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Pastor's Post

Preparation of ashes has become a personal Lenten tradition for me. There is something symbolic about taking the dry palm branches from last year, burning them into ash, and then mixing them with enough oil that they can be used for Ash Wednesday.

Palm Sunday is a joyous occasion as fresh palm leaves are waved to remind us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet over the course of that same week, Jesus was betrayed, put on trial, flogged, and hung on a cross to die. The celebratory nature of Palm Sunday transforms into ashes as the Messiah endures crucifixion. The ashes of last year's palms remind us of the hills and valleys of Jesus' journey as well as our own humanity.

We bear the ashen mark of Lent with humility, reminding ourselves that in our vulnerable humanity we must be especially intentional about turning toward God. Traditionally, Lent has been a spring cleaning of our hearts as we turn to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

From Isaiah 51:6-11 we read:

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.*

Through our baptisms we are grafted into Christ. We are called to continuously grow in our spirituality and our relationship with God. Each Lent we are offered the opportunity to fast from something that draws our attention away from God (criticizing others, posting negative things online, or enslaving ourselves to food, tv, shopping, the internet, or any number of other things), and to use the time saved to communicate with God through prayer, to practice justice by standing alongside the oppressed, to feed and clothe those in need, and to go where we are called by God.

There's a new song out now by Michael West that recognizes that God doesn't love us because we're worthy of that love, but because God is infinite goodness. Our responsibility during Lent is to turn toward God's goodness, embracing it, and sharing life-giving actions with others...not because we have to, but because it is pleasing to God.

Over time we become what we practice. Can you imagine the changes that might take place in the world if everyone who calls themselves Christian began to act in each moment with the love of Christ?

With Peace and Love,
Pastor Donna

* Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions
to Doorstep
in the month of February.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY

BALANCE 1/1/26	\$ 22,178.72
Jan. Receipts	\$ 6,106.41
Jan. Disbursements	\$ 7,337.41
BALANCE 1/31/26	\$ 20,947.72
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 42,033.70

THANK YOU

FINANCIAL NEWS—

The JOY Offering received in December totaled \$629.78 and has been sent to the Presbytery. Thanks to each of you for your generous contributions.

The Session decided to share the proceeds from our Cookie Walk to organizations helping with food scarcity. \$269.00 was sent to 3 organizations meeting this need: Let's Help, Doorstep, and Rescue Mission of Topeka each received this amount.

Potwin Presbyterian Church

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

Find us on Facebook or visit online at

www.potwinpres.org

(Vacant), Pastor
Libby Adams, Pastoral Assistant
Gwen Jones, Music Director
Angela Juarez, Office Assistant

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
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



Gloria Phenix	4th
Becky Chermok	7th
Carolina Juarez	7th
Nathan Jones	10th
Denise Reeves	11th
Julie Clay	17th
Jasmyn Edmonston-Netherland	18th
Debby DuBois	21st
Denise Elser	21st
Cameron Charity	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



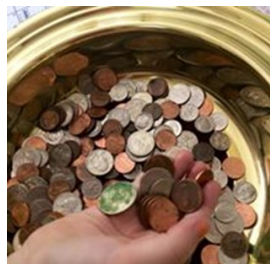
Deadline for April

Potwin Post is March 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



MARCH—Heartland Presbyterian Camping & Retreat Center

Founded in 1958, Heartland Presbyterian Center is a mission of the Presbyteries of Heartland and Northern Kansas, Synod of Mid-America, Presbyterian Church (USA), providing shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship for the children of God through camping and other nature based activities. The camp is located in Parkville, MO. Our donations go towards camp upkeep and to help pay staff. The camp's funding from Heartland Presbytery has been drastically reduced and any help would be greatly appreciated.

