

Pastor's Post "I AM" ~ Rev. Donna Gilchrist

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ~ Exodus 3:13-14, NRSV

The 250th birthday of our nation will be here soon. I've been caught a little off guard; after all wasn't it only yesterday that we were celebrating the 200th birthday of the United States? As we approach this huge celebration of our democracy, I'm reminded of a young nation founded by folks traveling away from the life they knew in order to find a land where they could choose the kind of religion they wanted to practice...a place where church and government were not intertwined. That ship ride was rough and perilous, and winter spent in their new homeland was deadly, killing many. It was the friendship of those indigenous to the land that helped them survive so that they could eventually thrive. Those first settlers endured so much grief and hardship to live out their beliefs. Today, we live in a world that changes rapidly every day. Just like the Pilgrims, we are called to new understandings and flexibility. Yet we Christians cling to our traditions as we would a favorite childhood blanket, believing that if we just hold on tight enough – life with God as we know it will not change.

Change is the one constant in the world that surrounds us.

When God was preparing Moses to free the Israelites, Moses asked God, "Who shall I say you are?" God responded, "I AM." That can be translated "I am what I am," or "I will be what I will be."

I love that scripture. It tells me the God is God. The future tense of the translation above, "I will be what I will be" offers hope. It reminds us that we worship God who is not afraid of change but embraces it. God intrinsically possesses the flexibility to adapt to different situations while still being steadfast and faithful.

In the book of Genesis, we read that you and I are made in God's image. We were created to retain important values and unique identity while being flexible and adaptable. God has given us the ability to create new understandings and to build new relationships even when the way ahead is difficult.

I hope that you understand God to be above all else, Love...A Love that is so great that it can adapt to anything and still remain resilient...Love that reaches out and includes those who are lost or struggling...Love that is inclusive (no exceptions). Perhaps as we approach the 250th birthday of our nation, God might say, "I AM" everything you need right now and somethings you haven't thought of. May we trust God now more than ever.

With Christ's Love,
Pastor Donna

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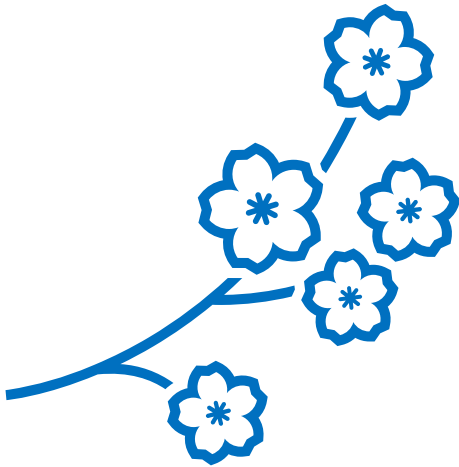
TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 5/1/26	\$11,381.94
May Receipts	\$17,045.74
May Disbursements	\$17,517.33
BALANCE 5/31/26	\$10,910.35
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$37,353.98

Thank you for your generous contributions to the American Cancer Society in the month of June.

Thank
You

Thanks to all who paid their \$40 Per Capita for 2026. This is our assessment to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. If you are able to give this amount in addition to your regular pledge, we would appreciate it!



ONLINE GIVING OPTION – Please scan the QR code below if you are interested in using our online giving option through Subsplash.



Potwin Presbyterian Church
400 SW Washburn Ave
Topeka, KS 66606
(785)235-1311

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

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, Pastor
Libby Adams, Pastoral Assistant
Gwen Jones, Music Director
Angela Juarez, Office Assistant
Erica Marshall, Financial Secretary
Linda Tuller & Jordan Nutter, Co-Treasurers

Session

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, Moderator

2026

Bob Harrison
Libby Adams
Linda Tuller

2027

Gwen Jones
Jordan Nutter

2028

Cameron Charity
Caitlin Charity

Vacant – Youth Elder (1 year term)

Clerk of Session: Gwen Jones
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



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

**Like God the Father,
we celebrate the day
you were born!**

**If we don't have you or
your loved ones on our
birthday list, and you
would like to be
included, please email
Angela or the church and
let us know.**

Thank You!!
😊

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.



