

Potwin Post

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor
FEBRUARY 2024



Blessings at the Box

The other day as I was leaving the church, there was a man at our Blessing Box. He was tall and thin and unshaven. I suspect he was one of the shelterless persons that frequent our neighborhood. What was most striking about this man was the coat he was wearing. It was long, and made of fabric with many dazzling colors. I wish I could have taken a photo of this man and his beautiful coat, but instead I sat in my car for a moment and watched him. It just so happened that the box had just been filled by one of the generous groups that fill it with bakery items. One of those items was a clear plastic container of muffins—it looked like they had a lot of brown sugar on top! I am sure they were delicious. Well, this man knew he had hit the jackpot. He sat down on the snowy ground, right then and there, and slowly opened the box, proceeding to eat all the muffins—but he didn't wolf them down like one might expect! He broke them off in small, delicate bits and ate them slowly, savoring each bite for several seconds before he took the next. To this man, that box of probably soon-to-be-out-of-date muffins was a feast fit for the King.

Of course this man and his coat made me think of the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors as told about in the book of Genesis 37:3-4.

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a coat of many colors. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him."

Many of you know how the rest of that story goes. Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they conspired to kill him. But instead, when a group of Egyptian traders came by, they sold him into slavery, then took his beautiful coat, smeared it with animal blood, and took it to their father saying that an animal had killed Joseph. Jacob was heartbroken, and what a reprehensible thing the brothers had done.

The story gets even better, and has a happy ending. If you want to read more, go to your Bible and read Genesis 37 and beyond.

Now here in front of me was another man with a coat of many colors, who was down and out, and in an odd way a slave to whatever was going on in his life. But here's the truth. His Father in Heaven loves him dearly, just as Joseph's father dearly loved him. In the early days of his captivity, I bet Joseph would have loved a box of day old muffins, too. Just some small sign of human love and decency would have been enough.

This is what the Blessing Box is for, my friends. Oh, some may complain that it brings undesirable people to our area, but even those "undesirable" people are loved by God the Father. The man with Joseph's coat could take those wonderful muffins out of the box and eat them in peace, without having to beg for them. They were just there for the taking. A gift from the Father who loves him, via some people in town who wanted to give the muffins to him. Please remember this as you help fill it up the next time. The question then becomes, who is more blessed? The man who ate the muffins, or those of us who helped give them to him? It might be a toss up. But thank God for day old bakery items.

Dear Lord, May we always be blessings to those you love, and may those blessings come to us, also beloved, as well. Let us remember that whatever we do for the least of these, we do to Christ. In his name we ask it, Amen.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Post	1	Doorstep Needs List	8
Treasurer's Report	2	TRM Needs List	9
February Birthdays	3	Kids' Activity Page	10
Pizza Thanks	4	Save the Date	11
Kids' Closet Flyer	5	Events & Announcements	12
Souper Bowl Sunday	6	February Calendar	13
News from Doorstep	7		

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to Midtown Community Services in the month of January.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

BALANCE 12/1/23	\$ 4,388.89
Dec. Receipts	\$ 6,183.88
Dec. Disbursements	\$ 7,263.32
BALANCE 12/31/23	\$ 3,309.45
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 23,921.15



FINANCIAL NEWS— Per Capita for 2024 is \$37.00; please add this to your regular giving, if you are able. This assessment is used to fund the work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly offices.

Loose Coin in the month of November for the Rescue Mission was \$272.98; in addition, \$242.00 was given to Doorstep from donations received during the Potwin Lofts' tours on December 9th.

Many thanks for your continued generosity towards all of our Mission Partners and Loose Coin Offerings.

