

Pastor's Post ~ Rev. Donna Gilchrist

As I write this article, on the news have been images of wildfires in Riley County...bright red and orange and yellow flames on the horizon, devouring fields as they advance. Never too far away in our memories are the flash of lighting, the boom of thunder, and the roar of wind that signals a cold front moving across our city. It's not hard to imagine the bold wind and flame of Pentecost when you live in Kansas.

Yet, as residents in Riley County described the fires, they saw hope in the actions of the people who had come to help. Neighbors helping neighbors symbolized hope after recent severe storms also. Isn't that what Pentecost is about? ...God sending hope after the chaos of crucifixion and things gone wrong?...Christ assuring us that he will not leave us orphaned, but instead will send the Holy Spirit...our Comforter, Advocate, and Counselor?

Many years ago, one of my professors, Dr. Brandon Scott, told us to hold our hands in front of our mouths then to breath on our hands. The breath we felt was *Ruach*, Spirit. Often that is the way we experience the Holy Spirit...not with loud fanfare, but with the subtlety of a breath. The Holy Spirit nudges us to call a friend, to check on a family member, to do a random act of kindness. Spirit gathers us together, weaving the presence of God into our midst and steering us in the right direction. The mystery of the Holy Spirit reminds us that there is an aspect to God that is unknowable...felt only through the experience of living our faith. Thanks be to God.

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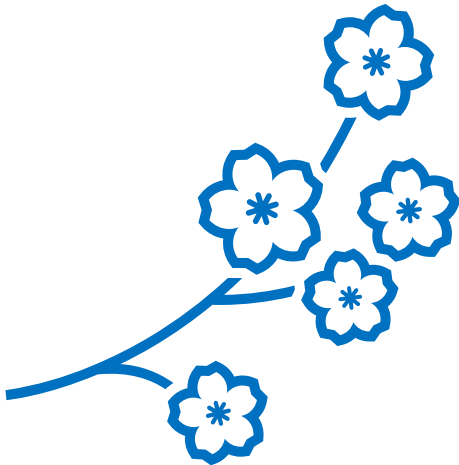
TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 4/1/26	\$10,144.26
April Receipts	\$10,335.82
April Disbursements	\$ 9,098.14
BALANCE 4/30/26	\$11,381.94
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$37,333.62

Thank you for your generous contributions to World Central Kitchen in the month of May.

**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

<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
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



Steven Chermok
Rachel Harvey

4th
26th

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.

Please pray for our at home Friends

Janet Lafferty



Thank You!!
😊

Deadline for July Potwin Post is June 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.***

Loose Coin Offering



June – American Cancer Society

The Session has designated the June Loose Coin Offering to support the American Cancer Society. Many among us have been touched by cancer—whether through our own treatments or through the experiences of loved ones, family members, and friends. Because of this, there are many meaningful reasons to support the work of the American Cancer Society. This month, the Potwin congregation is dedicating the June Loose Coin offering in honor of Angela and in support of her journey toward remission.

BUILDING DESIGNATION

The Session has authorized the installation of two new chair lifts so we can provide access to our sanctuary. Late in May one will be installed at both the north and south doors. We hope to replace the other 2 lifts on the north side, leading to Fellowship Hall, in the near future. We used reserves to pay for one lift and received a gift to pay for the other. Each lift costs about \$4500.

Bob Harrison and Linda Tuller met with Mark Burenheide, our landlord. We explained our concern about access and asked for his approval of our plan and help with the cost. Instead, Mark offered to provide the leadership necessary to place our building on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation would make us eligible for tax credits on capital expenditures and help pay for the additional 2 lifts.

We need a volunteer to gather historical documentation to achieve this designation. If you have the interest, time and energy to work with Mark, please let a Session member know. Grant Nutter has researched our records but is unable to continue this task right now. Records are in a fire-proof cabinet in the church; we suspect newspaper articles from 1924 when our building was completed are available at the Topeka Public Library. Mark would help us determine documents needed to support the application process.

While it is a beautiful traditional space, we are all very aware that our building was not designed to meet today's standards of accessibility. The preservation of our stained-glass windows is also a major concern that will need to be addressed soon. This Designation to the National Register will help us continue to be good stewards of our valuable worship space.



