

Potwin Post

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor
JULY 2024

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Homegrown Evangelist

(Last Sunday) Caitlyn brought 2 people to church with her. One was a friend from work, the other was a stranger she met in a coffee shop. Somehow, they got into a conversation about church, and Caitlyn told him about our church, and how we follow Christ, and then she invited him to join us. She must have shown him a light he wanted to see for himself!

That my friends, is how you lead people to our building, and more importantly, that is how you lead people to Christ. This is evangelism at its finest--and from one who was raised among us. This is an example we all can follow! We can all be evangelists.

Evangelism is a word that has gotten very negative press as of late. This word can be associated with what I call "Cram it down your throat" Christianity. Because of this association, many avoid the e-thing like the plague. But if we look at the true meaning of the word, we see a very different picture painted.

The common Greek word used for evangelism in the Scriptures originally meant "messenger." Later the meaning morphed to "sharing the gospel," or "sharing the good news." This word has also been associated with the word "Angel" which means "Messenger of God". That doesn't sound so bad does it?

So, if we take all of these definitions and roll them together, we get "being God's Messenger by sharing the good news."

Author Martha Grace Reese points out in her book, "Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism" that is also helpful to look at what evangelism is not. She states that evangelism...

"Isn't about talking people into beliefs. It isn't about scaring them with horror stories of Hell fire and damnation. There are no quick fixes or silver bullets. At

its core, evangelism is people sharing with others their personal understandings that life is better, richer, truer if one has faith in Jesus Christ and lives in a faith community."

Reese further defines evangelism as:

"Anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God or into Christian community."

And isn't that exactly what Caitlyn did last Sunday morning? She invited a friend and a stranger to come with her, to move closer to God and perhaps find Christian community here with us a Potwin Church? It seems to me we have raised her well! Remember that Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way she should go, and when she is grown she will not depart from it."

If Caitlyn can do that, can you? Consider this a challenge!

"I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it."

1 Corinthians 9:23



TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Pentecost Offering in the month of June.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY

BALANCE 5/1/24	\$ 10,795.89
May Receipts	\$ 8,677.64
May Disbursements	\$ 10,845.94
BALANCE 5/31/24	\$ 8,627.59
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 23,735.59



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 (2023)—Joy Offering	\$246.51
January—Midtown Comm. Services	\$237.13
February—Doorstep	\$239.52
March—Heartland Camps	\$292.10
April—One Great Hour of Sharing	\$241.70

We have paid our per capita and General Mission pledge in full for 2024.

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: Gwen Jones

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

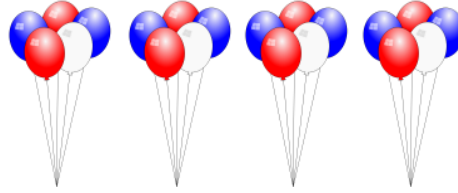
Happy July Birthdays



Hanna Scott	2nd
Maggie Lynn Hutchison	7th
Scott Strobel	8th
Brenda Stasiulis	9th
Caleb Harvey	13th
Cheryl Martin	13th
Beth Shaw	14th
Emma Breitenstein	19th
James Currier	20th
Ella Abbey	26th
Joyce Black	28th
Gary Baker	30th

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

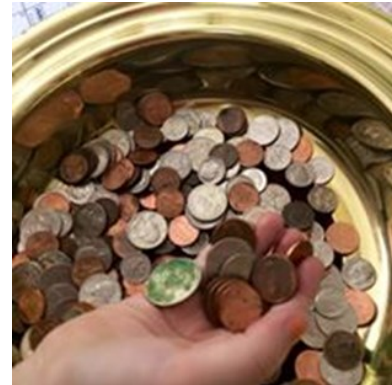


Deadline for August **Potwin Post is July 20***

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



JULY Doorstep

The loose coin donations for this month go to Doorstep's Christmas in July program. Each year the agency collects and purchases items that will be used at their Christmas store in December. These items help less fortunate families have Christmas gifts to give.

POTWIN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



WHO: Everyone is welcomed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHAT: Potwin Neighborhood 4th of July Parade & PPC Picnic at The Nutter's
311 SW Courtland Ave

WHEN: Thursday July 4, 2024—Meet in the station parking lot at 9:00AM to decorate our float. Parade starts at 10:00AM. Picnic to follow parade.

