

Potwin Post

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor
JANUARY 2024

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The Child

Have we really stopped to consider the incredible impact of the Creator of the Universe coming to us in the form of a newborn babe? All that power, and yet this is the way God chooses to come to us. This fact makes a huge statement. What does it all mean?

Author Henri Nouwen writes:

"I think that we have hardly thought through the immense implications of the mystery of the incarnation. Where is God? God is where we are weak, vulnerable, small, and dependent. God is where the poor are, the hungry, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the elderly, the powerless. How can we come to know God when our focus is elsewhere, on success, influence, and power? I increasingly believe that our faithfulness will depend on our willingness to go where there is brokenness, loneliness, and human need....Each one of us is very seriously searching to live and grow in this belief, and by friendship we can support each other. I realize that the only way for us to stay well in the midst of the many "worlds" is to stay close to the small, vulnerable child that lives in our hearts and in every other human being. Often we do not know that the Christ child is within us. When we discover him we can truly rejoice."

Think about that! The Christ Child is in us—and everyone we meet! So, if we are cruel or unforgiving to another person, that's how we are treating the babe in the manger! It's easy for most to love a baby, but sometimes the older versions are less loveable. In fact, some people make it very hard, don't they? But nonetheless, the child of Bethlehem lives within them, too.

I don't know about you, but this realization is going to make me stop and think about how I treat people. Would I do this to the Christ Child? If the answer to that question is no, then perhaps I better think again about how I will handle that person or that situation. And, as we look around the world and see how the children of God are being treated, we should hang our heads in shame. God is not pleased with us.

Let us keep this in mind as we celebrate Christmastide and go into 2024. Let us be people that truly take care of the Christ Child, by tending to the vulnerable, small, and dependent. It seems to me that to do otherwise is unthinkable.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these children of mine, you did it to me."
~ Jesus

Blessings in 2024



Photo Credit: Sue Ann

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering in the month of December.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

BALANCE 11/1/23	\$ 4,435.96
Nov. Receipts	\$ 7,265.56
Nov. Disbursements	\$ 7,312.63
BALANCE 11/30/23	\$ 4,388.89
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 23,820.39

If you have not turned in your 2024 Potwin Pledge Letter, please return it to the church as soon as possible. There are blank pledge letters available in the church office if you need a copy. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

FINANCIAL NEWS—The following amounts have been received and distributed this year from our Loose Coin Offering each month:

April—One Great Hour of Sharing—\$390.48
 May—Project Restore Hope—\$280.66
 June—Pentecost—\$281.78
 July—Doorstep—\$289.42
 August—World Central Kitchen—\$328.80
 September—Helping Hands—\$282.12

Many thanks for your continued generosity towards our Loose Coin Offerings each month.

Potwin Presbyterian Church

400 SW Washburn Avenue
 Topeka, KS 66606
 (785) 235-1311

Find us on Facebook or visit online at

www.potwinpres.org

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor
 Libby Adams, Pastoral Assistant
 Gwen Jones, Music Director
 Angela Juarez, Office Assistant

Session:

Sue Ann Seel, Moderator

2024

Gwen Jones
 Libby Adams

2025

Cameron Charity
 Grant Nutter
 Joyce Black
 Vacant—Youth Elder (1 year term)

2026

Bob Harrison

Clerk of Session: Joyce Black
 Treasurer: Linda Tuller
 Financial Secretary: Erica Marshall
 Building Coordinator: Pat Abbey

Personnel:

Gwen Jones

Sunday School Team—Sue Ann Seel
 Adult Bible Study—Sue Ann Seel
 PNK Youth Representative—Gwen Jones



January Birthdays

Kayleen Shaw
Aurora Harvey
Violet Strobel
Annalise Ohse

5th
21st
23rd
24th

Like God the Father, we celebrate the day you were born!

If we don't have you or one of your loved ones on our birthday list, and you would like to be included, please email Angela or the church and let us know.



