

Pastor's Post

-Rev. Donna Gilchrist-

What a joy it was to experience such a meaningful Holy Week and beautiful Easter with you! This was another "first" in my time with you, and I'm so thankful for the many ways you've helped out during this season. The love and care of this congregation for neighbors inside and outside the church has been very evident. It has been a real privilege to serve alongside you!

The days between Easter and Pentecost are labeled "Eastertide" on church calendars. During this liturgical season at Potwin, we'll be taking a look at a new worship series, "God's Hospitality." Our exploration of this topic will include the kind of hospitality modeled for us through scripture. Author Amy Oden calls this "gospel hospitality." Throughout our Christian journeys God deepens our faith and grows our understanding. As we listen and learn from the Bible during this worship series, I wonder how God might be calling Potwin to deepen the hospitality that is already such a strength for this congregation?

On May 3rd we celebrate the birthday of Potwin Presbyterian Church with Cinco de Potwin. Be sure to come celebrate with some great food, and the dedication of a special quilt. Then on May 24th, we celebrate Pentecost, a day when the Holy Spirit was bestowed on the Church. Be sure to wear red on Pentecost Sunday!

I'm looking forward to the months ahead with you. May God offer you wisdom, may Christ shine light on your path, and may the Holy Spirit offer you guidance and companionship for your faith journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Donna

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Easter Sunday 2026



Baptism of Emersyn Grace Bigham



Baptism of Felix Benjamin Nutter

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your generous contributions
to One Great Hour of Sharing
in the month of April.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH

BALANCE 3/1/26	\$ 11,890.73
March Receipts	\$ 6,502.59
March Disbursements	\$ 8,249.06
BALANCE 3/31/26	\$ 10,144.26
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$ 42,218.86

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

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

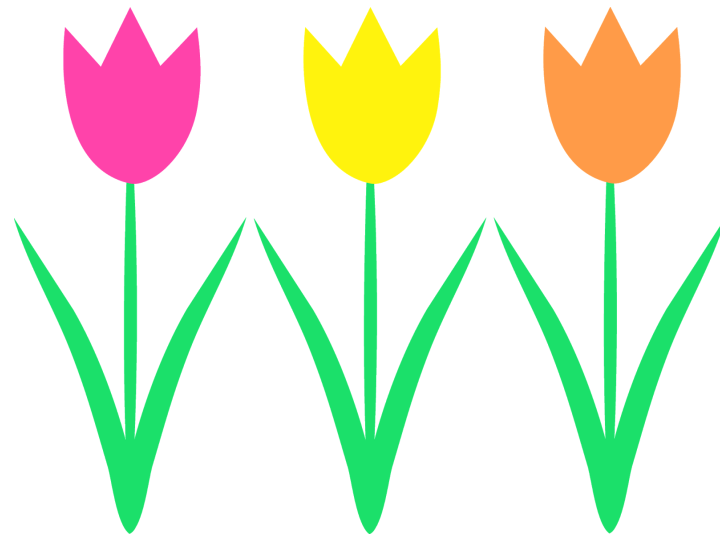
Administrative Council:

Cameron Charity & Jordan Nutter

Sunday School Team—Contact Church Office

Adult Bible Study—Contact Church Office

PNK Youth Representative—Contact Church Office



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





Brenden Chermok
Dennis Strobel
Lindsey Fincham
John Martin
Erica Marshall
Janet Lafferty

1st
3rd
5th
17th
18th
26th

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



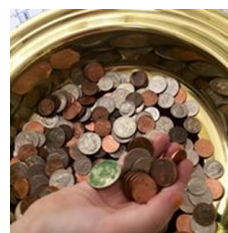
Deadline for June

Potwin Post is May 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



MAY—World Central Kitchen

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 100 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world. WCK's Resilience Programs strengthen food and nutrition security by training chefs and school cooks; advancing clean cooking practices; and awarding grants to farms, fisheries, and small food businesses while also providing educational and networking opportunities. Learn more at wck.org.