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

2026

Bob Harrison

Vacant—Youth Elder (1 year term)

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, Gwen Jones

Adult Bible Study—Sue Ann Seel

PNK Youth Representative—Gwen Jones



Jay Gideon	2nd
Elizabeth Fincham	7th
Amanda Harvey	8th
Lucas Harvey	8th
Joe Abbey	9th
Ana Breitenstein	10th
Dawn Jackson	11th
Mike Adams	12th
Matthew Works	14th
Sue Ann Seel	18th
Kim Kingery	20th
Mary Breitenstein	23rd
Debi Harvey	25th
Mark Abbey	26th
Gwen Jones	27th

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



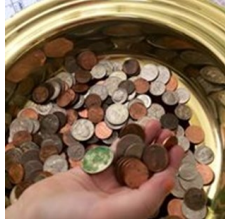
Deadline for March

Potwin Post is February 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.***

Loose Coin Offering



FEBRUARY Doorstep

Doorstep is an organization in Topeka that helps our neighbors survive crisis, improve their way of life, and become self-sufficient. Some of the many programs and services offered are:

- Money for rent
- Food and Clothing
- Transportation
- Utilities Services
- Crisis Intervention

Potwin Church has been a part of Doorstep since its inception. Please help us feed and clothe those in need through this respected agency.

THANK YOU

On January 17th, Potwin Church collected money to help provide lunch at the Topeka Rescue Mission's warming center here in Topeka. Libby Adams coordinated this effort. She sent out the following message after lunch that day:

"Dear Friends,

Thank you so much to those of you who contributed money for the pizza for the warming center. Together we provided food for 80 people (20 pizzas) for the unsheltered who are staying there, the volunteers, the police persons who are helping, and the street reach staff who are out looking for those who may be outside. Also, collectively we provided packaged snacks for today.

Today love looked like a slice. You are all AWESOME!!!!!"





KIDS' CLOSET

**FIRST WEDNESDAY
3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM**

FREE Clothes:
size range Kindergarten to 5th
grade. No requirements need. If you
are unable to make it during the
time listed Please contact us.
We are always accepting donation.

WEST SIDE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
432 LINDENWOOD AVE
785-234-0469

<https://www.westsidedisciples.org/>

**DOORSTEP'S 2024
"SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY" IS
FEBRUARY 11TH**



**BRING
SOUP
AND
CRACKERS**



**TO YOUR
CONGREGATION
FEBRUARY 9th – 11th
TO HELP STOCK
DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!**

Our Goal this year is 2.5 ton... 5,000 pounds!

We beat it last year... Let's Do It Again!!!

Please note that we will be collecting the soup and crackers all of February at Potwin Church. Items may be placed on the Doorstep table in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

NEWS FROM DOORSTEP

Each year has its challenges when it comes to providing basic needs services; often they are the same as the previous year. In 2023, we saw a sharp increase (88-90%) in the number of households and individuals needing food assistance. Our member congregations answered the call to help, donating an additional 11,608 pounds of food over 2022 for a total of 44,164 pounds of food. We received \$11,000 in Project Topeka funds to purchase food, but we also had to spend an additional \$54,632 out of pocket to keep enough food on the shelves to meet the need. In total, Doorstep provided 127,370 pounds of food to 2,307 households in 2023.

So far in 2023, we are not seeing a decrease in the need for food assistance in our community. And this year having a successful Souper Bowl Sunday weekend is even more important than in year's past. We have had many empty pallets in the basement where cases of food are stored. Help us fill those pallets and show your neighbors you care!

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 11th and we are asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers that weekend again this year to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales, and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, big and small cans, and crackers. A successful Souper Bowl Sunday weekend can stock our pantry with these items into the spring months!

Our goal for 2024 is 5,000 pounds = 2.5 ton!

We set the same goal in 2023 and exceeded it by 3,000 pounds... Let's do it again!!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director



Doorstep Needs List

Current Doorstep Needs ~ January 2024

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Men's Jeans & Pants (All Sizes)

Kids Winter Clothing (All Sizes)

Winter Coats, Hats & Gloves (All Sizes)

Men, Women & Children

Sweatpants (All Sizes)

Men, Women & Children

Underwear (All Sizes)

Men, Women & Children

Boys Jeans (All Sizes)

Shirts (Sizes 3-18)

Girls Jeans (All Sizes, Girl & Teen)

Shirts (Sizes 2-14)

Bedding: Blankets, Comforters/Quilts (All Sizes)

and Sheet Sets (especially Twin & Queen)



Donations Accepted:

Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm

1119 SW 10th Ave
(10th & Buchanan)
Use the South Door

Hygiene Items:

(Full-Size)

Conditioner

2-n-1 Shampoo
+ Conditioner

Bar Soap

Brushes/Combs

Food Room Needs:

The need for food assistance in our community continues to be at an increased level than in the past several years. Please help us stock our pantry shelves to continue to provide for our neighbors in need.

