

HURON SHORES UNITED CHURCH GROCERY CARD FUNDRAISER - 2017

Our "Grocery Card/Gift Card" fundraiser at Grand Bend United Church continues to be a painless way to make a donation to our church. Just buy your groceries with a gift card. It's also the easiest and quickest way to pay at the check-out. The 2016 order schedule is shown below. As of the end of 2016, approximately \$25,000 has been raised by members of our congregation choosing to use gift cards purchased through our church to pay for their groceries.

How does the program work? By purchasing these cards in bulk, the stores allow us a discount which varies between 2% and 5%, depending on the store and the size of the order. That discount goes to the church and we each get credit for our portion as a charitable donation and therefore an income tax credit. It's easy to see how greater participation could make a significant difference to our church's finances.

Currently, our Sobeys order and our NoFrills order are each about \$5000. Sobeys and its affiliates give a discount of 5% and NoFrills gives a discount of 2%. It's interesting to note that if you donate at least \$200 to charities in the course of a year, the government refunds slightly over 40% of that donation in the form of a tax credit. Thus, when you buy your groceries with a Sobeys gift card, the government is refunding 2% of your grocery purchase as a tax credit.

So the church gets 5% and you get 2% on your grocery purchases. That's a better incentive than any credit card offers.

Besides, I'd rather have the HSUC reap the benefits rather than my credit card company.

We are not limited to buying groceries in the Grand Bend stores. These gift cards may be used at most Foodland, Price Chopper, IGA, Loblaws, Zehrs and Independent stores as well.

A benefit of using these cards can be a tax credit of up to 2% on your grocery purchases. At the same time, the church is getting up to 5% of our purchase as a donation – all at no cost to us. No credit card can beat that. To us, it's an easy choice.

Sunday Order Deadline	Sunday Pickup Date (at church)
January 15	January 22
February 12	February 19
March 19	March 26
April 30	May 7
June 4	June 11
July 16	July 23
August 20	August 27
September 24	October 1
October 29	November 5
December 3	December 10

Orders are taken at approximately 5 week intervals as indicated in the chart. The orders go to the stores on Sunday afternoon and the cards are usually in our hands by Thursday of the same week. They may be picked up at our house any time after that or at church on the following Sunday.

Order Forms are available at the back of the church. You may also get them from our church website or by email by contacting us at diprocter@hotmail.com. Please don't hesitate to call us at 519 238-2973 if you have any questions.

Please keep this chart handy for order dates throughout the year. And please consider purchasing most of your groceries with these cards.

Doug and Debbie Procter
Project Coordinators