

# Potwin Post

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor  
**JUNE 2024**

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## Lessons from Lightning Bugs

Today I am getting ready to leave to go to a spiritual retreat in Colorado. During this retreat we will be studying a book called "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" by John Phillip Newell. If you would like to follow along with me, I highly recommend this book! I also think you will probably hear more about what I learned there upon my return.

As I was preparing to leave for the retreat, I found myself thinking about another retreat I attended in June--13 years ago-- in Harlan Iowa. That time in Iowa was quite sacred and special to me. When I came back, I wrote the following for the July Potwin Post. I decided that it was a good time to re-run it for this year.

The cottonwood trees at the retreat center called me out into the dark night with the rustling of their leaves. It was then I wrote the following in my journal.

*"The giant row of trees stood as they have for a century, each with waists nearly a yard in circumference. Between the trees I could look out into the dark sea of soybeans in the field next door. But the most amazing thing I saw on this cool summer night in Iowa was the lightening bugs. Everywhere you looked, on every surface and in the air, were lightening bugs--millions of points of light. It was like walking through a sky full of moving twinkling stars. The soybean sea and the sky full of sparkling bugs seemed to stretch off into infinity.*

*And so I sat in their midst and pondered the lowly lightening bug.*

*Each little bug carries within itself its own energy, its own light, a spark from and of the Great Creator. What fun God must have had designing these creatures! Each insect, barely more than an inch long, contains enough bioluminescence to be seen for long distances. Together, they make a light show that rivals 4th of July fireworks.*

*We are like these illuminated insects. We are carriers of the spark of God. Alone we can be a point of light in the Great Dark. Together, we can be so much more, all to the Glory of God.*

Go and be a little lightening bug in a dark world. Together we can make it shine.

*"For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." Ephesians 5:8-9*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to Project Restore Hope in the month of May.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH

BALANCE 4/1/24	\$ 11,952.83
April Receipts	\$ 5,040.92
April Disbursements	\$ 6,197.86
BALANCE 4/30/24	\$ 10,795.86
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 20,731.46

### Potwin Presbyterian Church

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

Find us on Facebook or visit online at

[www.potwinpres.org](http://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:

Cameron Charity

Sunday School Team—Sue Ann Seel, Gwen Jones

Adult Bible Study—Sue Ann Seel

PNK Youth Representative—Gwen Jones



## FINANCIAL NEWS—

Many thanks for your continued generosity towards our Mission Partners and Loose Coin Offerings. See updated giving totals below. More updates to come soon.

December—Joy Offering	\$246.51
January—Midtown Comm. Services	\$237.13
February—Doorstep	\$239.52



Steven Chermok  
Rachel Harvey

4th  
26th

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**  
**Janet Lafferty**



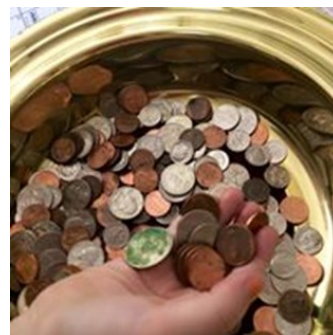
**Deadline for July**

**Potwin Post is June 20\***

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**



**JUNE**  
**Project Restore Hope**

The Pentecost offering is one of the 4 offerings we do each year through the national church. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community.

# MUSICAL APPRECIATION

Kudos to the Potwin Spirit Singers and Bell Choir who finished their season during our anniversary celebration on May 5th. Gwen Jones, our Music Director, leads both groups. If you are interested in participating in either (or both) of these groups, please contact Gwen Jones with any questions you may have. Rehearsals will resume in the fall. Stay tuned for more info as that time approaches.

The Potwin Spirit Singers include: Cameron Charity, Grant Nutter, Sue Ann Seel, Linda Tuller, Libby Adams, and Jordan Nutter. Philip Muller, Rod Seel's cousin, and Patsy Gunn, Grant Nutter's mother, joined them in the Christmas Cantata in December.

The Potwin Bell choir includes: Bob Harrison, Sue Ann Seel, Cathy Wasinger, Sybil Weigman, Libby Adams, Kris Fillmore, and Linda Tuller. Jane Sewell participated during the fall season.

We have been truly blessed by our friends Southwind Strings over the years. We are very grateful for them sharing their time and talents with us. They include: Diane Gillenwater, Bob Harrison, Patti Allen, Ann Major, and John Beaver.