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.
- Angela Juarez as she begins cardiac rehab and 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

Work Group Chairs

Administrative - Jordan Nutter and Cameron Charity

Property & Grounds - Bob Harrison

Worship and Education - Gwen Jones

Fellowship - Libby Adams and Caitlin Charity

Mission and Outreach - Linda Tuller

****Questions and concerns pertaining to the above mentioned workgroups should be directed to the individuals listed.**

- The task force chairs stayed the same but added Caitlin as a co-chair to Fellowship and Nurture with Libby.
- Gwen has completed the Annual Statistical Report. They were reviewed and approved by the Session; Gwen will now submit them.
- Gwen encouraged everyone to meet the deadline of the 20th of each month so the newsletter can be completed and sent out before the 1st of each month.
- The financials for Donna have been completed. Potwin will pay our portion of Donna's retirement directly into the DOC account. Westside Christian has set up a direct deposit to Potwin to pay their portion of her health insurance from the Board of Pensions.
- Cards to K.O. and Joyce were signed, thanking them for their service.
- There will be an Ash Wednesday service at Westside Christian with the Southwest Strings providing music. It will be a come and go event.
- We are working out details for the Palm Walk and Easter Sunrise service with Westside Christian and Westside Baptist. We will be hosting the Agape feast. Everyone will need to watch for details.

February Presbytery Meeting Highlights

- Cameron Charity served as liturgist
- Donna Gilchrist, Don and Barbara Thursby have been examined by COM and are now new members of the Presbytery.
- Shared Ministry Covenant between Potwin and Westside Christian was approved.
- In break out groups being the Light of the world, how our light shines now and what might be blocking our light from shining more brightly discussions were held.
- The Presbytery has written an Anti-Discrimination Policy; it can be found on the Presbytery web site.
- Presbytery youth trip for Middle School and High School youth is being planned at Ghost Ranch for June 20 – 27.
- An adult Volunteer Work Trip will be June 21 – 28. Location details will be announced soon.
- The next Presbytery meeting is an in-person meeting at Salina Sunrise on April 25th. Guests will lead discussions on Being Presbyterian 101.

A background image for the top section showing several wooden blocks scattered on a surface. Four blocks are arranged in a row to spell out the word "LOVE". The 'L' has a small '1' below it, the 'O' has a small '1' below it, the 'V' has a small '4' below it, and the 'E' has a small '1' below it. Other blocks are visible in the background, some with letters and some blank.

LOOKIN' FOR...

2026 LENT/EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

9:15 A.M. WORSHIP

POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
400 SW WASHBURN AVE. TOPEKA, KS

5 WEEK LENTEN BOOK STUDY

THURSDAY EVENINGS

MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26 AND APRIL 9

6:30 - 8 P.M. ON ZOOM



SIGN UP ON THE
BULLETIN BOARD
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH
OFFICE.

OUTLANDISH

BY DEREK PENWELL

AN UNLIKELY MESSIAH
A MESSY MINISTRY
AND THE CALL TO MOBILIZE

News from Doorstep

Doorstep News ~ March 2026

Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers during our **Souper Bowl Sunday** weekend collection! The need for food assistance continues to grow in our community, and it is truly through neighbor helping neighbor that we can continue feeding the people who need it.

This year we are trying a new version of our most popular fundraiser, Operation Soup Line, by splitting it into two events. The first, **Soup Line 2.0** was the same weekend as SouperBowl Sunday, and admittedly it did cause some confusion. This was a pre-order & pay event with pick up over Super Bowl weekend. We made over \$4,000 and we will be evaluating the whole event for 2027! Part two of Soup Line was the theme basket auction; and we are turning that into an online only auction in March! The **Starlight Auction for Doorstep will start on Sunday, March 14th @ at 10am and run until Saturday, March 21st at 10pm!** Please check out the items that were donated from our faith communities and local businesses to raise funds for Doorstep!

Doorstep's annual **Appreciation Banquet & Quilt Drawing** will take place on **Tuesday April 21st** at St. John's Lutheran. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate Doorstep and our volunteers and wait to see who wins quilts. A *Love Offering* will be taken, and we will hand out Volunteer of the Year awards.

This June marks Doorstep's 60th anniversary of helping our neighbors in need by providing a hand up! We are planning our **9th annual Neighbor Helping Neighbors Walk/5K fun Run**, AND a celebration at Lake Shawnee to kick off our 60th year, and a big announcement for future changes! So mark **Saturday, June 6th** on your calendars and plan to participate in our walk/run and stick around for some fun afterwards!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep Needs List

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Men's Underwear ~ All Sizes

Men's Jeans ~ Esp. Sizes 32 – 38 & 46

Men's Belts ~ All Sizes

Men's Pajamas ~ All Sizes

Men's Shoes

Women's Pajamas & Robes ~ All Sizes

Kids Clothing ~ Boys & Girls ~ All Sizes
Especially jeans

Teens Girls Jeans ~ All Sizes

Gloves (Men, Women & Kids)

Blankets & Comforters ~ All Sizes

Coffee Pots, Coffee Makers, Kettles & Pots (not skillets)

Rolling Luggage

Hygiene Items: 2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner & Feminine Products

Donations Accepted:

**Monday – Friday
9am – 2pm**

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

Food Room Needs:

Vegetable Soup

Mixed Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit ~ Variety

Egg Noodles

Powdered Milk

Canned Milk

Baked or Pork & Beans

Canned Beans ~ (Pinto, Black, Chili)

Peas



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep Starlight Auction Information

Full size printed or digital copies of the flyers shown below can be made available by contacting the church office or Angela Juarez.



