

Potwin Post

FEBRUARY 2026

Pastor's Post

Rev. Donna Gilchrist

One Sunday a few weeks back, I asked a lot of questions during the sermon. It was exciting to hear your insights and ideas. A couple of things stuck with me from that day. The first is that someone said their takeaway for the morning was, "We're alive!" Yes, Potwin Presbyterian Church is very much alive, and you are doing some incredible ministry and mission! It's a joy to be with you on this journey with Creator/Christ/Holy Spirit.

The second point was that one congregational member spoke with me later to make sure I know that our neighbors are not just the people who have roofs over their heads. Our neighbors are the folks who are digging in dumpsters or visiting the food pantry or interacting in the neighborhood in diverse ways, but who are doing without many basics like a roof over their heads. Neighbors come in many varieties, and one function of the church is to offer the same kind of radical hospitality shared in Matthew 25:31-40 and Luke 10:25-37. I was glad to hear this expressed and to recognize that Potwin congregants take this very seriously and are concerned about ways to be as inclusive as possible.

Thank you for talking with me about what is going on with you, for clarifying, for making suggestions, and for bringing things to my attention. Please feel free to contact me at any time with a call or text on my cell phone (405) 630-7161.

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Over the month of February, I'd like to spend some time getting to know you better and hearing your stories about the church. For lack of a better name I've called these gatherings, "Dialoguing with Donna." There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board beside the office. You only need to attend one event. Let's plan on meeting in Fellowship Hall at the church for about an hour and a half. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

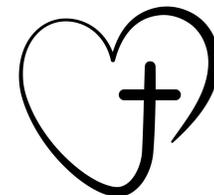
Here are the days/times I've set up so far:

- Thursday, February 5th, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 10th, 5 p.m. (*This gathering is deliberately set before Bell Practice in hopes it will be convenient for those who are already coming to Potwin on Tuesday evenings.*)
- Sunday, February 22nd, 3 p.m.
- Monday, February 23rd, 5:30 p.m.

If you can't make one of the days/times above, use the bottom of the sheet posted by the office to write in a few days/times that might work for you. That will allow me to add an extra gathering if needed.

God's grace, love and peace,

Donna



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER

BALANCE 12/1/25	\$ 18,846.84
Dec. Receipts	\$ 9,838.66
Dec. Disbursements	\$ 6,605.78
BALANCE 12/31/25	\$ 22,178.72
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 42,167.60

Per Capita is again at \$40.00 per member. Please prayerfully consider paying your share.

FINANCIAL NEWS—The following amounts were our giving totals in 2025. Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards our community and wider world.

Joy Offering	\$244.91
Doorstep	\$361.60
Heartland Center	\$379.52
OGHS	\$356.35
World Central Kitchen	\$260.98
Peacemaking	\$198.62
Mid-Town Community Services	\$237.65
Topeka Peace & Justice	\$185.88
Pentecost	\$278.81
Christmas in July	\$276.13
Local Schools	\$502.60
HHHS	\$249.29
Rescue Mission—MAPS	\$ 66.20
Topeka Rescue Mission	\$376.39

Potwin Presbyterian Church

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

Find us on Facebook or visit online at
www.potwinpres.org

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, Pastor
Libby Adams, Pastoral Assistant
Gwen Jones, Music Director
Angela Juarez, Office Assistant

Session:

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, Moderator

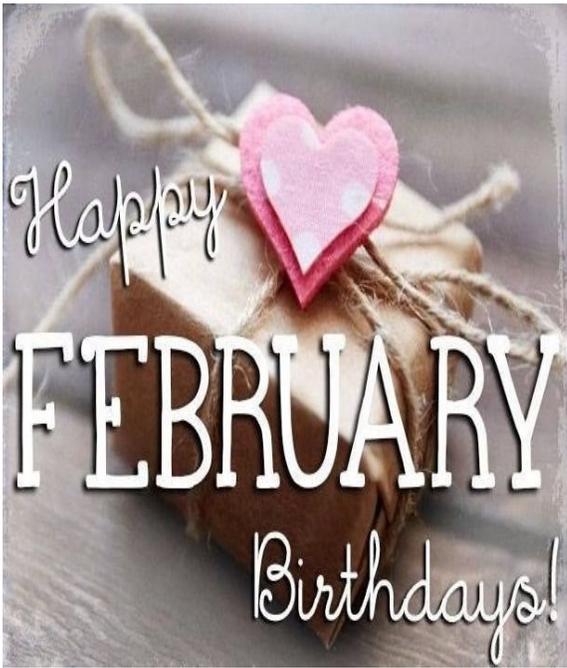
<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
Bob Harrison	Gwen Jones	Cameron Charity
Libby Adams	Jordan Nutter	Caitlin Charity
Linda Tuller		
Vacant—Youth Elder (1 year term)		