**THANK YOU**







# DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

# PUTT OUT HUNGER

## Golf Fundraiser and Food Drive



**Western Hills Golf Club**

**4-Person Scramble**

**Friday, June 28th**

**Shotgun Start @ 10 AM**

**\$320/Team**

**Lunch at the Turn**

**Sponsorship Packages Available**

**Raffle Prizes**

**Teams that donate the most food get a prize!**



**DONATION GOAL:  
500 LBS**

**SPONSORSHIP  
DEADLINE  
4/30/2024**

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE  
6/17/2024**

**DON'T WAIT!  
SCAN THE  
CODE TO SIGN  
UP TODAY!**

**SCAN ME**



[bit.ly/PuttOutHunger](https://bit.ly/PuttOutHunger)

# NEWS FROM DOORSTEP

This month we begin our 58th year of neighbors helping neighbors! Thank you to everyone who bought quilt tickets, took sporting equipment to Play It Again Sports, or attended our Annual Banquet. These three events brought in \$2,276 combined. Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year Award Winners: Jackie, Mitchell, Julia, Brenda, Sharon, and Shirley! We truly could not function without the assistance of all our volunteers!

The need for food assistance has remained high so far this year. In the first 4 months of 2024, we provided 51,370 pounds of food in 918 food orders feeding 2,303 individuals.

The Doorstep Executive Committee has begun work with Coneflower Consulting on a new Strategic Plan. Our current plan, which has been worked on and revised over the past several years, is nearly complete; and it is time to begin looking forward to where we want Doorstep to be in the future. As part of this process, we will have surveys for people to complete online and provide feedback to show trends on what people think are our strengths / weaknesses in our services, as an agency, and more. We want as many people as possible to complete the surveys to provide us with feedback from our community, congregations, donors, volunteers, clients, etc. As we begin our strategic planning retreats to do the work required in crafting our new plan, we want and need to know what people think.

The surveys will be live from the last part of May through mid-June. We will send survey links to our member congregations, place on our website, Facebook, etc. Please take time to fill out all the surveys which are appropriate for you.

## **Register Now!**

**Don't forget to register for our Inaugural Golf Tournament ~ Putt Out Hunger**

Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Western Hills Golf Course.

To sign up, visit [bit.ly/PuttOutHunger](https://bit.ly/PuttOutHunger)

**Register by June 21<sup>st</sup>!!**

## **Save the Date!**

**Doorstep's 7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am** at Lake Shawnee.



## Doorstep Needs List

### Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

- Men's Pants, Slacks & Jeans (All Sizes)
- Men's Shoes (All Sizes)
- Men's Shorts & Belts (All Sizes)
- Men's Shirts & T-Shirts (All Sizes)
- Women's Shorts & Underwear (All Sizes)
- Kids Jeans (All Sizes)
- Teen Girls Jeans (All Sizes)
- Boys & Girls Clothing (All Sizes)
- Sheet Sets - Twin, Queen & King (Queen Especially)
- Pots & Pans
- Rolling Suitcases

### Donations Accepted:

**Monday – Friday  
9am – 2pm**

1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
(10<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan)  
Use the South Door

### Hygiene Items: (Full Size)

- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- 2 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner
- 3 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash

### Food Room Needs:

Doorstep has provided 918 food orders in the first 4 months of 2024, providing 51,371 pounds of food. Please help stock our pantry shelves to continue helping our neighbors in need.

### We need the following food items:

- |                          |                 |              |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Spaghetti O's & Ravioli  | Rice            | Cold Cereal  |
| Pancake Mix & Syrup      | Tuna            | Canned Fruit |
| Pinto Beans (Dry)        | Peas            | Egg Noodles  |
| Boxed Potatoes (Variety) | Spaghetti Sauce |              |



## 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**

Peanut Butter & Jelly	Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Beans, Etc.)	
Canned Soups/Stews	Pasta Sauce	Tomato Paste/Sauce
Men's/Women's Underwear M, L, XL		Men's Jeans Used or New Sizes 30-34
Silverware	Cough Drops	Shampoo/Conditioner
Razors Men & Women	Shave Cream Men & Women	Size 7 Diapers
Foot Powder	Hair Brushes	Travel Size Toothpaste
Travel Size Shampoo	Travel Size Conditioner	Travel Size Lotion
Pots and Pans	Toilet Paper	Plastic Grocery Bags

