

FPC Members and Friends,

Someone has been posing as Mindy and sending out emails asking for help.

PLEASE DISREGARD THESE EMAILS!

We advise you **never** to wire money to anyone making a request over email. Church staff will never ask you to buy gift cards, wire money, or send secure data over email. **If you receive such a request, just ignore it. Do not respond to these emails, no matter how real or reasonable the request appears.**

We ask that you **use the following guidelines** when you receive **any email** requesting you to send money or make a purchase, as it is probably an attempt to scam you:

- **Check the return e-mail address.** If the address doesn't match the name of the sender, be wary. Staff e-mails have no titles; all end with **@firstpres-durham.org**
- Never open attachments from unknown sources, especially those with .exe extensions.
- Be wary of generically addressed e-mails like "Dear Friend" or "Dear Customer."
- If there are links in the email, **hover over them without clicking on them.** This will show where the link will actually take you.
- If there are excessive grammatical or spelling errors in the text of the e-mail, familiar especially names, the email should be ignored.
- Check the signature at the bottom of the email. If it says "Pastor Mindy" and we know Mindy never goes by "Pastor" or "Reverend (Rev.)," it's likely a fake.
- Finally, if after all these steps the email looks safe and the sender is asking for money or access to secure data, you should **call (telephone) the person making the request, or call the church office (919-682-5511),** to get verification.

In the event you are targeted from someone using a fake church email address or claiming to be a church staffer, please let us know immediately. Thank you.