

Online Giving Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why give online?

For one, with fewer checks to write you'll save time – and who couldn't use more time? Also, online giving can help you stay current with giving your tithe and offerings – even while you're on vacation or out of town. Giving online lowers administrative costs and reduces security risks (less check and cash handling). Finally, online giving is simple and convenient. All good reasons to use our online giving tool!

Is online giving biblical?

Giving God our first and best is part of being a whole-hearted disciple of Jesus. Blythefield's online giving tool is intended to encourage faithful, generous, obedient giving of our tithe and offerings. From a biblical standpoint, there is nothing wrong with electronic giving to the church – whether via an electronic transfer from a bank account or through use of a debit/credit card. However, just because something is permissible does not mean it is right for everyone. Blythefield Hills does not encourage the use of financial tools like credit cards that would cause an individual to incur an interest-bearing balance. Each person is responsible to God for how they steward their financial resources.

Who can give to the church online?

Any adult may make a donation or setup recurring payments online. For married couples, the payment should be made under the husband's record (Head of Household) so all gifts are recorded on a single giving statement for the household. This means that even if the wife does the bookkeeping, giving online should be done using the husband's email and password. Otherwise, two giving statements will be generated. If you are unsure which email we have on file, please contact the church office at 616.866.9597 x100.

What forms of payment can I use?

You may have funds withdrawn directly from your checking or savings account. You may also use a debit/credit card (MasterCard, VISA, Discover or American Express).

Is online giving secure?

Absolutely! We use 128-bit SSL security, the same technology banks and financial institutions use. Our giving site is PCI-compliant and certified daily to pass the FBI/SANS Internet Security Test.

Can I specify recurring contributions?

Yes. You may choose from weekly, biweekly and monthly payments. You may also make a one-time gift.

Can I designate where my gift goes?

Yes, with restrictions. As part of the giving process you will have the opportunity to choose from a list of purposes to which you may designate your gift(s). Giving can always be designated for the general fund, building fund and the benevolent fund. As needs dictate other special purposes may become available to receive gifts online.

I'm not sure where to designate my gift?

If you are unsure where to give, please give to the general fund. This fund is used to pay budgeted operating expenses. You may also consider giving to the building fund, which is used to pay-down our mortgage. The benevolent fund is used to help families and individuals with special financial need within the Blythefield Hills community.

Does the full amount of my gift go to the church, or are processing fees taken out?

The total amount of your gift is deposited directly into Blythefield's bank account. For example, if you give \$100 online, the church receives the full \$100 and your contribution history will reflect that you gave \$100. There are fees involved with all types of banking – online and otherwise. Any fees associated with the banking the church does are not deducted from the tithes and offerings of those who give. Banking fees are a budgeted expense, just like electric, gas, and phone expenses.

How will I know if my payment went through?

Once you make a donation, please allow one week for it to appear in your online Contribution History. If you do not see your gift listed in your Contribution History after 10 days, please call Marcie VanZanten at 616.866.9597 x154.

Does online giving replace the First Fruits ACH program?

Yes. This online giving system is *the* way to setup automatic giving to Blythefield Hills. Those who are presently part of the First Fruits program will be moved automatically to the online system. Your ACH giving will continue in the new system just like it did before – but with the ability to check your contribution history, print giving statements, and make special offerings online. This new online system also provides the freedom to self-manage your recurring gifts.

Can I make a one-time gift if I have a recurring payment setup?

You bet! One-time gifts can be made to Blythefield Hills at any time – even if you have a recurring payment set up. One-time gifts will not supersede or cancel active recurring gifts.

How do I get started with online giving?

Begin by clicking the "Give Online" button on the "Give" page at bhbconline.org (if you are reading this document, you've likely already seen the button!). This will take you to our Shelby WebView online giving tool. There will be more instructions there to help you login for the first time. If you have ever purchased anything online, this process is very similar. So, rest easy. Gather your bank account information or find your debit/credit card and start giving online today!

Q?s

Marcie VanZanten (Marcie@bhbconline.org) at 616.866.9597 x154 or
Chris De Man (Chris@bhbconline.org) at 616.866.9597 x137.