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Starlight Auction

Auction Item Ideas

Showstopper Items

- Weekend Getaway
- Private Chef Dinner for 6-8
- VIP Concert or Theatre Tickets
- Hot Air Balloon Ride
- "Year of Date Nights" (12 Gift Cards, Behind the Scenes Tours)
- Private Class with local artist, baker, or musician
- Spa Day Package
- Sports Game Tickets & Merchandise

Experiences

- Cooking Class
- Pottery or Art Workshop
- Wine or Coffee Tasting
- Photography Session
- Garden Design Consultation
- Personal Trainer or Wellness Coach
- Kid's Birthday Party Package

Community Oriented

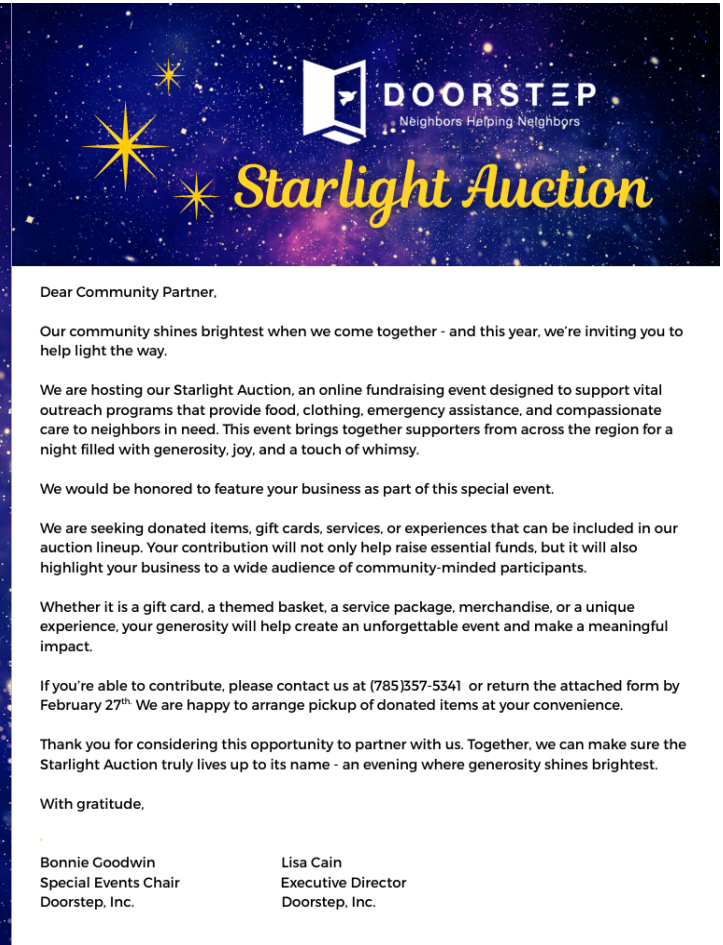
- "Around Town" bundle - local experiences and treats
- Handmade quilts or crafts
- Woodworking Piece
- Gift Card Tree or Galaxy Car Detailing Package
- Landscaping or Lawn care package
- Pet Care Bundle

Theme Baskets

- "Stargazer Basket" (telescope, blanket, cocoa, constellation book)
- "Night in Wonderland" (gourmet snacks, cozy socks, candles, puzzles)
- Wish Upon a Star (Jewelry Set)
- "Glow & Flow" (yoga class pack, candles, essential oils)
- "Moonlight Picnic" (picnic basket, charcuterie board, outdoor lanterns)
- "Starlight Storytime" (children's books, plush, bedtime basket, blanket)

Creative, Fun, Playful

- Mystery Box
- "Year of Desserts" Monthly Treats
- Board Game Bonanza
- Kid's Art Explosion Kit
- "Movie Magic" Popcorn, Snacks, Movie Tickets
- Adventure Kit - backpack, water bottle, local trail guide



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Starlight Auction

Dear Community Partner,

Our community shines brightest when we come together - and this year, we're inviting you to help light the way.