2026 GRADUATES

Marley Abbey, son of Mark Abbey and Amy Abbey, grandson of Pat Abbey and Peggy Shaverdi, graduated from Topeka High School. His sister, Ella, graduated the same day from Pittsburg State so his family had a choice to make that day! They attended Marley's ceremony. Marley lives with his dad, Mark, and bulldog/basset mix named Luna. For many years, they had two cats named "Peanut Butter" and "Jelly".

Marley enjoyed the social aspect of school as well as the responsibilities of classes and learning assignments. Mr. Zimmerman, who taught biology and anatomy, was his favorite teacher. He liked his teaching style, focused on teaching a lesson, not just giving a lecture. He stimulated Marley's interest in science, leading him to consider engineering studies at Pittsburg State. Marley is particularly interested in plastics and mechanical engineering. He is excited at developments in medical equipment and prosthetics, eager to see if that might lead to a degree and then lifework.

Marley has found Potwin Church to be a comforting and caring environment. He is grateful that it has been such a special place for his family for so many years. It is now a part of him.

Lily Hutchison is the daughter of Rachel and Jason Hutchison (who were married at Potwin Church) and the granddaughter of Debi and Mark Harvey. She is the middle child, between Emma and Maggie. Their home includes lots of pets, including 4 dogs, 5 cats, and a fish tank.

Lily graduated from Topeka West; her favorite teacher was Miss Crawford; history and art were her favorite classes, especially Early African and American History. Lily especially enjoyed drawing, painting, and ceramics. This interest will lead her to the Kansas City Art Institute next year, developing her skills and interest in combining art and history. A particular interest is the way art depicts and influences our society. She hopes to continue her education, perhaps at Kansas University and then training in museum preservation, with a job as a museum curator being her eventual goal.

Lily likes to cook, read, write, and experiment with makeup. She is working part-time at Ulta, a great place to explore color and fashion.

Lily always looked forward to morning worship with her grandmother, finding Potwin people to be very welcoming. She loves our stained-glass windows and traditional setting.

Maia Strobel, daughter of Scott and Esther Strobel and granddaughter of Dennis and Brenda Strobel, also graduated from Topeka West High School. Maia's younger sister is Violet, 13 years old. This past year, Maia lived in Lawrence with her maternal grandmother, Patricia Turmes, and commuted to classes at Topeka West and Washburn University. Maia has a pet rat named Alexei who is very laid back and is free to roam her room, though he lives in a metal cage.

Maia's favorite teacher was Mr. Garrett who teaches Math and Geometry. This semester she has taken a couple of classes at Washburn where she hopes to work on a Social Work degree. She became interested in this area through a TCALC class, a specialized learning program, where law enforcement officers described needs in our community. She hopes to help others, perhaps as a case manager or child welfare worker.

In addition to classes, Maia has been working at Sonic in Lawrence. She has been a carhop, crew leader, and now manager-in-training. Primary among the skills she has learned are Sonic's motto, "Excellence without Exception" and "Right Every Time".

Maia values her connection to Potwin and says it is "near and dear to my heart".

2026 GRADUATES *continued*

Ella Abbey, daughter of Mark Abbey and Amy Abbey and granddaughter of Pat Abbey and Peggy Shaverdi, graduated from Pittsburg State University with a degree in Sports & Recreation Management with a minor in Coaching. Though she is undecided right now, she is open to jobs in College Athletics, perhaps as Director of Operations and Recruiting or Equipment Manager. She has been involved in all aspects of sports operations since her days at Topeka High School. She will serve an internship at Pitt this summer.

Ella spent her freshman year at Wichita State and has been very happy at Pitt since her transfer. Her mom, Amy, and many other family members have attended that school. Ella pledged Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and has many good friends from her time there.

During her days at Topeka High, Ella served Potwin as Junior Elder. She was grateful for that opportunity to serve and is thankful Potwin has been part of her life.

