

# Potwin Post

Sue Ann Seel, Pastor  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## On Being a Missional Church

It has been a big month at Potwin Church, complete with me announcing my retirement at the end of the year. A lot of change is happening, here, and around the world. It all may cause you to wonder whether this church, or any church, is going to make it. But I want to tell you that I believe with all my heart that Potwin Church is going to be fine, and that God has more for you all to do in this world.

Recently I read an article, which I now cannot find, that stated that the churches that will make it in this new reality are the ones who are focused on the mission of the church—not the programs of the church, or the pastors of the church. I believe this to be a very true statement—pastors and programs come and go, but the mission of the church remains consistent. In order to survive in this new reality, you have to be a missional church. Just what is a missional Church? It is a church that focuses its activities on participating in God's agenda for the world, and reaching out to the community to share the Good News of Jesus.

Potwin Church is a missional church, and that is why it is still here today, despite all the odds. I always call this church the little church that refused to die. There were so many people that predicted our demise in the past but all were wrong. Why? Because we chose to focus on our mission—we chose to focus on the question, “what is God calling us to do?” We study, we pray, we listen, and try to the best of our abilities to answer the call. And here we are today.

So you see, it's not about ME, Sue Ann Seel—it's about you—the congregation of Potwin Church—and all the people in all the generations who have through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit made it work, giving it what Linda Tuller calls, “the Potwin Spirit.” Don't stop showing up for Potwin Church! How do you show up for the church? Here are some ways you can help out:

- Don't stop coming to church! If you stop, then

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others will see that and they may stop, too! It's a self-fulfilling prophecy! Don't do it!

- Keep up your giving. Those bills still need to be paid and the mission work still needs to be done!
- Don't stop showing up for fellowship events. Your church family needs you!

You all need each other.

We may not be as big as we once were, but remember Jesus changed the world with 12 disciples. With Christ we can do anything. We can be a part of the change with the number of people we have here, and if others see us doing this, maybe they will come, too.

You can do this! God is doing a new thing, now, and you all have a part to play!

I want to thank you for being the congregation that you are—loving, caring, truly wanting to listen to God and then do what you were called to do. I want to thank you for always taking care of me and my family. You have been a joy to serve, and I know the next person you hire to lead you will feel the same.

Love and blessings always, Sue Ann

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*  
Isaiah 43:19



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Back to School Drive in the month of August.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY

BALANCE 7/1/24	\$ 6,894.35
July Receipts	\$ 6,047.36
July Disbursements	\$ 6,944.14
BALANCE 7/31/24	\$ 5,997.57
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 24,190.17



# THANK YOU

## 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

### 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

### 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



Ann Mickey  
Roger Currier  
Cathy Ramirez  
Isaac Juarez  
Jordan Nutter  
Bianca Juarez  
Wyatt Scott

2nd  
3rd  
7th  
9th  
11th  
24th  
29th

**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**



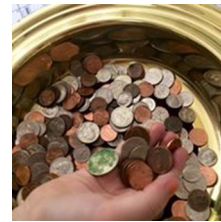
**Deadline for October**

**Potwin Post is September 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**



**SEPTEMBER**

**Helping Hands Humane Society**

As advocates for animal welfare, Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc. provides sanctuary for animals in need of compassionate care and protection. Their mission includes:

- Fostering the adoption of healthy animals into responsible homes and reuniting lost animals with their owners.
- Reducing overpopulation.
- Providing an accessible facility with effective leadership and well-trained staff.
- Serving the community through education and addressing animal welfare issues.

## **IN MEMORIAM—JOE ABBEY**

Heaven welcomed a Potwin Saint on August 13, 2024. This profile of Joe appeared in early 2017 in the Potwin Post. Our deepest sympathy goes to Pat, Charlie, Mark, and all his family. Three great-grandchildren have since joined their clan. In December 2019, the Session recognized the contributions of Joe and Pat by renaming the parlor “The Abbey Room”. Their son Darren passed away in July, 2019.