Clerk of Session: Gwen Jones
Treasurer: Linda Tuller
Financial Secretary: Erica Marshall
Building Coordinator: Pat Abbey

Personnel:

Cameron Charity

Sunday School Team—Contact Church Office
Adult Bible Study—Contact Church Office
PNK Youth Representative—Contact Church Office



Jay Gideon	2nd
Elizabeth Fincham	7th
Amanda Harvey	8th
Lucas Harvey	8th
Anna Breitenstein	10th
Dawn Jackson	11th
Mike Adams	12th
Matthew Works	14th
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

Janet Lafferty



Deadline for March

Potwin Post is February 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



FEBRUARY—Doorstep

Doorstep is an agency in Topeka that helps our neighbors survive crises, 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.

PRAYER CORNER

If you have any items you would like to add to the Prayer List, please contact Pat Abbey or the church office. If a name has been removed that you would like to keep on the list, please let us know. The Prayer List will now be published in the newsletter every month. The Prayer Group will continue to meet on Thursday afternoons at approximately 3:45pm. Please contact Pat Abbey if you would like to participate in the group.

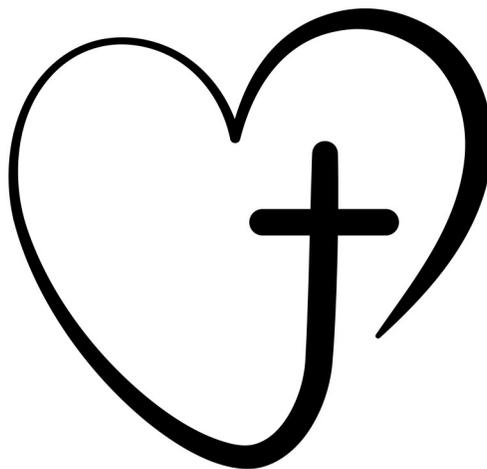
- We lift up those names and concerns that are mentioned each Sunday during church.
- Jordan & Grant Nutter as they await the arrival of their first child.
- Angela Juarez as she begins her cancer treatment
- All those with health concerns, whether it be for themselves or loved ones.
- Church Elders and the Shared Ministry Task Force as they continue working together to keep the covenant between Potwin Presbyterian and Westside Christian.
- All those dealing with tragic circumstances such as fires, storms, and other natural disasters.
- All those mourning the loss and absence of loved ones.
- Our nation and its leaders that they will be wise and compassionate, working for the good of all.
- May we come together by letting go of fear, anger, divisiveness, and instead embrace Christ's ways of love. May we continue working towards eliminating all forms of oppression in our society and to speak up when we see injustices.
- All those struggling with addiction, mental illness, homelessness, victims of human trafficking, etc.
- Our nation's military, police, fire and emergency personnel here and around the world. We pray especially for Brenden Chermok as he serves our country.
- Our mission partners including: Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Doorstep, Midtown Community Services, Topeka Rescue Mission, Heartland Camps, World Central Kitchen, Helping Hands Humane Society, Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, Westside Christian and West Side Baptist Churches.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—January Meeting

Work Group Chairs will be announced once they have been assigned. You may continue to bring your concerns to your Session members in the meantime. Your current Session members for 2026 are **Jordan Nutter, Cameron Charity, Bob Harrison, Gwen Jones, Libby Adams, Linda Tuller, & Caitlin Charity.**

- Approved the proposed Covenant the Shared Ministry Taskforce drafted. The congregation will vote on it at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 18.
- Approved Linda Tuller, Joyce Black, and Madeline Bigham to continue to be Potwin's representatives on the Shared Ministries Task Force.
- The proceeds from the Cookie Walk will be divided equally between Doorstep, Topeka Rescue Mission, and Let's Help. They will each receive \$268.
- Jordan Nutter has been hired as the Assistant Treasurer.
- Madeline Bigham and Isabella are going to go through the toys in the quiet room and update with newer toys.
- Gwen and Cameron will serve as Presbytery Commissioners this year.
- Approved the baptism of Emersyn Grace Bigham on February 15th.