Avery Baker, daughter of Dr. Matt and Jill Baker and granddaughter of Gary Baker, graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri on May 4, 2026. Her major was Applied Health Service with a minor in chemistry; she will be pursuing a medical degree. Her father, Matt, was Vice President for Student Life at NW Missouri State for many years, until March 1 when he became President of Emporia State University. He gave the address at Avery's graduation and presented her with her diploma.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the graduates and their families. We wish you all the very best.

Congratulations





SCHOLARSHIPS

for Members of Small Churches

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE**
JUNE 19, 2026

Funds are available for Presbyterians to use at any accredited institution of higher learning (including seminaries, trade schools, and graduate study programs.)

Scholarships are awarded per school year and renewable with an annual application. Open to active Presbyterians within the Synod of Mid-America, and whose church membership qualifies as reported December 31, 2025.

Kansas – Total of 100 members or less

Missouri – Total of 50 members or less

Applicants will be judged on academic achievement, and involvement in their local church, school, and community.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Higher Education Scholarship Application

2 Essay Questions

Letter of Support from Clerk of Session or Pastor

Completed IRS Form W-9



SOMA
the synod of mid-america

3501 Campbell St #303, KCMO 64109

(913) 608-7662

office@synodma.org

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.



MAY 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.

- Lift update: Bob, Linda, and Gwen met with a second salesperson from Lifeway Mobility in our continued search for lifts that would help make our building more accessible. The southwest stairway is not a workable stairway but said replacing the three lifts at the north entrance would give us access to Fellowship Hall. There could also be a lift to the sanctuary on the south side. Bob and Linda then met with Mark Burenheide, our landlord, he supports our plan, but he cannot help with the cost. A motion was presented to the Session via e-mail to install two lifts, one on the north side and one on the south side, both going up to the sanctuary at a cost of \$7, 970 (\$4395 each). This motion passed and Bob reports the two lifts will be installed on May 25th. A decision was made to use the funds from a CD scheduled to mature in late May to pay for the first two lifts along with a donation for one of them. The session will look at fundraising for the other two lifts; donations would be appreciated. Our landlord offered to help us get the building on the National Registry of Historic Places which would provide tax credits to help us with large expenses in the future. Bob Harrison will work with him to get copies of the historical records that will be needed.
- During our evaluation of Holy Week microphone issues in Fellowship Hall were discussed. Grant Nutter did some research on wireless mics and made a recommendation. A discussion via email followed and the Session decided in favor of purchasing two wireless mics for Fellowship Hall. The mics have been purchased through Second Mile giving.
- Reviewed the Child/Youth Protection and Sexual Misconduct Policies
- Evaluated the '*Cinco de Potwin*' Celebration –PROS: it was fun, had great food, well attended, the quilt dedication; CONS: fellowship hall is not accessible, Donna was unable to attend.
- Donna has now finished the Reformed worship class.
- Felix Nutter was baptized on April 19th. This was Donna's 2nd infant baptism.
- The June Loose Coin offering will be designated to go to the American Cancer Society in support of Angela.

APRIL 25TH PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The group worshipped with and heard from Rev Ted Foote Jr and Rev. P. Alex Thournburg III during the program entitled "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America" based on their book by the same name.
- Commissioned the commissioners and delegates who will be representing at the 227th GA.
- Commissioned Sue Ann Seel to serve as the CLP for Oregon Trails Presbyterian Ministries while their pastor is on sabbatical.
- Shared in the service of celebration for Rev. James Hawley on his retirement.
- Received an update from Heartland Presbyterian Center by Executive Director Dan Scheneman and thanked the presbytery for the generous support we have provided and for the offering taken for the upgrades to the aquatic center at the camp. \$1,157 was collected from the offering.
- It was announced that 100% of the PNK clerks completed their Annual Statistical Reports.
- Recognized ordination anniversaries of 16 ministers within the PNK who have served between 10 – 65 years.
- Synod Moderator Bob Frasier shared about the 2026 Higher Education Grant applications for Presbyterians in small churches within the synod.
- Heard about the upcoming PNKS Middle and High School Youth Trip to Ghost Ranch: June 20-27 and the Adult Volunteer Work Trip to Madisonville KY to assist with work being done there in the aftermath of the 2021 and 2025 EF-4 tornados; June 21-26.
- Prayed for several individuals within the PNK, including Rev Peg Haub who fell and broke the ball of her humerus, it is slow healing.
- 7 Legacy Grant recipients were announced.
- The next meeting is a Zoom meeting on August 25th.

