

End of Year Giving and IRS Regulations Past giving records indicate that many of you have made contributions, either as special gifts or to fulfill pledges, as the end of the year approached. Therefore, we would like to remind you that in order to comply with IRS regulations any gifts to Hopewell that you would like to have included on your 2020 giving statement for income tax purposes, must be dropped off in person OR **postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.**

If you are planning to put your gift in the offering plate at a service, **it must be included no later than the service on Sunday, December 27.** In addition, the church office will be open on December 29, 30, and 31st (until 12 pm) if you would like to deliver your contribution to the office. Gifts received up to and including December 31 will be applied to 2020 unless otherwise noted on the gift. Thank you for your attention to these details and also for your gifts. Generous giving is a hallmark of the Hopewell congregation.

Please refer to the examples below to understand how to apply the special rules for timing and delivery of gifts.

Examples:

- 1) A check written and/or dated in December 2020 but deposited in the church offering in January 2021 will be a year 2021 contribution.
- 2) A check written **and postmarked** in December 2020 is a year 2020 contribution, even if it's not received until January 2021.
- 3) A check written in December 2020 but not postmarked until January 2021 is a year 2021 contribution.
- 4) Contributions made by text message are deductible in the year the text message is sent if the contribution is charged to the telephone or wireless account.
- 5) On-line contributions and credit card contributions that are posted before the end of 2020 count for 2020, even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2021.
- 6) Electronic transfers of securities are considered a donation on the date when the funds are transferred from your account into Hopewell's account.

At Hopewell UMC we will follow the IRS guidelines as we want to have full integrity regarding the timeliness and cut-off of year-end contributions. To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2020 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from Hopewell. If you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from Hopewell, some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed at the end of January.