If Potwin ever had a “career Deacon”, his name would be Joe Abbey. Since 1974, Joe has served seven full terms in that role. That is 21 years of the past 42 or 50% of his time. Over the years, as needed, he has provided transportation for church members who are unable to drive and is regularly on the list of building openers for Sunday services. AND he has been a constant, reliable, and competent resource in building maintenance, repair, cleaning, and general fix-it needs as a member of the Properties Committee. He assumes this role naturally as he spent 40 years working for Bob Florence Construction Company. Joe’s trade was floor covering along with other commercial construction responsibilities. He retired in 1999 when he was 62. Joe has volunteered his time and skills to benefit other local organizations as well. For several years, he mowed at the VIDA location in East Topeka, was part of the Falley Scout Camp maintenance team, and worked on various carpentry projects for Let’s Help and the Salvation Army. He always has a project going in his garage. Often, he is joined by family members, teaching them his many skills. In his “down” time, Joe likes to watch old John Wayne movies on TV’s Western channel.

Joe was born and grew up in Mountain View, Missouri. He and Pat have been married for 58 years. They moved to Topeka in 1963 when son Charles was two years old. Mark and Darren were both born in Topeka. They now have 7 grandchildren. Charles and wife Joanie, live in Seneca, Kansas; their children are Brycen and Karli. Mark and wife Amy live here with children Ella and Marley. Darren, who also lives in Topeka, has Lauren, Tegan, and Tatum. Activities of their family members continue to play a huge part of their lives.

*(continued on page 5)*

# IN MEMORIAM—JOE ABBEY

*(continued from page 4)*

On March 26, 1972, Joe and Pat became members of Potwin. For many years, Joe's sister, Betty Bass, served as a nursery attendant. Joe particularly enjoyed serving as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 19 here at Potwin. He and Pat also have fond memories of both Catamaran and Anchor Mariner groups. They served as Skippers of both groups at various times. His favorite Potwin memories include camping with other families at scenic (and sometimes primitive) places throughout Northeast Kansas: Heartland Camp, near Lake Perry, the Girl Scout and Grange camps near Topeka, and one site North of Manhattan but no one can remember the name!

Joe's dream for Potwin is for us to make the building more energy efficient and handicapped accessible. While he would like to see our membership increase, he appreciates Sue Ann and her ministry to our congregation. He is confident that visitors would be impressed by her gifts and leadership. And we are all grateful Joe has shared his gifts with us over these many years.

Charles Ray "Joe" Abbey



Feb. 9, 1937 - Aug. 13, 2024

# NEWS FROM DOORSTEP



The need for food assistance has remained high this year. For our neighbors who are already struggling to make ends meet, keeping their rent and utilities paid, having kids out of school and home this summer, and dealing with the crisis that life can throw at us...keeping food on the table has continued to be a challenge. We have already spent \$38,210 purchasing food to meet the need, and keep our neighbors fed. In the first seven months of 2024, we have also spent \$177,589 on rent, utilities, dental vouchers, prescriptions, Topeka Metro passes, gas vouchers, hygiene products, auto services, and more.

## Food Assistance: (Doorstep)

### Jan – July 2024

Households: 1,718  
Individuals: 4,369  
Pounds Given: 96,869  
\$ Spent on Food: \$38,210

### Jan – July 2023

Households: 1,182  
Individuals: 2,938  
Pounds Given: 71,234  
\$ Spent on Food: \$16,440

We can provide this assistance because of our donors and funders who believe in neighbors helping neighbors and give where they can. We are grateful for every donation, large or small, and we appreciate our donors sharing in our mission with us! If you are in need, or know someone who is, please tell them about Doorstep.



Join us for our **7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run** set for **Saturday, October 12th, at 9:30am**, at Lake Shawnee.

Get your family and friends together for some exercise, breakfast, and fellowship at the lake while raising funds for Doorstep!

