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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 09, 2019

SCAM ALERT!!!

A new scam is targeting churches and its congregations.

The scam

- An email appearing to come from the leader of your church is requesting gift cards in order to help a member of the church.
- The email may appear VERY close to OR appear exactly like that of a church staff member, volunteer or official.

Protect Yourself

- Call or stop at your church office to validate the authenticity of the email.
- Hand gift cards directly to staff members or church officials.
- Report suspicious emails to your church immediately so measures can be taken to secure everyone from any possible scam.

If you have been targeted

If gift cards have been sent by church members and donations have not been received by the staff of the church within a reasonable amount of time it would be best to notify local law enforcement in order to allow an investigation to begin. Please provide the email and any address that you sent items to as this will be helpful in slowing down and hopefully eliminating scams like this in the future.

Remember, scammers can change tactics slightly and ask that you send gift cards to "a sick member of the church directly". Allow your church to validate any request from members. Allow the church to send these donations or have a plan in place to reduce the risk of allowing these scammers to succeed. Scam tactics are ever changing. If something seems strange always pick up the phone and validate an email or request.

If you have any questions about this scam or any computer related or networking issues please call WeldonPC.com at (216) 475-6000. You can also reach us at any of the contact information on the left side of this page.