Please pray for our at home Friends
Ken Adams
Janet Lafferty

Loose Coin Offering



JANUARY

Midtown Community Services

Midtown Community Services is a non-profit that grew out of the mission work of Potwin Presbyterian, West Side Baptist, and Westside Christian. Now, truly a coalition of people that live and work in the neighborhoods around the church, it seeks to help others live the best life possible. Projects include support for Meadows Elementary, Lowman Hills Elementary, Baby Closet, Kids Closet, Harvesters programs, and more. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Deadline for February Potwin Post is January 21*

Please email your submissions to Angela Juarez arp0371@gmail.com or potwinchurch@att.net.

***Any submissions received after the deadline WILL NOT be included in the next Potwin Post. No exceptions.**

THANK YOU

At Potwin Church, we have been blessed with wonderful music and songs throughout the years. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all of the musicians and singers that have shared their talents with us. And none of this would be possible without our amazing music director, Gwen Jones! We are also very grateful for the musicians from Southwind Strings Studio for lending their talents to us. Many thanks to all involved! When you see these folks, take a moment to share your appreciation with them!

Southwind Strings Studio—Diane Gillenwater, Bob Harrison, Patti Allen, John Beaver, Ann Major

Potwin Bells—Gwen Jones (Director), Libby Adams, Kris Fillmore, Bo Harrison, Sue Ann Seel, Cathy Wasinger, Linda Tuller, Sybil Weigman, Jane Sewell

Potwin Spirit Singers—Gwen Jones (Director), Sue Ann Seel, Grant Nutter, Cameron Charity Phillip Muller, Linda Tuller, Libby Adams, Jordan Nutter, Caitlin Charity, Patsy Gunn



POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN PRESENTS:



NEIGHBORHOOD MOVIE NIGHT

LILO AND STITCH

JAN 13 | 6 PM

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

FREE POPCORN

400 SW Washburn
Topeka, KS, 66606

NEWS FROM DOORSTEP

Happy New Year! First and foremost, thank you to everyone who assisted Doorstep in some way to provide Christmas for 260 households with 811 individuals this past December! We tried to provide each person with an item from their wish list, along with books, board games, health kits, blankets, food for several meals, school supplies, if appropriate, and gift cards.

This year we asked our adoptees if they would like to provide a word of Thanks or Appreciation to share with our volunteers and donors. One of the first ones we received said:

"We just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make a very difficult Christmas so much better. With my husband not working because he is taking care of me with my cancer diagnosis, things have been very hard. Not only for us but our children too. It's because of all the very caring people at Doorstep that my kids will have something under the tree this year. So, thank you so much."

Our family wishes you a very Merry Christmas. God bless.

This is just one of many stories shared with us on how much our adoptees appreciated the assistance, especially at Christmas, and the caring of others meant so much to them. Again, thank you for helping your neighbors in need, at Christmastime, whether you donated gifts, blankets, money, time, or prayers, it takes all of us working together to make this program work!

A major theme of 2023 was food... the increased need by our neighbors, the increased costs to keep food in the pantry to help, the increased need of Doorstep by asking for food and monetary donations. By year-end we spent over \$54,600 on food purchases, and the need has remained at an increased level.

One way to help in the first part of 2024 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday's collection of soup and crackers! During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 9th – 11th) we ask our member congregations to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A really successful event will keep our shelves stocked for a few months, at least! In 2023, we had a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received nearly 8,000 pounds!!!! I say, "Let's do it again this year!!"

I cannot stress enough just how thankful and blessed we feel to have the partnership and support of our member congregations as we all work to help our neighbors in need. Of course, our volunteers are an incredibly valuable resource, and Doorstep could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our whole community when Doorstep, and those we help, are in need continues to be inspiring to the work we do!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director



Doorstep Needs List

CLOTHING & HOMEWARE DONATIONS

Many of our neighbors are in need of basic clothing and home items. Items specifically for children are also in high demand. The following items are particularly useful:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Clothing | • Sheets, blankets, linens | • Jewelry |
| • Diapers | • Shoes | • Dishes |
| • Toys | • Drapes, throw rugs | • Pots & pans |
| • Small Household Appliances | • Towels & towel sets | |

*Due to the small space of our building and redistribution restraints, we are not able to accept furniture of any kind or car seats. To donate these items (gently used and in good condition), please contact:

God's Storehouse

2111 SW Chelsea Dr, Topeka, KS 66614

(785)608-6743

Giving Tree

3343 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66611

(785)408-1392

FOOD DONATIONS

We strive to provide our neighbors with nutritious, well-rounded food options. Additionally, we like to offer more than just a quick fix. For many of our clients, we provide meal packages designed to yield three meals a day for five days. While we love any and all food donations, the following items are most common in our meal packages:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Macaroni & cheese | • Bread | • Pork & beans |
| • Pinto beans | • Egg noodles | • Crackers |
| • Spaghetti | • Rice | • Peanut butter |
| • Canned Fruit | • Spaghetti sauce | • Hamburger: 1 lb packages |
| • Canned soups | • Tuna | • Sugar |
| • Ramen noodles | • Canned vegetables | • Flour |
| • Milk: canned & powdered | • Corn | • Cake mixes |
| • Cereal: hot & dry | • Green beans | • Cooking oil |
| • Jelly | • Peas | |

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEM DONATIONS

When available, we like to provide items to help our neighbors maintain healthy personal hygiene. The following are especially useful:

- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap bars
- Feminine hygiene products
- Deodorant
- Body wipes
- Combs/brushes

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION NEEDS LIST

Donations can be brought to the Distribution Center at 401 NW Norris, Monday—Friday 8:00AM to 3:45PM. To speak with our Distribution Center, please call (785)357-4285.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS

All Canned Goods & Shelf Stable Food —especially the following:

Canned Fruit Applesauce Pasta Sauce Peanut Butter

URGENT OTHER ITEMS

Pull Ups 4T and 5T Band-Aids Men's & Women's Shampoo/Conditioner
Men's Deodorant Toilet Paper Tampons

OTHER NEEDS

All size Ziploc bags Hair brushes Foot Powder Small Toothpaste
Vaseline Chapstick Q Tips Pots & pans
Plastic grocery bags Men's & women's underwear sizes M, L, XL Women's socks
Mens jeans sizes 30-36 Mens shoes sizes 10-15 Sleeping Bags Tents
Travel size hygiene Towels Men's & women's razors Shaving cream
Hand warmers Body lotion Diapers size 7 Batteries all sizes
New & used beds and frames (mattresses must be in good condition and manufactured after July 2007)

KITCHEN NEEDS

3 compartment to-go containers Cutlery packs with napkin, salt, & pepper
Bottled beverages (water/soda) #10 cans of vegetables
Aluminum foil pans with lids

MAP NEEDS

Women's underwear size small (4-6) Men's underwear sizes 30-36
Men's jeans sizes 30-36 Sleeping bags & blankets
Travel size deodorant, conditioner, lotion, soap, & shampoo
(Additional Mobile Access Partnership needs list items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to TRM using the link below.)

www.trmonline.org/needslist

Visit the link below to purchase items from the TRM Amazon Wish List.

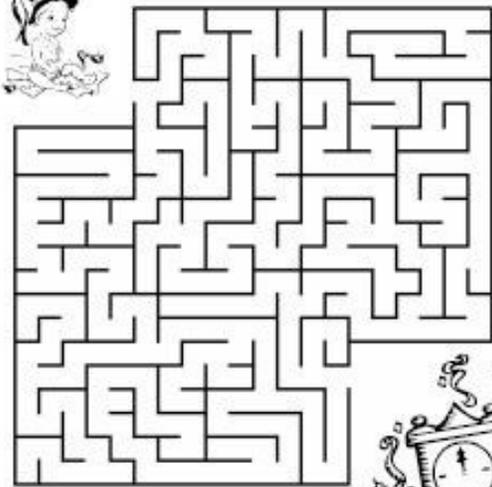
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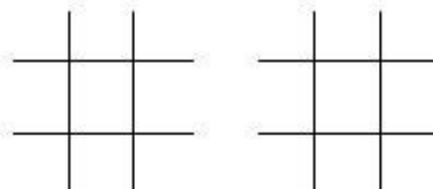
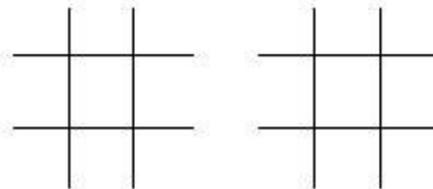
Happy New Year!