We are hosting our Starlight Auction, an online fundraising event designed to support vital outreach programs that provide food, clothing, emergency assistance, and compassionate care to neighbors in need. This event brings together supporters from across the region for a night filled with generosity, joy, and a touch of whimsy.

We would be honored to feature your business as part of this special event.

We are seeking donated items, gift cards, services, or experiences that can be included in our auction lineup. Your contribution will not only help raise essential funds, but it will also highlight your business to a wide audience of community-minded participants.

Whether it is a gift card, a themed basket, a service package, merchandise, or a unique experience, your generosity will help create an unforgettable event and make a meaningful impact.

If you're able to contribute, please contact us at (785)357-5341 or return the attached form by February 27th. We are happy to arrange pickup of donated items at your convenience.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to partner with us. Together, we can make sure the Starlight Auction truly lives up to its name - an evening where generosity shines brightest.

With gratitude,

Bonnie Goodwin
Special Events Chair
Doorstep, Inc.

Lisa Cain
Executive Director
Doorstep, Inc.



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping 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.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS—URGENT FOOD ITEMS

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

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS

FOOD (Always Needed): Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Beans, Chili, etc.); Peanut Butter; Grape Jelly; Loaves of Bread; Dry Pastas (All Types); Canned Soups (All Types); Canned Fruits/Veggies; Cereals; Oatmeal; SpaghettiOs; Frozen Meals (Pot Pies, Pizzas, Corn Dogs, Frozen Meals); Meat-All Types (Must be USDA Certified)

CLOTHING: Men's & Women's Underwear (NEW), Men's Jeans Size 30-40; Men's Shirts 3XL or Larger; 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

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

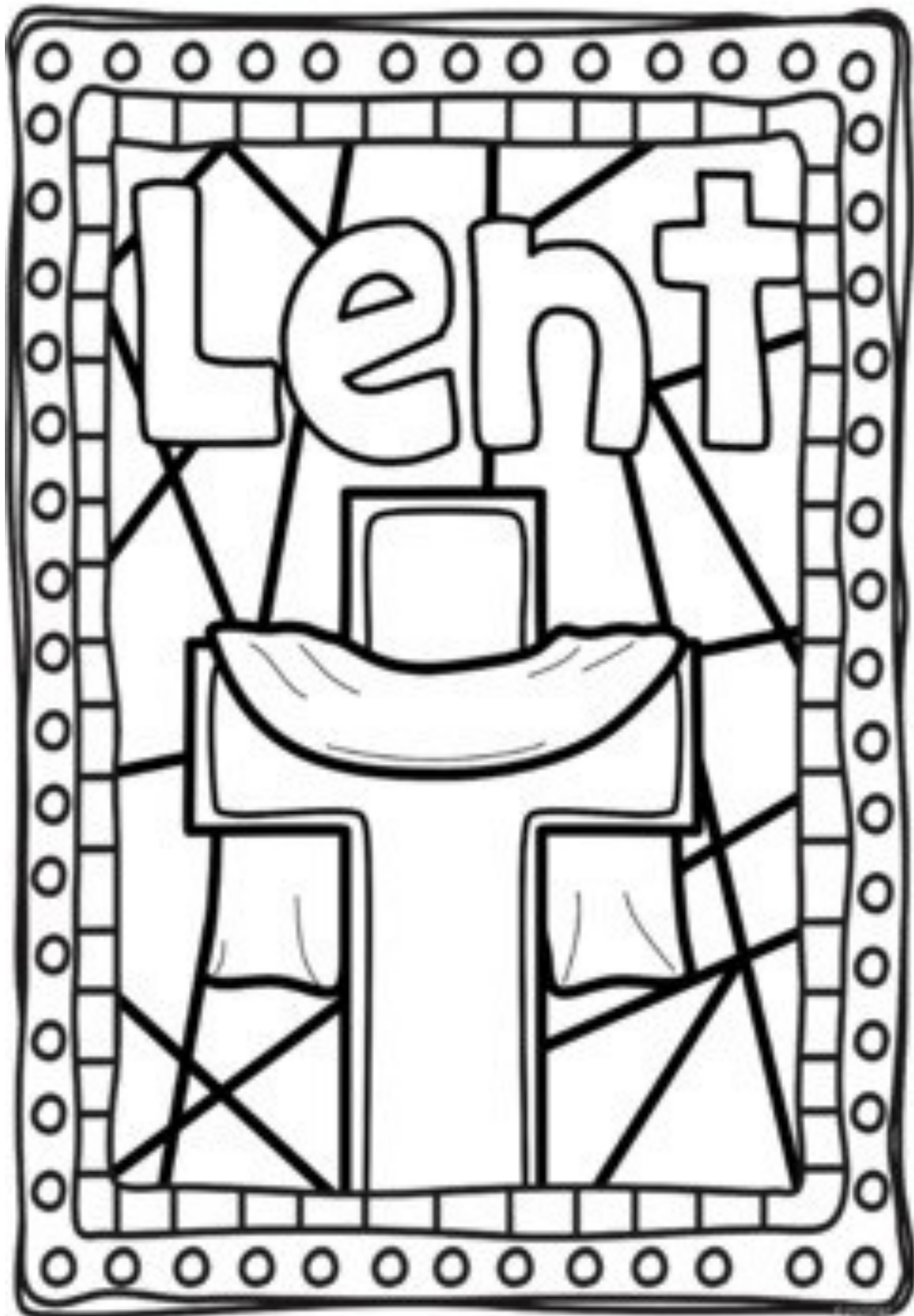
(Additional Mobile Access Partnership needs list items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to TRM using the link below.)