ASH WEDNESDAY

**Come and Go
Ashes and Prayer**

**Feb. 18, 2026
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
432 SW Lindenwood**

**Sponsored by
West Side Christian Church
& Potwin Presbyterian Church**



LOOKIN' FOR...

L₁ O₁ V₄ E₁

2026 LENT/EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

9:15 A.M. WORSHIP

**POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
400 SW WASHBURN AVE. TOPEKA, KS**

News from Doorstep

The need for food assistance increased again in 2025. We provided a total of 3,094 food orders last year, 130 more than 2024! The 169,464 pounds of food provided meals for 7,771 of our neighbors, and we could not have done it without our Mission Members... You! We want to thank each of our Mission Members (formerly congregations) for continuing to partner with and support Doorstep in our many endeavors throughout each year! Whether it is a special event, collection of food, blankets, hygiene products, school supplies, Christmas gifts or money, as a group you come through time and time again to help your neighbors coming to Doorstep. It is clear from the past few years that food will continue to be a great need in Shawnee County and the surrounding area.

One way to help in the first part of 2026 is by donating items for our annual SouperBowl Sunday collection of soup and crackers!

During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 6th – 8th) we ask our faith communities and mission partners to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A successful event will keep our pantry shelves stocked with soup for a few months, at least!

In 2025, we set a goal of 10,000 pounds, and unfortunately, we fell short of the goal... However, we still fed many of our neighbors with the 7,083 pounds we received!!!!

With the need continuing to rise, we are shooting for 5 ton again this year!! Please help us reach our goal and provide a warm meal at home for our neighbors!

**2026's Goal for SouperBowl Sunday weekend is...
5 tons = 10,000 pounds of soup and crackers!**

Christmas Adoption Project Update: Doorstep adopted extra households in 2025 including 20 additional single men & women, and 5 households of 5. In total, with your help, we provided food, gift cards, blankets, health kits, toys, school supplies, household items, and gifts for 282 households involving 860 individuals. Thank you to EVERYONE who donated items, time and money to make 2025's Christmas Project a success!! With 55 Mission Members and the community working together we can make a big impact in assisting our neighbors who need a hand up! Thank you! ~ Lisa Cain

******Please bring your "Souperbowl Sunday" donations to Potwin Church for all of February.******



Doorstep Needs List

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

- Men's Underwear ~ All Sizes
- Men's Jeans ~ 32, 34, 36, 46-48
- Men's T-Shirts ~ All Sizes
- Men's Underwear ~ All Sizes
- Men's Belts ~ All Sizes
- Men's Pajamas ~ All Sizes
- Men's Sweatpants & Sweatshirts ~ All Sizes
- Women's Pajamas ~ All Sizes
- Women's Underwear ~ All Sizes
- Boys Jeans ~ All Sizes
- Boys Sweatpants & Sweatshirts ~ All Sizes
- Boys Shirts ~ All Sizes
- Girls & Teens Jeans & Leggings ~ All Sizes
- Girls Pajamas ~ All Sizes
- Girls Shirts & Tops ~ All Sizes
- Tennis Shoes (Men, Women & Kids ~ All Sizes)
- Blankets & Comforters ~ All Sizes, especially Queen

- Hygiene Items: Full Size: Shampoo, Conditioner, 2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hairbrushes, Razors
- Diapers – Sizes Newborn, 5 & 6

Food Room Needs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Vegetable, Cream Mushroom, Chicken Noodle & Tomato Soups | Peanut Butter Mixed |
| Canned Vegetables | Canned Fruit ~ Peaches, Cocktail, Pears |
| Canned Beans ~ (Pinto, Black, Chili) | Ramen Noodles |
| Tuna | Canned Milk |
| Corn, Green Beans, Peas & Baked Beans | Saltine Crackers |

Donations Accepted:

Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm

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



Doorstep's 2026

**SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY" IS
FEBRUARY 8th**



**BRING
SOUP
AND
CRACKERS**



TO YOUR
FAITH COMMUNITY
FEBRUARY 6th - 8th

***Potwin Church, please bring donations

for the whole month of February!***

TO HELP STOCK

DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!