Please come and join the fun on July 4th as the Potwin Red White and Blue Kazoo Band once again shares music and fun with the Potwin neighborhood in the annual Potwin 4th of July parade. We will gather at the gas station building at 9:00am to decorate our "float" and then get in line for the parade. The parade begins at 10:00. Afterwards please join us for our annual picnic and celebration this year at Grant and Jordan Nutter's house at 311 SW Courtland Ave. Hamburgers and Hotdogs and lemonade will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hoping for a crowd to help us celebrate this fun neighborhood event!!!!



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!!!

Ava Lynne Breitenstein graduated from Topeka High School in May. She took four years of French and it was her favorite class. Her favorite teacher was Miss Schaefer who taught independent studies. Ava is interested in “how we live” so her philosophy and history classes were among her favorites. When she attended French Immersion Day at Washburn University, she began to consider a college path. She has received a scholarship from Washburn, as part of its new initiative to welcome students from Shawnee County.

Ava likes to write poetry and loves crafts, making yarn bracelets particularly. After graduation she was among 20 Topeka High Students who traveled to England and Wales. She visited London, Oxford, Bath and Stonehenge. She would love to go to France and utilize her French-speaking skills.

Ava is the daughter of Mary Halloran Breitenstein and the late Brian Breitenstein. Her maternal grandparents were the late Bob and Janet Halloran, long-time Potwin members. Her paternal grandparents are Gene and Kathy Breitenstein. She lives with her 3 sisters, Anna, Ella and Emma and two cats, Millie and Branch.

Joe Geisler, son of Anne Baker Geisler and the late Ryan Geisler, graduated from Blue Valley Southwest High School. He lives in Olathe and has 2 younger brothers, Calvin and Turner. Gary Baker is his maternal grandfather. Joe was involved in photography and cinematography while in High School. He plans to attend Northern Arizona University, studying Political Science and American Studies.

Alaina Flory was an Oxbridge Molecular Biology major and member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where she graduated this spring. She will pursue a Master’s degree in Public Health at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Her parents are Abbie Jones Flory and Jeff Flory. Her maternal grandparents, the late Walt and Bernice Jones, were members of Potwin.

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

Submitted by Linda Tuller

The Rev. Irwin W. Johnson served as Potwin's pastor from 1940 until 1944. On Wednesday morning, June 5, there was a message on our answering machine. A man's voice said "we are in Columbia, Missouri and headed to Topeka in about 2 hours. My father was pastor there in the 1940's and we would like to visit the church later today". As I am typically in the office on Wednesday mornings, I listened to the message, returned the call, and agreed to meet that afternoon. Roger Johnson, 85 years old, met me with his daughter, Kay. Roger's father, Rev Johnson, came to Potwin, when Roger was just one year old and 5 when they left to serve a church in Childress, Texas. Over the ensuing years, they moved every 4 or 5 years to another city and church.

As we sat in the sanctuary, Roger only remembered sitting in the balcony with his mother, juggling him and his brother Stanley, 3 years older. I explained the building changes Potwin has experienced over these years. When I asked if he was still a Presbyterian, he shared that he is a Cumberland Presbyterian, as he has lived in Mckenzie, Tennessee for close to 50 years. Since 1963, he has been a psychics professor at Bethel University. Roger was very surprised to learn that Potwin was originally a "Cumberland" church. We had a great discussion about our shared history and the changes in both denominations. The Cumberland church is still centered mostly in the Appalachia area of our country and currently has about 80,000 members.

Our tour of the building reminded me that the building is now in the same configuration as it was when Rev Johnson was here. I explained our loss of space caused by the recent sale and noted the same accessibility issues that were there in the 1940's remain.

Roger said he'd lived in 12 states while growing up as a "preacher's kid". The family was in Garden City, Kansas when he was in High School and he graduated from Garden City High School. His brother Stanley, worked for the highway department while they were there and was killed while working on a highway crew. The Kansas Department of Transportation had recently notified him of a memorial to highway workers who had died on the job. He and Kay were on their way to this memorial, located at the Paxico rest area on Interstate 70.

As he was so young when he lived in Topeka, Roger did not know about the Potwin community. But he did remember that his family had lived in the manse, then located at 418 Elmwood. Before they left, I took them on a tour of the neighborhood, showing them the "circle streets" and talking about the historical homes. We then stopped in front of 418 Elmwood, where we sat for a long time. I could see Roger pulling back memories of his time there. Finally he said, "the house was 2-story. In the upper floor bathroom was a door that you could open to drop clothing". I said "Yes, a laundry chute!". Roger replied, "I remember climbing up and dropping down!" What a neat childhood memory!



