

Potwin Post

JANUARY 2026

Pastor's Post

Rev. Donna Gilchrist

Have you ever marveled at God's timing? As I write this, we have just worshiped for three Sundays together, and soon we will share in remembering the birth of Jesus, the Christ. This time of year is one of my favorite church seasons because it reminds me that God is up to something new. The infant Jesus is a tangible reminder that God is always creating in our midst. God grows and develops the life of a community of faith also, and it will be exciting to discover what else God might be up to at Potwin Presbyterian Church.

The Annual Potwin Cookie Walk was a huge success, raising somewhere between \$600-\$700 to address food insecurity in Topeka. Afterwards, it was a joy to see that bags of cookies had been placed in the food pantry to share with neighbors in need. This warm and welcoming event put smiles on the faces of so many in our neighborhood. Aren't you glad to be part of this church where so many are involved in reaching out to others?

Right now, my heart is filled with gratitude. I've enjoyed meeting you and worshipping together. This new journey with you has been a learning curve for me, and I appreciate the many ways that all of you have extended grace and care and overlooked mistakes large



and small. Different people have been present at just the right times to offer guidance through any number of things that have come up, and I have received a strong message that "we are in this together."

As we begin a new year together, I hope to spend some time getting to know you better. Watch for upcoming small group events where we can share stories and ideas.

Please know that I also believe that we are in this together. Feel free to contact me on my cell phone at any time through text or phone call. I look forward to journeying through 2026 with you and God.

Grace and Peace,

Donna

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering in the month of December.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

BALANCE 11/1/25	\$ 18,713.31
Nov. Receipts	\$ 5,668.31
Nov. Disbursements	\$ 5,534.78
BALANCE 11/30/25	\$ 18,846.84
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 42,188.46

If you have not turned in your 2026 Potwin Pledge Letter, please return it to the church as soon as possible. There are blank pledge letters available in the church office if you need a copy. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

FINANCIAL NEWS—The following amounts were received in the previous quarter from our Loose Coin Offerings:

Helping Hands Humane Society	\$249.29
Local Schools	\$477.60
Doorstep	\$276.13
Topeka Center for Peace & Justice	\$185.88
Pentecost Offering	\$278.81
World Central Kitchen	\$260.98

Many thanks for your continued generosity towards our Loose Coin Offerings each month.

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

2025

Cameron Charity
Linda Tuller
Joyce Black

2026

Bob Harrison
Libby Adams

2027

Gwen Jones
Jordan Nutter

Vacant—Youth Elder (1 year term)

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

Administrative Council:

Cameron Charity & Jordan Nutter

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



Kayleen Shaw
 Aurora Harvey
 Violet Strobel
 Annalise Ohse
 Isabella Bigham

5th
 21st
 23rd
 24th
 24th

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

Loose Coin Offering



JANUARY

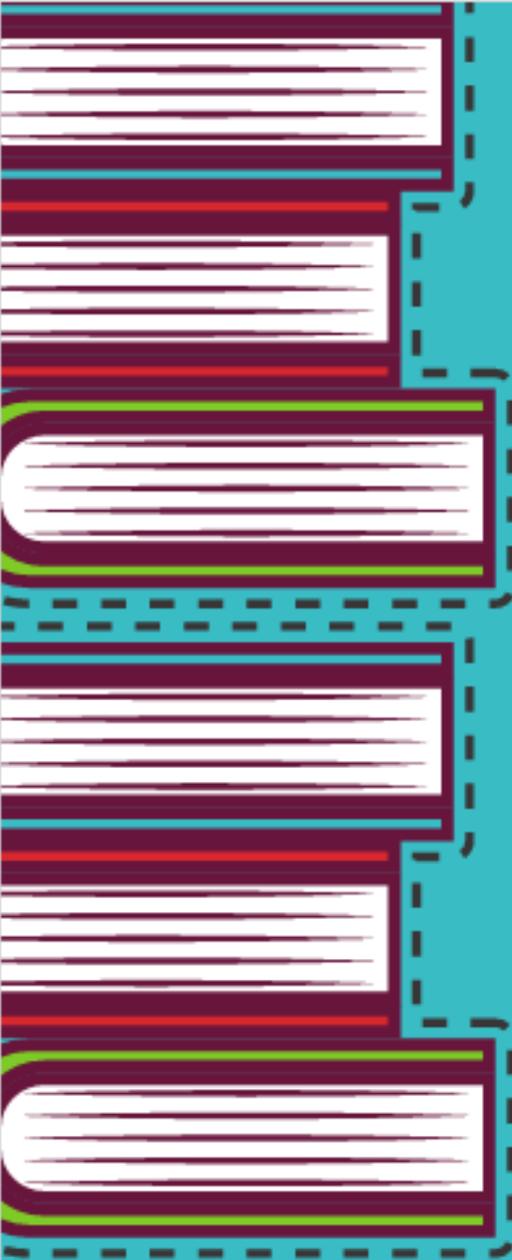
Midtown Community Services

Midtown Community Services is a non-profit that grew out of the mission work of Potwin Presbyterian, West Side Baptist, and Westside Christian. Now, truly a coalition of people that live and work in the neighborhoods around the church, it seeks to help others live the best life possible. Projects include support for Meadows Elementary, Lowman Hills Elementary, Baby Closet, Kids Closet, Harvesters programs, and more. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Deadline for February
Potwin Post is January 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.**



Presbytery of Northern Kansas
2026 Book Group

EVERYONE in PNK is invited to
participate!

A IS FOR ALABASTER: 52
REFLECTIONS ON THE
STORIES OF SCRIPTURE
BY ANNA CARTER
FLORENCE

Studies begin week of
January 5, 2026
and last for 6-7 weeks

Choose from the following groups:

- Leader: Adrian Hunley - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - via Zoom
- Leader: Donna Clark - Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. - via Zoom
- Leader: Roxie Baer -- Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in person @
First Presbyterian Church of Riley (104 E. Kansas, Riley)
- Leader: Meredith Kemp-Pappan -- Thursdays at 12:00 noon
-- via Zoom

CLICK to sign up, or go to www.pnks.org

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.
- Madeline & Brendan Bigham who welcomed their daughter, Emersyn Grace, into the world on December 8th.
- Jordan & Grant Nutter as they await the arrival of their first child.
- All those with health concerns, whether it be for themselves or loved ones.
- Church Elders and the Shared Ministry Task Force as they work together to create a 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—December Meeting

Work Group Chairs—Questions and concerns pertaining to the following areas should be directed to the individuals listed below.

Administrative—Jordan Nutter and Cameron Charity

Property & Grounds—Bob Harrison

Worship and Education—Gwen Jones

Fellowship—Libby Adams

Mission and Outreach—Linda Tuller

- The electronic giving app is now on the church web page.
- Officer training was completed.
- Gwen Jones was reelected to serve as clerk for 2026.
- Linda Tuller was reelected to serve as treasurer for 2026.
- A budget of \$85,888 for 2026 was approved.
- Bonuses for the Financial Secretary, the Director of Music. The Administrative Assistant and the Treasurer were approved.
- We have new signs outside reflecting our new schedule.
- The HVAC project for the office area of the church will begin the first week of January.
- The Thanksgiving dinner was well attended and enjoyed by all.
- We will have a reception following the service on Christmas Eve.
- We collected 27 jars of peanut butter, 27 jars of jelly, 15 boxes of potatoes and one bag of fresh potatoes for the holiday food boxes being sent home with children at Meadows.
- We collected \$376.38 for the Rescue Mission through the loose coin offering.
- The Annual Meeting is January 18th. REPORTS ARE DUE ON THE 7TH.
- The Session continues to study the book “Small Church Essentials”



MISSION NEWS & UPDATES

- **Online Giving**—The Session is pleased to announce an online giving option is now available through Subsplash. A big thank you to Jordan Nutter who did the research and implementation of this feature with an assist from Libby Adams to get it on our website. We know our members faithfully support our work and mission by writing a regular check. We also know younger folks are more likely to use an online service and we want to be able to provide this option. It is now on our website and replaces PayPal.
- **Holiday Food Boxes**—Our efforts to support Meadows Elementary School resulted in a delivery of 27 jars each of peanut butter and jelly, 13 packages of potatoes and one 5# bag. Thanks to each of you for your contribution! The hats, gloves and scarves on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary will go to the Topeka Rescue Mission.
- **Cookie Walk**—There were lots of bakers and candy makers; we had people help setting up and tearing down, help with advertising, prayers, and we had lots of shoppers at the Cookie Walk. I am so pleased to inform you we raised \$805. We could not have done this without all who helped. THANK YOU!!!! The funds will be distributed to help with food insecurities in Topeka. AGAIN, THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU!!!