We need the following food items:

All Soup – Large Cans

Spaghetti

All Canned Beans

All Soup – Regular Cans

Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Milk

All Crackers

Peanut Butter

Pork & Beans

Please Note: Doorstep will be **Closed** for All services & donations:

Monday, January 15th 2024 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Check our website for Winter Weather Closing Policy Information

www.doorstopeka.org/

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

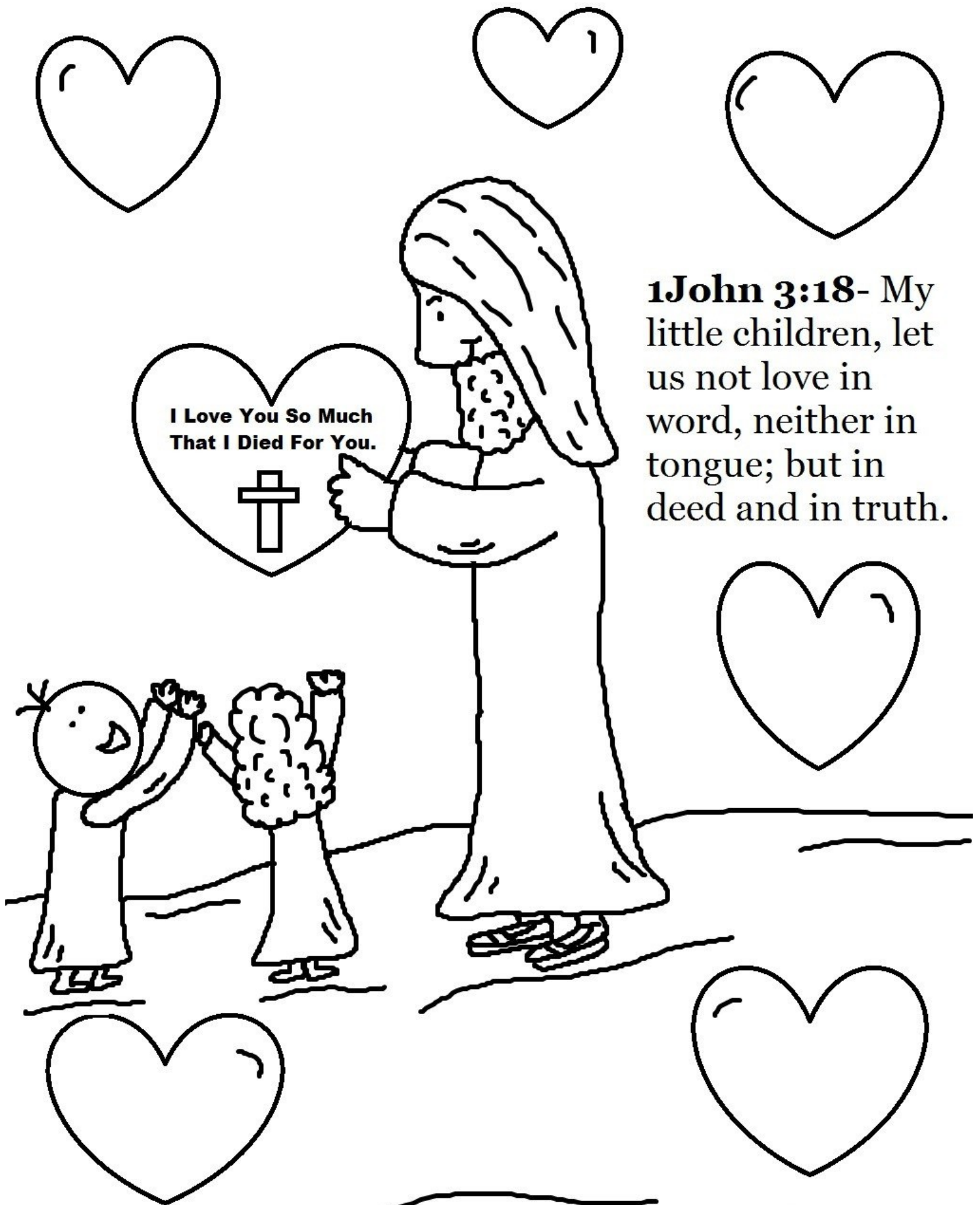
(Additional Mobile Access Partnership needs list items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to TRM using the link below.)

www.trmonline.org/needslist

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

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/O6BQ8QXTPLGA/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex





1John 3:18- My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.