Our Goal this year is 5 ton... 10,000 pounds!

Let's stock the shelves & feed our neighbors!

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.

*****PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR AN URGENT WARMING CENTER NEEDS LIST*****

DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS

Meat—All Types (must be USDA certified) Canned Proteins (tuna, chicken, sloppy joe, beans, etc.)
Canned Fruit Spaghetti-O's Men's Underwear (M, L, XL); T-Shirts 3X-4X; Jeans 30-40
Baby Diapers Size 5&6; Baby Toiletries (lotion, shampoo, etc.) Men's & Women's Deodorant
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

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

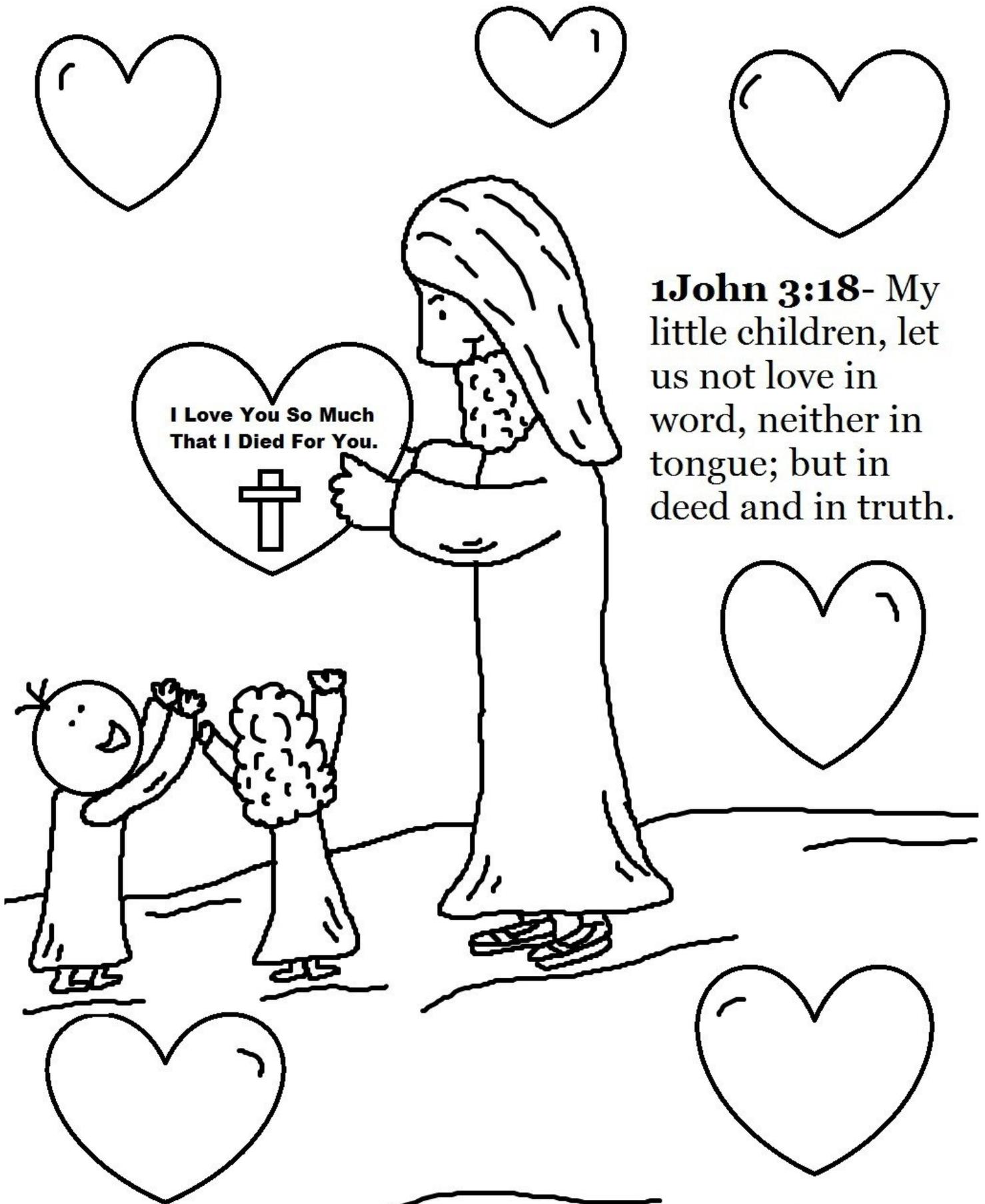
Visit the link below to purchase items from the TRM Amazon Wish List.