Deadline for August Potwin Post is July 20*

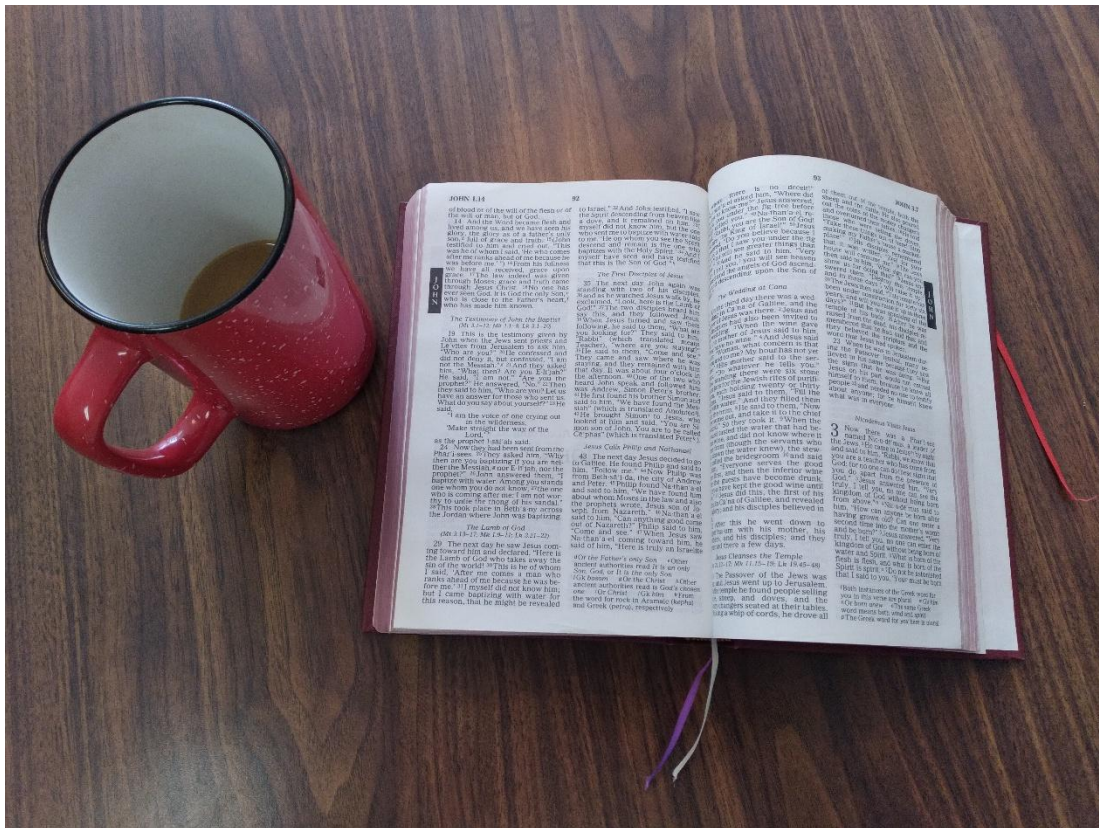
Please email your submissions to Angela Juarez at arp0371@gmail.com or potwinchurch@att.net.

****Any submissions received after the deadline WILL NOT be included in the next Potwin Post. No exceptions.***

COFFE HOUSE CHURCH UPSTAIRS

As a means of including as many people as possible in activities at Potwin Presbyterian Church, new lifts have been purchased and installed to assist folks in getting to the sanctuary. As money becomes available, the Session would like to add several more lifts that will make the Fellowship Hall area accessible. Watch for information on how you can contribute toward those lifts.

In the meantime, starting in July 2026, Coffee House Church will be moved into the sanctuary to make sure that it is accessible to everyone. As one of our Elders noted, "Wouldn't it be sad if someone came to Coffee House Church and couldn't make it downstairs?" If you have ideas on ways to make Coffee House Church inviting while we're in the sanctuary, please contact Worship Chair, Gwen Jones, or Pastor Donna.



PRAYER CORNER

If you have any items you would like to add to the Prayer List, please contact Angela Juarez 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 be published in the newsletter every month.

- We lift up those names and concerns that are mentioned each Sunday during church.
- 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.
- 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.



JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Work Group Chairs

Administrative – Jordan Nutter & Cameron Charity

Property & Grounds – Bob Harrison

Worship & Education – Gwen Jones

Fellowship – Liddy Adams & Caitlin Charity

Mission & Outreach – Linda Tuller

Questions and concerns pertaining to the respective areas should be directed to the individuals listed above.