### **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

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

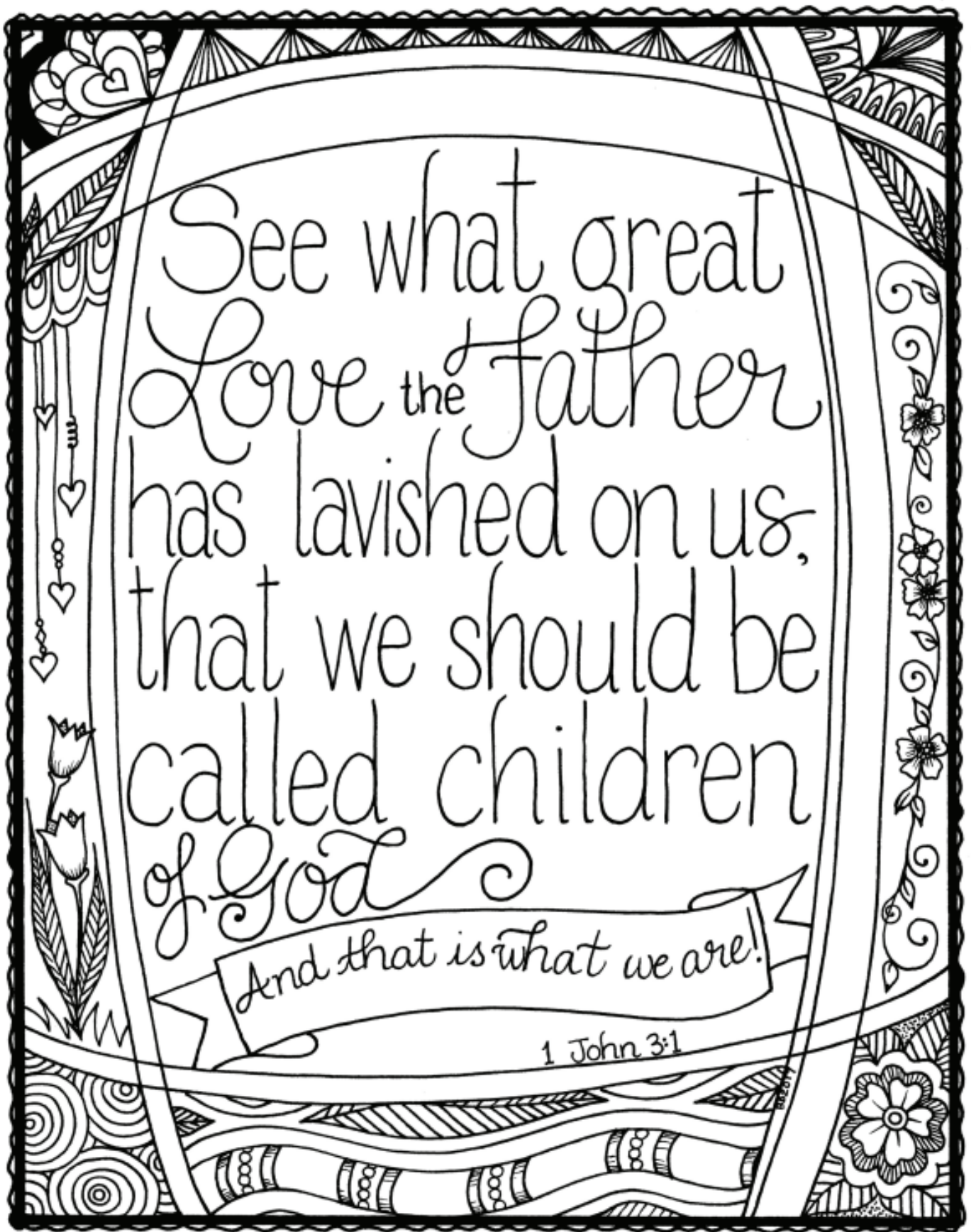
[www.trmonline.org/needslist](http://www.trmonline.org/needslist)

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







See what great  
Love <sup>the</sup> father  
has lavished on us,  
that we should be  
called children  
of God

And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Lindsay Ohse Hart and her husband, Jonathan, who welcomed their first child, a baby girl, into their family on February 29th. Her name is Elinor Hazel and they will call her “Nori”. The family lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Lindsay plans to continue her “diva” role singing in operas throughout the U.S. later this summer. Nori’s grandparents are David and Susan Ohse. David was our choir director for many years and Potwin Church served as an encouraging audience while Lindsay grew up in Topeka. God Bless.

## IMPORTANT DATES

June—Loose Coin Partner: Pentecost Offering

Sunday June 2nd: Communion Server—Linda Tuller

Wednesday June 12th: Session Meeting 6:30PM

Sunday June 16th: Father’s Day

Wednesday June 19th: Juneteenth

Sunday June 23rd: Coffee House Church—Volunteer is still needed.

Friday June 28th: Putt Out Hunger—Doorstep Golf Tournament Fundraiser. See the flyer on page 5 for details on how you can help.

## COMMUNION SERVER & COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH VOLUNTEER

Sign up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Communion Server for **Sunday June 2nd is Linda Tuller**. You may also contact the church office so we can put your name on the sign up sheet for any future dates. We are in need of a Coffee House Church volunteer to bring treats for **Sunday June 23rd**. Please use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary 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.





# JUNE 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sun. Fellowship</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sun. Worship</b> 10:00 AM						1
2 <b>Communion</b> <b>Server</b> Linda Tuller	3	4  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Steven Chermok	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Session Meeting 6:30 PM	13	14	15
16  <i>Father's Day</i> 	17	18	19  <i>Juneteenth</i> 	20	21	22
23	24	25	26  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Rachel Harvey	27	28 Putt Out Hunger Golf Tournament @ Western Hills	29
30 <b>Coffee House</b> <b>Church</b>						

Visit us online at [www.potwinpres.org](http://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>.

**JUNE 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](http://www.potwinpres.org) & on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PotwinChurch>.

You can reach us by email at [potwinchurch@att.net](mailto:potwinchurch@att.net)