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



TRM
MINISTRIES





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

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS

What a joy it will be to welcome baby Emersyn Grace Bigham into our faith community! Please join us on Sunday February 15th as we celebrate her baptism during worship at 9:15AM.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday February 1st—Communion Sunday; Last day to order Super Bowl Subs in support of the Youth Group at First Pres. Topeka in which the youth at PPC are invited to be a part of.

Thursday February 5th—Dialoguing with Donna 10AM

Saturday February 7th 5-7PM & Sunday February 8th 1-4PM—Pick up soup orders from the Soup Line 2.0 Doorstep Fundraiser. Location: First Christian Church (Gage Blvd Parking Lot) 1880 SW Gage Blvd. Contact Doorstep at (785)357-5341 for questions.

Sunday February 8th— Subs purchased from the Youth Group Fundraiser in conjunction with FPC Topeka will be available for pickup. More details to come as we get closer to the date.

Tuesday February 10th— Dialoguing with Donna 5PM

Sunday February 15th—Baptism of Emersyn Grace Bigham during 9:15 AM worship service

Wednesday February 18th—Ash Wednesday “Come & Go” with Prayer 5-7 PM at West side Christian Church 432 SW Lindenwood Topeka, KS 66606

Sunday February 22nd—Dialoguing with Donna 3PM

Monday February 23rd—Dialoguing with Donna 5:30PM

POTWIN BELLS

Our bell choir needs your talents! Rehearsal is at 6PM every Tuesday unless otherwise noted. Please contact our music director, Gwen Jones, if you have any questions. All are welcome!

BLESSING BOX

Our Blessing Box is in continuous use. There are warm, crocheted hats available. As cold weather approaches, please feel free to take a couple to have in your car for those in need or to place in the Blessing Box. The supply will be replenished as needed. Please remember the Blessing Box when you do your shopping as the need is higher than ever in our community. You may place those items directly in the Blessing Box or non-perishables can be placed in the pantry cabinet just inside the south door of the Sanctuary to be used to refill it later.

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.

“We love because he first loved us.”

~ 1 John 4:19



February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2 Happy Birthday Jay Gideon	3	4	5 Dialoguing with Donna 10AM	6	7 Happy Birthday Elizabeth Fincham
8 Happy Birthday Amanda Harvey Lucas Harvey	9	10 Dialoguing with Donna 5PM Happy Birthday Anna Breitenstein	11 Happy Birthday Dawn Jackson	12 Happy Birthday Mike Adams	13	14 Valentine's Day  Happy Birthday Matthew Works
15 Baptism for Emersyn Grace Bigham during worship	16 	17	18  Come & Go @ WCC 5-7PM	19	20 Happy Birthday Kim Kingery	21
22 Coffee House Church Dialoguing with Donna 3PM	23 Dialoguing with Donna 5:30PM Happy Birthday Mary Breitenstein	24	25 Happy Birthday Debi Harvey	26 Happy Birthday Mark Abbey	27 Happy Birthday Gwen Jones	28

Sun. Worship—9:15AM

Bell Choir Rehearsal Every Tuesday—6PM unless otherwise noted

FEB. 2026 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