**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 Newsletter Article ~ June 2026

This is an exciting month here at Doorstep!

We are celebrating our 60th anniversary with our new event "NeighborFest"!

We combined our annual Salk/5k Run with celebratory events and came up with a whole new fundraiser... Doorstep's NeighborFest!

Come out on Saturday, June 6th and celebrate with us!

We will be on the grounds of Christ the King Catholic Church at 25th & Wanamaker Rd.

8am – 8:45am ~ Walk/5K Fun Run Check-in & Event Day Registration \$30/person

9am & 9:10am ~ The 5K and Walk Start with **WIBW Melissa Brunner** as Celebrity Starter

8am – 10am ~ Classic Car Show Registration \$20/car

10am – 2pm ~ NeighborFest is in full swing...

Food Trucks; Free Family Fun area with Bounce houses, face painting & balloon artist; Touch a Truck with a Fire Truck, Top City Storm Chaser vehicle, one of the original trucks from the movie **Twister**, ServiceMaster, and **KSNT Meteorologist Matt Miller** with their Storm Tracker vehicle; DJ from 10am-12pm; raffles; and a special announcement about the future of Doorstep!

More information on our website: www.DoorstepTopeka.org

60 years of 'neighbors helping neighbors' is amazing and humbling to see how our services have been needed for all these years! In the beginning, Doorstep offered cooking and sewing classes, had a daycare, used to buy and renovate houses, offered food and other services.

Today, our focus is helping with basic needs and other supporting services. Topeka has so many wonderful non-profit organizations and services that we can refer people to other organizations who provide more specialized services.

The need for food has remained at the increased level, our clothing room stays busy, and other services such as rent, utilities, prescriptions, gas vouchers, Topeka Metro bus tickets, dental vouchers, auto services, phone bills, and daycare assistance are needed as people experience a crisis in their lives, endure the increased cost of living, are disabled, or live below the poverty level.

We cannot provide any of these services without YOU! Your willingness to help your neighbor whose face and name you may never know. Donating food, clothing, household items, hygiene products, and money! YOU are Doorstep... Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

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. We accept donations between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Monday -Friday, unless we're closed or otherwise stated on our home page. The following items are particularly useful:

- Clothing
- Diapers
- Toys
- Sheets, blankets, linens
- Shoes
- Drapes, throw rugs
- Towels and towel sets
- Jewelry
- Dishes
- Pots and pans

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 DONATIONS – We strive to provide our neighbors with nutritious, wellrounded 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:

- Canned fruit, canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.)
- Canned soups, ramen noodles
- Macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, egg noodles, rice
- Pork & beans, pinto beans, tuna, hamburger 1 lb packages
- Milk: canned and powdered, cereal: hot and dry
- Bread, peanut butter, jelly, crackers
- Sugar, flour, cake mixes, cooking oil

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEM DONATIONS – When available, we like to provide the following items to help our neighbors maintain healthy personal hygiene. The following items are especially useful:

- Toothbrushes / Toothpaste
- Shampoo / Conditioner
- Soap Bars
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Deodorant
- Body Wipes
- Combs / Brushes

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



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you all so very much for your prayers, your warm thoughts, all of the cards and calls and the many expressions of your love during my surgery and recovery. I love and appreciate you all more than words can express.

Libby |

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES – There are several camp opportunities for children and youth this summer. We have highlighted the Traveling Day Camp at Trinity Presbyterian Church. You may refer to the flyer on page 11 of this newsletter. Peace Camp, a collaboration between Topeka Center for Peace & Justice and the Gil Carter Initiative, for elementary and middle school is from July 13-17. For more info and to register, visit www.topekacpj.org. Other opportunities are also available through Heartland Camps. More information is available on their website at www.heartlandcenter.org.

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.



JUNE

2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday Worship 9:15 AM				Happy Birthday Steven Chermok		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day					Juneteenth	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day					Happy Birthday Rachel Harvey	
28	29	30				

JUNE 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