*(Tentative schedule for the **Winter/Spring 2024**. Watch your emails, our Facebook page, website, and newsletter for more details to be released as we get closer to these dates.)*

February—Loose Coin: Doorstep

Tuesday Feb. 6th—Presbytery Meeting via Zoom

Sunday Feb. 11th—Souper Bowl Sunday—collect soup and crackers for Doorstep

Wednesday Feb. 14th—Ash Wednesday—Imposition of Ashes at Potwin Church, 5-7 PM

Wednesday Feb. 21st—Session Meeting and Retreat

Saturday Feb. 24th—Neighborhood Nights Movie

Sunday Feb. 25th—Coffee House Church

March—Loose Coin: Heartland Camps

Wednesday Mar. 13th—Session Meeting

Sunday Mar. 24th—Palm Sunday (no Coffee House Church this month)

Thursday Mar. 28th—Agape Feast

Friday Mar. 29th—Good Friday Service

Sunday Mar. 31st—Easter Sunday

(No Neighborhood Nights this month due to Easter.)

April—Loose Coin: One Great Hour of Sharing

Wednesday Apr. 10th—Session Meeting

Saturday Apr. 13th or 20th (TBD)—Neighborhood Nights Movie

Sunday Apr. 28th—Coffee House Church

May—Loose Coin: Project Restore Hope

Sunday May 5th—Potwin's 135th Birthday

Wednesday May 8th—Session Meeting

Sunday—Coffee House Church

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY

Come to the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, between 5-7 PM for a few moments of introspection and the imposition of ashes. Pastor Sue Ann and Rev. Donna Gilchrist will be present to help you prepare for Lent.

SAVE THE DATES—Please refer to previous page for complete listing of the tentative Winter/Spring 2024 Schedule.

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Wednesday Feb. 21st—Session Meeting and Retreat

Saturday Feb. 24th—Neighborhood Nights Movie—watch for more info to be released as we get closer

Sunday Feb. 25th—Coffee House Church

COMMUNION SERVER & COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH VOLUNTEER

Sign up sheets for both Communion Servers and Coffee House Church have been posted on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. As of this time, we do not have anyone signed up to be a Communion Server for Sunday February 4th. Please contact Pastor Sue Ann or Debi Harvey (Communion Steward) if you are interested. You may also contact the church office so we can put your name on the sign up sheet. We are also seeking a volunteer for Coffee House Church on Sunday February 25th. Please use the sign up sheet or contact Libby Adams (Fellowship & Nurture Chairperson) or the church office so we can put your name on the sign up sheet. Thank you!

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.

February 2024

Visit us online at www.potwinpres.org or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PotwinChurch>.

You can also find us on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@potwinpresbyterianchurchto7915>.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun. Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM		Rehearsals Every Tuesday Unless Otherwise Noted Bells 6PM Choir 7PM	3	1	2 Happy Birthday Jay Gideon	3
4 Communion Server _____	5	6	7 Happy Birthday Elizabeth Fincham	8 Happy Birthday Amanda Harvey Lucas Harvey	9 Happy Birthday Joe Abbey	10 Happy Birthday Ana Breitenstein
11 Souper Bowl Sunday Happy Birthday Dawn Jackson	12 Happy Birthday Mike Adams	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 5-7PM  Happy Birthday Matthew Works	15	16	17
18 Happy Birthday Sue Ann Seel	19	20 Happy Birthday Kim Kingery	21 Session Meeting & Retreat	22	23 Happy Birthday Mary Breitenstein	24 Neighborhood Nights Movie Time TBD
25 Coffee House Church Volunteer _____	26 Happy Birthday Mark Abbey	27 Happy Birthday Gwen Jnes	28	29		
Happy Birthday Debi Harvey						

FEB. 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