*Roger Johnson and daughter Kay
during their visit to PPC*

Doorstep's 4th Summer Cash Bash



Donate to Doorstep during the month of July, and help us earn 'match money' from an anonymous donor!

**If we receive \$10,000 - We earn \$5,000!
If we receive \$17,500 - We earn \$7,500!
If we receive \$25,000 - We earn \$10,000!**



Ways to Donate:

- ◆ **Mail it to Doorstep**
- ◆ **Bring it to our office**
- ◆ **Online DoorstepTopeka.org**

Please note on your donation if you belong to one of our member congregations...

And that you are donating towards our Cash Bash Match!

This is Doorstep's 4th Summer Cash Bash Event! We started this event in 2019 as a way to help us during the summer months when donations often decrease, and the need for our services typically increase!

Please consider making a donation to help your neighbors in need this July, and help us earn matching funds for Doorstep!

**Doorstep, Inc. 1119 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, Ks 66604**

Online: www.DoorstepTopeka.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep's Christmas in July

Donations Needed for this Christmas!



Help us collect items for our 2024 Christmas adoption of 260 households, with 800+ individuals! Items selected based on previous requests.

Creativity Sets

Canvases (3pk/6pk) + Brushes & Paints (Teens & Adults)
Adult Coloring Books with Markers or Colored Pencils



Toys

Footballs & Basketballs ~ Lego Sets ~ Dinosaurs ~ Avenger & Marvel Themed Items ~ Paw Patrol ~ Star Wars ~ Educational Toys (all ages) ~ Toys for Ages 5 - 12 ~ Puzzles
Family Board Games ~ Teen Girls ~ Make-Up & Nail Kits



Kitchen Items

Bakeware Sets ~ Skillet Sets
Dish Sets ~ Utensil Sets ~ Pots & Pans

Men's & Women's Gifts

Women's Bath & Lotion Sets
Men's Body Wash Sets
Men's & Women's Cologne Sets
Tool Sets

Other Items

Towel Sets - (Bath, Hand & Washcloth) ~ Blankets - Queen & King Sizes

Hygiene Items ~ Shampoo + Conditioner ~ Bar Soap ~ Combs ~ Hair Brushes ~ Deodorant ~ Toothpaste ~ Toothbrushes. (Full Size Items)

Bathroom Sets ~ (Rugs, Trash Can, Shower Curtain, Toothbrush & Soap Holders)



School Supplies

Notebook Paper (College/Wide) ~ Spiral Notebooks (College/Wide) ~ Folders (2 Pocket) ~ Pens ~ Pencils ~ Glue ~ Erasers ~ Backpacks ~ Rulers ~ Markers ~ Scissors

Bring your donations to worship during the month of July, or deliver to Doorstep at 1119 SW 10th (10th & Buchanan). Thank you for making the holiday season brighter for your neighbors in need!

NEWS FROM DOORSTEP

This is a busy time of year for almost everybody! Kids are out of school, people are taking vacations, and the need for our services increases.

Doorstep has three events during the month of July.

First, we are collecting items for **Christmas in July** to help alleviate some of the strain of providing gifts during the holiday season for more than 800 of our neighbors in need in the 260 households Doorstep will adopt this December from the Christmas Bureau. See our flyer for items you can donate that are available year-round and help us get a jumpstart on Christmas 2024! Please bring your Christmas donations to worship in July, or to Doorstep, Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm.

Our 4th Summer Cash Bash is happening thanks to our generous, anonymous donor who is offering up to \$10,000 in match money if we receive donations of \$25,000 or more, during the month of July! All donations made during the month of July will go towards our tally, and hopefully we will exceed \$25,000 to earn us the extra \$10,000! Please note your congregation on your donations for proper credit! Donations typically drop during the summer months, and this will help Doorstep continue to operate, pay our bills, and help our neighbors in need pay theirs.

Our third event is a ***Re-Imagined Jewelry Benefit for Doorstep in July!***

Drop by [Café Quetzal at 2111 SW Belle Ave](#) and check out this jewelry made mostly from up-cycled popcorn tins! Doorstep, Inc. will receive 95% of the proceeds on all purchases of **Re-Imagined Jewelry in July!**

Watch Doorstep's Facebook page for photos of the earrings you could find at the Café in July. Most earrings range from \$10-\$15!! Support Doorstep and treat yourself!!