To sign up visit our website under the Events Tab: [www.DoorstepTopeka.org](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org). You can download the flyer and registration form to mail in, drop off at our office, or register online. To guarantee an event t-shirt you need to register by **September 18<sup>th</sup>**. However, we will continue to take late and event day registrations. One child age 10 & under can walk for free (t-shirt extra) with one paid adult. Registration is \$30 per person or get sponsors to cover your fee and donate to Doorstep (sponsor form is also on our website).

Our pal, **Chris Fisher** with WIBW-TV will be our Celebrity Starter again this year!

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Doorstep is participating in the Great Topeka Duck Race again this year! We have a goal of 200 ducks! You can buy your ducks through our link on their website to support Doorstep and try to win prizes! Look for **Ducks for Doorstep!**

The **“Virtual Race”** is **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 10am.

Visit [www.duckrace.com/topeka/teams](http://www.duckrace.com/topeka/teams), select Doorstep, Inc. and adopt a Duck, a Family, Flock or an Oodle with a credit card payment. It's as easy as that!

We also have paper forms this year, email [lisa@doorstepinc.com](mailto:lisa@doorstepinc.com)

Lisa Cain, Executive Director

## Doorstep Needs List

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

- Men's Underwear & Belts—All Sizes (greatest need)
- Men's Shorts, Jeans, & Ball Caps
- Women's Socks & Bras—All Sizes
- Boys Shorts & Jeans
- Girls Tops Sizes 4-12 & Jeans—All Sizes
- Teen Girls Tops & Jeans—All Sizes
- Sheet Sets & Comforters—Queen & King
- Bathroom Hand Towels & Washcloths

### **Hygiene Items:** (Full Size)

- 2 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner
- Family Size Shampoo
- Razors—Men & Women
- Bar Soap
- Combs

### **Food Room Needs:**

- Spaghettis O's & Ravioli
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Dry Pinto Beans
- Boxed Potatoes (variety)

- Rice
- Tuna
- Peas
- Spaghetti Sauce

- Cold Cereal
- Canned Fruit
- Egg Noodles
- Vegetable Soup

### **Donations Accepted:**

**Monday – Friday  
9am – 2pm**

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



## 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**

|                                                          |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Beans, etc.) | Men's Jeans Size 30-40                  |
| Canned Fruit                                             | Baby Diapers Size 5 & 6                 |
| Spaghetti-O's                                            | Baby Toiletries (Lotion, Shampoo, etc.) |
| Men's Underwear M, L, XL                                 | Men's & Women's Deodorant               |
| T-Shirts 3X-4X                                           | Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Cough Drops, Tums   |

### **KITCHEN NEEDS**

|                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3 compartment to-go containers | Cutlery packs with napkin, salt, & pepper |
| Snacks for Sack Lunches        | #10 cans of vegetables                    |
| Aluminum foil pans with lids   |                                           |

**MAP NEEDS**—The TRM/Valeo Mobile Shower Access for the homeless provides a hot shower, clean clothes, food & beverage, mental health screening, health services for pets, city ID services, and many other services. They are deployed every Tuesday and Thursday at a scheduled location and operate from 8AM to 3PM. Current MAP needs are travel size items of the following:

Lotion, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors or Razor Kits, Toothpaste, & Deodorant.

Also needed are: Brushes/Combs, Q-Tips, Lip Balm, Floss, & Toothbrushes.