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





EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday March 7th. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 8th at 2AM.

JOYS & GRATITUDES

Please welcome Jill Judes to the Potwin Presbyterian team. Jill is our new housekeeper and started work on Thursday February 19. Jill is experienced at cleaning churches and, along with her husband, once owned a cleaning business. Welcome aboard, Jill!

Bianca Juarez and the rest of the Varsity Girls wrestling team at Shawnee Height HS qualified for the KSHSAA 5A State Tournament! It is the first time in the program's history that ALL 14 girls qualified for State! And her sister, Carolina, was selected to attend as a manager. Carolina was a strong JV Girls wrestler for Shawnee Heights HS finishing her JV season at 23-2 and was called up to wrestle Varsity several times during the season to include subbing in for an injured wrestler above her own weight class. She also broke the school record for number of wins by a JV Girl! Both girls leaned heavily on their faith to guide them throughout the season, praying before each match and encouraging their teammates to lean into their own faith as well. Congratulations to Bianca and Carolina!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

There will be a Lenten Book Study beginning Thursday March 5th from 6:30-8:00PM by Zoom hosted by Rev. Donna Gilchrist. It will be every Thursday with the final session on April 9, with the exception of April 2 (Maundy Thursday). Participants will need to purchase the book prior to the book study. Please refer to the flyer in this newsletter for more information. Contact Rev. Donna Gilchrist with any questions.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Please make note of the following dates for Holy Week and Easter. More event details will be released as we get closer to that time.

- Sunday March 29—Palm Sunday—Palm Parade
- Thursday April 2—Maundy Thursday—Agape Feast at Potwin Presbyterian
- Friday April 3—Good Friday Service
- Sunday April 5—Easter Sunrise Service at Ward Meade Park & Easter Worship Service at Potwin Presbyterian

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.

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.

March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun. Worship 9:15AM		Every Tuesday Bell Choir 6:00PM				
1 Communion Sunday	2	3	4 Happy Birthday Gloria Phenix	5 Lenten Book Study—Zoom 6:30-8:00PM	6	7 Happy Birthday Becky Chermok Carolina Juarez
8 	9	10 Happy Birthday Nathan Jones	11 Happy Birthday Denise Reeves	12 Lenten Book Study—Zoom 6:30-8:00PM	13	14
15	16	17  Happy Birthday Julie Clay	18 Happy Birthday Jasmyn Edmonston- Netherland	19 Lenten Book Study—Zoom 6:30-8:00PM	20	21 Happy Birthday Debby DuBois Denise Elser
22 Coffee House Church	23	24 Happy Birthday Cameron Charity	25	26 Lenten Book Study—Zoom 6:30-8:00PM	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31		Final Lenten Book Study Session Will Be Held via Zoom On April 9th 6:30-8:00PM		

MARCH 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