Café hours:

Monday – Thursday 6:45am - 4:00pm

Friday 6:45am - 9:00pm

Saturday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Lisa Cain, Executive Director



Doorstep Needs List

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Thank you to everyone who answered the call for Men's clothing, shoes, belts, etc. We have a lot of donations to sort through and appreciate the quality of the items that have been donated. If you have men's items to donate, please bring them! We still need **Men's Jeans & Dress Pants (especially smaller sizes), Underwear, and Shoes (all sizes).**

Boys & Girls Clothing (All Sizes 2T-12)

- Shorts, shirts, swimsuits, socks, shoes, underwear, pants, etc.

Teen Girls Clothing (All Sizes)

- Shorts, shirts, swimsuits, socks, shoes, underwear, bras, leggings

Women's Shorts & Underwear (All sizes)

Queen Size Sheet Sets

Pots & Pans

Rolling Suitcases

Hygiene Items: (Full Size)

2 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner
Combs

Donations Accepted:

Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm

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

Food Room Needs:

Doorstep has provided 1,168 food orders in the first 5 months of 2024, providing 52,037 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
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Pinto Beans (Dry)
Boxed Potatoes (Variety)

Rice
Tuna
Peas
Spaghetti Sauce

Cold Cereal
Canned Fruit
Egg Noodles
Vegetable Soup



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.)



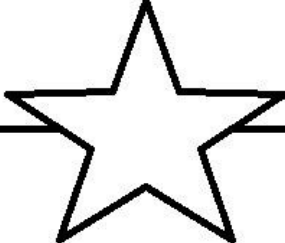

www.trmonline.org/needslist

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





Galatians 5:1 Stand fast
therefore in the liberty 
wherewith Christ hath made
us free...   

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER MUSIC

Do you have a musical talent you would like to share during summer worship? We would love for you to share those talents with us. Don't worry if you need an accompanist. Gwen Jones is available to assist with that. Please contact Pastor Sue Ann Seel or Gwen Jones if you are interested.

IMPORTANT DATES

July—Loose Coin Partner: Doorstep Christmas in July

All Month: Doorstep Summer Cash Bash—see flyer on page 7 of the newsletter for details. Doorstep Christmas in July—see flyer on page 8 of the newsletter for details.

Thursday July 4th: Independence Day—Potwin Neighborhood Parade & PPC Picnic at the Nutter's. See page 4 of the newsletter for details.

Sunday July 7th: Communion Server—Insert name here

Sunday July 28th: Coffee House Church—Volunteer is still needed.

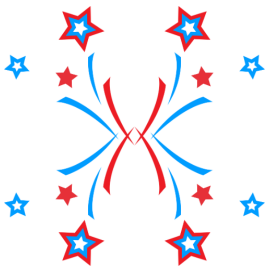
COMMUNION SERVER & COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH VOLUNTEER

Sign up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. We are in need of a Communion Server for **Sunday July 7th**. You may also contact the church office so we can put your name on the sign up sheet for any future dates. Coffee House Church will be potluck style for **Sunday July 28th**. Bring your favorite morning treats to share! 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!

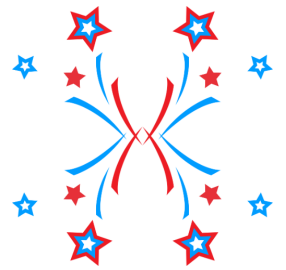
BLESSING BOX & LITTLE LIBRARY


The pantry used to fill our Blessing Box is bare! Please help us help our neighbors in need. 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.





JULY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun. Fellowship 9:30AM Sun. Worship 10:00AM	1	2	3	4 Potwin Parade & Picnic  Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6
7 Communion Server	8	9	10	11	12	13
Happy Birthday Maggie Lynn Hutchison	Happy Birthday Scott Strobel	Happy Birthday Brenda Staiulis				Happy Birthday Caleb Harvey Cheryl Martin
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Birthday Beth Shaw					Happy Birthday Emma Breitenstein	Happy Birthday James Currier
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Happy Birthday Ella Abbey	
28 Coffeehouse Church	29	30	31			
Happy Birthday Joyce Black		Happy Birthday Gary Baker				

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>.

JULY 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