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

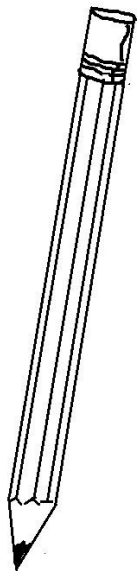
[www.trmonline.org/needslist](http://www.trmonline.org/needslist)

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

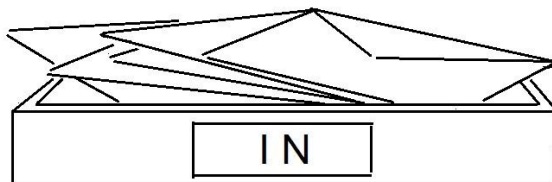
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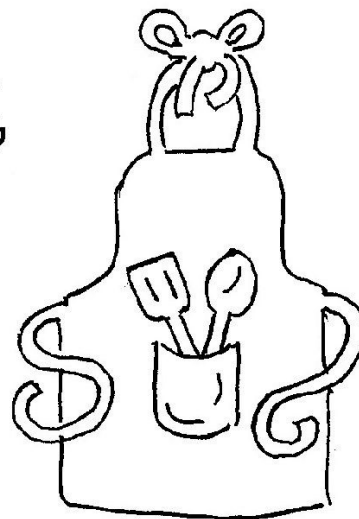


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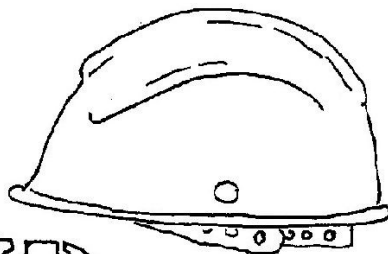
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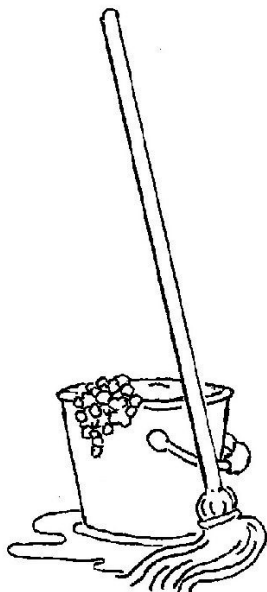
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# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MUSIC NEWS

Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday September 3rd at 6:00PM. If you are interested in participating, please contact Gwen Jones with any questions you may have.

## IMPORTANT DATES

September—Loose Coin Partner: Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.

As advocates for animal welfare, Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc. provides sanctuary for animals in need of compassionate care and protection. Their mission includes:

- Fostering the adoption of healthy animals into responsible homes and reuniting lost animals with their owners.
- Reducing overpopulation.
- Providing an accessible facility with effective leadership and well-trained staff.
- Serving the community through education and addressing animal welfare issues.

Sunday September 1st: Communion Server—**Volunteer Needed**

Tuesday September 3rd: Bell Choir rehearsal resumes at 6:00PM.

Sunday September 22nd: Coffee House Church—Potluck Style





## COMMUNION SERVER & COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

Sign up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. We are in need of a Communion Server for **Sunday September 1st**. 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 September 22nd**. 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

Please help us continue helping 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.

# September 2024

| Sun                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                                    | Tue                                                               | Wed                                       | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><b>COMMUNION SERVER</b>                                                                                            | 2<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Ann Mickey | 3<br>Bell Choir<br>6:00PM<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Roger Currier  | 4                                         | 5   | 6   | 7<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Cathy Ramirez                                                                                         |
| 8<br>                                   | 9<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Isaac Juarez                                                                                | 10<br>Bell Choir<br>6:00PM                                        | 11<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Jordan Nutter | 12  | 13  | 14                                                                                                                               |
| 15                                                                                                                      | 16                                                                                                                     | 17<br>Bell Choir<br>6:00PM                                        | 18                                        | 19  | 20  | 21<br><b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE</b><br> |
| 22<br><b>COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH</b><br> | 23                                                                                                                     | 24<br>Bell Choir<br>6:00PM<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Bianca Juarez | 25                                        | 26  | 27  | 28                                                                                                                               |
| 29<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Wyatt Scott                                                                                 | 30                                                                                                                     |                                                                   |                                           |     |     | Sunday Fellowship<br>9:30AM<br>Sunday Worship<br>10:00AM                                                                         |

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>.

**SEPT. 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)

