried it, I liked the convenience so much I never went back to writing checks again.

And I made my church donation automatically recurring because: 1) It's easier and faster. 2) Sometimes there is a difference between what I know I should do – and what I actually do. Has that ever happened to you?

NEW WAYS TO DONATE ONLINE: Go to RichfieldUCC.com/donate. You will see video tutorials that show you how to give in three convenient ways:

1. **ONLINE** – just like paying any utility bill online.
2. **APP** – download a cool smartphone app. This makes donating simple.
3. **TEXT** – I found this idea confusing at first. Text a donation?? But then I tried it and – it was simple. Just text the amount you want to give to (855) 940-3221. For example “50” for a \$50 donation. The first time, you'll get a text back with instructions. From then on, you just send a number – the amount you want to give – and you're done. It's easy.

If you are already set up with electronic donations, just keep doing what you're doing. That's saves us the processing fees.

I've been making automatic electronic donations to RUCC for years. But last week I made additional donations. Why? Because we need it now, more than ever. The pandemic has left our pews vacant. This is the only way we can “pass the plate” and keep the church from becoming a casualty of the pandemic.

Your donation matters now more than ever. Please take a moment now to prayerfully consider the contributions our forebears made in times of hardship. They kept the light shining brightly in Richfield for 202 years. Let's also donate what we can.

The torch has been passed to you. Let's carry it faithfully into the future.