- Harassment and Anti-Racism Policies were reviewed without change.
- There are lights throughout the church that need to be replaced, we will start getting them replaced. We will look at replacing what we can with LED.
- WSC has a child Christian Ed program called Worship and Wonder, we will be looking at it to possibly introduce its use with our little ones.
- Beginning in July, Coffeehouse Church will be moved to the north end of the sanctuary until we get lifts installed all the way to Fellowship Hall.
- We would like to participate in the Potwin Parade but need to find a trailer for that to happen. We will be searching for anyone who has access to a trailer.
- July we will be supporting Doorstep with Christmas in July and in August we will do our Back-to-School drive, we will participate in the parking lot event with New Life Baptist Church again this year. We will get more info out soon.
- The Presbytery is offering a technology in worship grant, we will apply.
- Donna officiated at the graveside service for Janet Lafferty.
- Bob gathered the historical materials needed to apply to put the church on the national Historic Registry. Mark Burenheide now has the materials and will begin the process.
- The Session will not meet on July 8th. We will meet on July 22nd to walk through the church to document needed maintenance issues, congregation will be invited to join the elders.
- The Session discussed the need for greeters at each of the doors, we will ask folks to help fill this role and also ask openers to help.

**TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2026**

DAY CAMP

Monday, July 20 - Friday, July 24

Register your children today

at heartlandcamps.org/trinity-topeka

For Ages: completed Kindergarten - completed 6th grade
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Price:** \$75 per Camper

---Space limited---

EVERY DAY, campers *must* bring the following items to camp:

- **Closed toe shoes**
(*wear daily* except for water activities)
- Sack lunch (*no refrigeration available*)
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Swimsuit
- Water shoes (*for water activities*)
- Towel

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS WITH THE CAMPER'S NAME.

4746 SW 21st Street, Topeka, Ks 66604

272-2620

office@trinitypresbyterian.net



DOORSTEP NEEDS LIST

CLOTHING ROOM NEEDS – (Gently Used, Not New)

- Men's Underwear – Size Large
- Men's Jeans – Especially Sizes waist 30-36, 46 & 48
- Men's Belts – All Sizes
- Men's Shoes – All Sizes
- Men's Shorts – All Sizes
- Men's Shirts – Small & Medium
- Boys & Girls Shorts & Jeans – All Sizes
- Household & Linen: Sheets – All Sizes, Bath Towels (Full Size), Comforters – Full & Queen, Pots & Pans, Toasters, Hand Can Openers, Coffee Makers, Simple Cleaning Products (Dish Soap, Comet, Fabuloso, etc.), 2-in-1 Shampoo & Conditioner

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 2111 SW Chelsea Dr Topeka, KS 66614 (785)608-6743 or Giving Tree 3343 S Topeka Blvd Topeka, KS 66611 (785)408-1392.

FOOD ROOM NEEDS

- Vegetable Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Progresso/Chunky Style Soup
- Canned Fruit – Variety
- Egg Noodles
- Peas
- Canned Beans (Pinto, Black, Chili)

Donations Accepted:

**Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm**

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

Doorstep's Christmas in July

Donations Needed for this Christmas!



**Help us collect items for our 2026 Christmas adoption
of 285 households, with nearly 900 individuals!**

Toys

Footballs & Basketballs ~ Pokemon
Hello Kitty ~ Toys for Ages 5 - 12
Educational Toys (all ages)
Spiderman ~ K-Pop ~ Lelo & Stitch
Sonic Hedge Hog ~ Jewelry
Make-Up & Nail Kits



Men's & Women's Gifts

Tool Sets ~ Flashlights
Fishing Items (Poles/Tacklebox/Etc)
Car Cleaning Items ~ Boots & Sneakers
Men & Women's Cologne Sets
Sweats (All Sizes, All Ages)
Pajamas ~ Teen/Men/Women(All Sizes)



Toys

Roblox Gift Cards (\$10-\$20)
Paw Patrol ~ Bluey ~
Minecraft ~ Puzzles ~ Legos
Sensory / Fidget ~
Board & Brain Teaser Games ~
Color Books for All Ages
Teen Board Games



Kitchen Items

Silverware ~ Glasses ~ Crockpots
Dish Sets ~ Pots & Pans ~ Air Fryers

Other Items

Towel Sets - (Bath, Hand & Washcloth)
Blankets - Queen & King Sizes
Full Size Hygiene Items: Deodorant
Shampoo + Conditioner ~ Bar Soap
Combs ~ Brushes ~ Toothpaste ~
Toothbrushes ~ **Cleaning Supplies**



School Supplies

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

Bring donations to your Faith Community during the month of July!