Doorstep Needs List

CLOTHING & HOMEWARE DONATIONS

Many of our neighbors are in need of basic clothing and home items. Items specifically for children are also in high demand. The following items are particularly useful:

Clothing	Sheets, blankets, linens	Jewelry
Diapers	Shoes	Dishes
Toys	Drapes, throw rugs	Pots & pans
Small Household Appliances	Towels & towel sets	

*Due to the small space of our building and redistribution restraints, we are not able to accept furniture of any kind or car seats. To donate these items (gently used and in good condition), please contact:

God's Storehouse	Giving Tree
2111 SW Chelsea Dr, Topeka, KS 66614	3343 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66611
(785)608-6743	(785)408-1392

FOOD DONATIONS

We strive to provide our neighbors with nutritious, well-rounded food options. Additionally, we like to offer more than just a quick fix. For many of our clients, we provide meal packages designed to yield three meals a day for five days. While we love any and all food donations, the following items are most common in our meal packages:

Macaroni & cheese	Bread	Pork & beans
Pinto beans	Egg noodles	Crackers
Spaghetti	Rice	Peanut butter
Canned Fruit	Spaghetti sauce	Hamburger: 1 lb packages
Canned soups	Tuna	Sugar
Ramen noodles	Canned vegetables	Flour
Milk: canned & powdered	Corn	Cake mixes
Cereal: hot & dry	Green beans	Cooking oil
Jelly	Peas	

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEM DONATIONS

When available, we like to provide items to help our neighbors maintain healthy personal hygiene. The following are especially useful:

- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap bars
- Feminine hygiene products
- Deodorant
- Body wipes
- Combs/brushes

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.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS

(Please visit the link at the bottom of this page to view the complete Needs List on Amazon.)

Urgent Food Items

Loaves of bread Peanut Butter Frozen Meals Canned Soups (All Types)

Food Items Always Needed

Canned Protein (Tuna, Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Beans, Chili, etc.) Dry Pasta (All Types) Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter Rices (All Types) Spaghettis-O's
Grape Jelly Canned Soups (All Types) Frozen Meals (Pot Pies, Corn Dogs, etc.)
Loaves of Bread Canned Fruits/Veggies Meat—All Types (Must be USGA Certified)
Cereals Oatmeal

Clothing

Men's & Women's Underwear (NEW) Packages of Socks
Men's Jeans (Size 30-40) Baby Diapers (Size 4-5)
Men's Shirts (3XL or larger) Pull-Ups (Size 2t/3t/4t/5t)

Toiletries

Baby Lotion, Shampoo, etc. Full-size Conditioner Men's & Women's Deodorant Brushes/Headbands
Q-Tips Foot Powder Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Cough Drops, Tums Razors & Shaving Cream

KITCHEN NEEDS

Variety of Meats (Beef, Sausage, Pork, Chicken) Hamburger/Hot Dog Buns
Liquid Eggs Lunch Meat
Loaves of Bread Canned Fruits/Veggies (#10 preferred)

MAP NEEDS

Women's underwear size small (4-6) Men's underwear sizes 30-36
Men's jeans sizes 30-36 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 following link 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





EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS

-Emersyn Grace Bigham was welcomed into the world on December 8th by her proud parents, Brenden & Madeline Bigham, and big sister Isabella. Congratulations!

-Our own Mary Charity was honored with the Crystal Apple Award recently by USD #501. She teaches third grade at Williams Magnet School. This award is presented to those who embody the "definition of a teacher: One who makes students feel safe, supported and capable". Students have big challenges but she meets them with love, patience and high expectations. Mary said, "Education is the great equalizer. I'll believe in my students until they can believe in themselves". Well done, Mary!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thur. Jan. 1st—New Year's Day. Church office will be closed. We will be open on Friday Jan. 2nd from 9AM to 11AM.

Sun. Jan. 4th—We will be taking down Christmas decorations after worship. Your assistance is needed and very much appreciated. A soup luncheon/brunch will be provided for those who stay to help.

Sun. Jan. 18th—Annual Congregational Meeting after worship. Your voices and votes matter. Please join us. Details to be released as we get closer to the date.

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship 9:15AM (Fellowship after worship)		Bell Choir Rehearsal 6PM Every Tuesday		1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Church Office Open 9AM- 11AM	3
4 Communion Undecorating after worship. Soup Lunch/ Brunch for helpers.	5 Happy Birthday Kayleen Shaw	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Annual Congregational Meeting— Immediately After Worship	19 Martin Luther King Jr Day	20	21 Happy Birthday Aurora Harvey	22	23 Happy Birthday Violet Strobel	24 Happy Birthday Annalise Ohse Isabella Bigham
25 Coffee House Church	26	27	28	29	30	31

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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