C R T S R I F F K R V H Y U N
D A Y Z V J T J E C A L M W O
X D H Z T M A S Y P O Y E L I
U N L E W Y O N P R W L N P S
Z E H P T L P Y U O D R C T E
F L Y Y U A A L M A A F D Z M
W A W T S K R O W E R I F T A
X C I V D W O B H K S Y H P K
J O N Z E J L K E G X G B A E
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N G J T S B B I W E J J A E Q
C K B D B E M X H N F V E S W
G Z W X E M U H P T V V Y G E

CALENDAR	FIREWORKS
CELEBRATE	FIRST
CLOCK	JANUARY
CONFETTI	MIDNIGHT
HAPPY	NOISEMAKER
NEW	PARADES
	YEAR



TIC-TAC-TOE



On the back of the paper, see
how many words you can make
from

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be sure to join us for the first worship service of the year on Sunday January 7, 2024 at 10:00AM as we celebrate Communion and the Installation of Elders, Libby Adams & Bob Harrison.

2024 POTWIN PLEDGE LETTERS

If you have not turned in your 2024 Potwin Pledge Letter, please return it to the church as soon as possible. There are blank pledge letters available in the church office if you need a copy. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

POTWIN BELLS & POTWIN SPIRIT SINGERS

Our bell choir and occasional choir will begin rehearsing again on Tuesday January 2, 2024. Bells rehearsal is at 6PM and occasional choir rehearsal is at 7PM every Tuesday unless otherwise noted. We would love for you to join us! Please contact our music director, Gwen Jones, if you have any questions. All are welcome!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 21, 2024 immediately after worship. Your voices and votes are needed! At this time, we are not planning to have a potluck in conjunction with the meeting as Coffee House Church is scheduled for the following Sunday.

COMMUNION SERVER & COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH VOLUNTEER

Communion Server for the month of January is **Debi Harvey**. We are still looking for a Coffee House Church volunteer for Sunday January 28, 2024. If you are interested in being a Communion Server or Coffee House Church volunteer, please contact the church office. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary once your Session has approved the schedule.

POTWIN NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTS

Please join us for our January 2024 installment of Potwin Neighborhood Nights on Saturday January 13, 2024 at 6PM downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We will be showing "Lilo & Stitch". This event is free and open to the public. Popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share. Tell everyone you know to come join us for a night of fun and fellowship. You can use the flyer on page 4 of this newsletter to help spread the word. If you would like an extra copy of the flyer, please contact Angela Juarez at arp0371@gmail.com.

BLESSING BOX & LITTLE LIBRARY

Our Blessing Box and Little Library are being constantly refilled to meet needs in our neighborhood. Many in our neighborhood have been assisting us in this effort. Thanks to all who contribute to these local missions. Remember our blessing box when you shop as it is always in need of items. You may bring the items into the church or place them in the box itself.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If weather conditions warrant the cancellation of worship services, you will be notified via email, Facebook, and on the TV stations hopefully by 10PM Saturday evening. If weather happens overnight, it will be posted to these outlets by 7AM Sunday morning. On days that USD 501 closes school, please consider the church office to be closed as well. In those instances, if you have a need that requires immediate attention, please contact the person you need to speak with directly. Church email will still be checked regularly and phone messages will not be checked until someone returns to the office.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun. Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM	1	2 Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	3	4	5 Happy Birthday Kayleen Shaw	6
7 Communion Server Debi Harvey	8	9 Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	10	11	12	13  Neighborhood Nights Movie 6:00 PM
14	15  MLK Jr. Day	16 Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	17	18	19	20
21 Congregational Meeting After Worship Happy Birthday Aurora Harvey	22	23 Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	24 Happy Birthday Annalise Ohse	25	26	27
28 Coffee House Church Volunteer	29	30 Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	31			

JAN. 2024 POTWIN POST

Potwin Presbyterian Church

400 SW Washburn Ave.

Topeka, KS 66606

(785) 235-1311

Potwin Presbyterian Church is a safe and sacred place to worship God where Christ's love is revealed through actively and joyfully sharing, caring, and giving to others in our congregation, community, and world.

You can find us online at www.potwinpres.org & on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PotwinChurch>.

You can reach us by email at potwinchurch@att.net

