

Scrip Program 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by Carolyn Barber, Scrip Program Coordinator

Scrip = Cash Equivalent. By using scrip, congregants earn free money for the church while buying those items that they would ordinarily buy anyway. Over 600 retailers participate in the program, offering rebates from 2 to 16%, some even more.

For 2016, we were budgeted to earn \$1000 per month, but we ended up months short of our goal. This year, we are budgeted for \$10,000, and once again, we're running behind. Why? Please tell us.

- Income from Kroger's continues to fall, as it is a challenge to get all congregants who shop at Kroger's to (re-)enroll their Kroger Plus cards every April.
- Arbor Farms, however, is sending us about \$190 per month, just for a shopper there mentioning they "support First UU."
- Meijer and Whole Foods scrip (3% rebate) continue to be very popular, as well as People's Food Co-op (5%) and Speedway (4%).
- Busch's program (3%) now links My Way cards to the church when registered online.

More families are placing online orders with Great Lakes Scrip. This earns them rebates that can be itemized on their income taxes.

Having scrip on sale after each service requires two teams of two sellers every Sunday, except for the single-service months. I am so grateful for the reliable regulars – Barb Dinan, Jo Dodge, Sara Gibb, Cindy Hegg Krueger, Sara Mathews, and Becky Swank. We could use two more volunteers.

I am especially grateful for the loyal efforts of:

- Jo Dodge, who helps out multiple times each month;
- Becky Swank, who fills in for me when I am out of town and publicizes Scrip Table news; and
- Elsie Dyke, who picks up local grocery scrip orders.

You can help, too. Figure out where you regularly spend your money (groceries, restaurants, gas, pharmacy, household goods, etc.) then come talk to us.