Thank you for making the holiday season brighter for your neighbors!

Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Ave - Donation Hours: M-F, 9am-2pm, South Door

Doorstep's Christmas Cash Bash



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



If we receive \$10,000 - We earn \$5,000!

If we receive \$15,000 - We earn \$7,500!

If we receive \$20,000 - We earn \$10,000!



Ways to Donate:

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

Let us know if you belong to one of our Mission Member Faith Communities



Help us reach our goal of \$20,000+ for **Christmas Cash Bash**, and we will receive \$10,000 more to help your neighbors this holiday season!



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep, Inc.

1119 SW 10th Ave Topeka, Ks 66604

Online: www.DoorstepTopeka.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 3pm

Topeka Rescue Mission NEEDS LIST

PRIORITY NEEDS: Donations can be brought to our Distribution Center at 401 NW Norris, Monday-Friday 8 am to 3:45 pm. This list highlights our most needed items right now, but we will gladly accept other donations as well, such as: clothing of all sizes, appliances, furniture, housewares, nonperishable/perishable foods, etc. For questions or to speak with our Distribution Center, call (785)357-4285.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS

Urgent Food Items: Loaves of Bread, Peanut Butter, Frozen Meals, Canned Soups (All Types)

Food Items Always Needed:

- Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Beans, Chili, etc.)
- Peanut Butter & Grape Jelly, Loaves of Bread
- Dry Pasta (All Types), Pasta Sauce, Rices (All Types)
- Cereals, Oatmeal
- Canned Soups (All Types), Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables
- SpagettiOs, Frozen Meals (Pot Pies, Pizza, Corn Dogs, Frozen Meals), Meat – All Types (Must be USD Certified)

Clothing:

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

Toiletries:

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

KITCHEN NEEDS

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

MAP NEEDS (Please visit <https://www.trmonline.org/needslist> to see additional specific MAP needs that can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to TRM.)

- 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



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



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPATHIES & LOSS – We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Janet Lafferty who passed away on May 24, including her husband Don, daughter Kathy, and grandson Ben. Janet served faithfully as our Financial Secretary for 30 years. Her family requested memorial contributions in her name. Rev Gilchrist assisted them at a graveside service.

Phyllis McMahon, who was a long-time member, passed away May 29 at the age of 100. She served Potwin as an Elder and Deacon. She and Tom moved their membership to First Christian Church about 20 years ago. Our sympathy goes to her 3 surviving sons, Greg, Samuel and Paul and their families. Her son, Tim died in January 2025. Services were held at Mount Hope Cemetery.

UPCOMING EVENTS - ***Please stay tuned for details regarding July 4th Celebrations. An email will be sent out as soon as we have information to share.***

- **TDC at Trinity Pres:** Please refer to the flyer on page 7 for details.
- **August 8th:** Plans are under way to again join New Life Baptist Church at a Back-to-School event on August 8th. Last year's fair in our parking lot was a huge success as they gave free haircuts, backpacks, and school supplies. More details will follow in July.

BELL CHOIR & MUSIC NEWS – Bell Choir rehearsals will resume in September. Anyone wishing to join the choir or interested in learning to play bells should contact Gwen Jones. All are welcome!

If you have any musical talents you would like to share during the summer months, please contact Gwen Jones.

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.



JULY

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Sunday Worship 9:15 AM				Happy Birthday Hanna Scott		Independence Day 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Happy Birthday Maggie Lynn Hutchison	Happy Birthday Scott Strobel	Happy Birthday Brenda Stasiulis		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Happy Birthday Caleb Harvey & Cheryl Martin	Happy Birthday Beth Shaw				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Happy Birthday Emma Breitenstein	Happy Birthday James Currier					
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Happy Birthday Ella Abbey		Happy Birthday Joyce Black		Happy Birthday Gary Baker		

JULY 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

