

New Jersey Family Church Clifton ENEWS - Sophisticated Email Scam Warning

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Important Security Alert Regarding Email Scams

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are writing to bring an important and sensitive matter to your attention. Recently, several members of our congregation have been targeted by sophisticated email scams.

How the Scam Works

The scammers create email addresses or profiles that look very similar to those of our Pastoral Team members. They typically:

- **Request a "favor":** They may ask you to purchase gift cards (iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, etc.) for a "staff surprise" or a "charitable cause."
- **Demand Secrecy:** They will often ask you to keep the request "confidential" or "a surprise."
- **Create Urgency:** They claim they are in a meeting or busy and need you to act immediately.

Our Official Policy

Please be aware that Pastor Barbara and the Pastoral Team will **NEVER:**

1. Ask you to purchase gift cards for church business.
2. Request financial transactions via email, text, or social media.
3. Ask you to keep a financial request secret from your family or other church leaders.

What You Should Do

- **Verify the Sender:** Always check the actual email address, not just the name displayed.
- **Pick Up the Phone:** If you receive a suspicious request, call the church office directly or speak to the pastor in person before taking any action. Please reconfirm legitimate church purchases with the respective pastor before proceeding.
- **Do Not Reply:** Do not click links or reply to suspicious emails.
- **Report It:** If you have received one of these messages, please notify the pastoral team immediately so we can alert others.

We care deeply about your well-being and are saddened that scammers are trying to exploit our community's spirit of generosity. Please stay vigilant and help us look out for one another.

Sincerely,
The NJ Family Church Pastoral Team

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