Signature Quilt History ~ Linda Tuller

Last fall we received a "Signature Quilt" from Linda Frisch and Janet McWhorter, twin sisters and daughters of Barbara and William Myers. The ladies currently live in Maryland. They wanted to find a home for a Signature Quilt, made in the early 1900's by Potwin Presbyterian Women. Their family tree includes grandparents, Effie Mae Bradley Johnson & Charles Daniel Johnson and great-grandparents, Ida Mae Bradley and Joseph Calvin Johnson. We received the quilt in October. It has an off-white background, with names of 250 Potwin people stitched in deep red.

Brenda Strobel and Beth Shaw gave their expertise as decisions were made to display the quilt. Brenda added a pocket to the top so it could be hung. Steve Adams then provided materials and labor so we could see it every Sunday in the back of our Sanctuary. Many thanks to them for their knowledge and proficiency. It was first on display Easter Sunday, 2026.

We know our current building was erected in 1924. The quilt had been finished sometime earlier and was offered in a raffle to raise funds for the building. We are guessing only men were participating in activities like raffles. Charles won the quilt and immediately gifted it to Effie Mae. She later lived at 106 Broadmoor and walked to church! She passed it to Barbara who died April 13, 2024, at the age of 96. It has been preserved in a cedar chest and is in excellent condition.

Barbara was very interested in genealogy and shared much of her research with her daughters. In the northwest corner of our sanctuary is a stained-glass window, dedicated in memory of Ida Mae Bradley, Barbara's grandmother and the twins' great-grandmother.

Perhaps the most amazing part of this story is that Linda and Janet were 8 months old when their family left Kansas. Their father, William Myers, had earned a doctorate from KU in microbiology. He moved the family, which included an older brother, east, as he'd accepted a position in the Medical/Research arm of the University of Maryland. They have only been in Kansas for family funerals and yet, knew we would be receptive to honor the quilt their family has preserved for so long.

(continued on next page)

Signature Quilt History ~ Linda Tuller (continued)

The twins were eager to know if any current members recognized their ancestor's names on the quilt. Sadly, it doesn't appear to be so. If you find a family name, please let us know. Some of them are Crouch, Lucas, Miller, Wright, Bond, Payne, Andrews, Vawter and Crosby. In the lower left are two names "One Old Maid" and "Another Old Maid". The norms of society are certainly different than 100 years ago!

The twins did know of several connections to Rossville Presbyterian Church, from the research their mother, Barbara, had done. Their great-grandfather, Joseph Bradley, worked for a lumber yard and grain business in Rossville and was one of the founding members of Rossville Presbyterian Church. I grew up in Rossville and was married in that church. So I was intrigued that so many names on the Signature Quilt are "Rossville" family names I remember from my childhood. Among them are Wilt, Cless, Parr, Gutshall, Higginbotham and Kassebaum.

Barbara's research also found that Dr Gabbey was the first Justice of the Peace appointed in 1967. He also was a government physician in St. Marys in 1857.

The quilt will be dedicated at our birthday party May 3, 2026.

I sent these pictures (shown below) to the twins. They replied, "Thank you for embracing our gift. Mom would be thrilled that the signature quilt is back at Potwin Presbyterian Church. It is home." Steve Adams at work hanging the signature quilt.



Steve Adams working to hang the signature quilt at the back of the Sanctuary.



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.



April Session Highlights

Work Group Chairs

Administrative - Jordan Nutter and Cameron Charity

Property & Grounds - Bob Harrison

Worship and Education - Gwen Jones

Fellowship - Libby Adams & Caitlin Charity

Mission and Outreach - Linda Tuller

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

- Bob and Gwen met with a representative from a company that sells and installs lifts. Bob will set up a meeting with another company soon.
- The events of Holy Week were evaluated by the Session. The Palm Procession went well. Should have invited Westside to come in when they got to Potwin (it was windy and chilly). The Agape Feast went well, it was well attended and the drama was great. There were some mic issues and after discussion it was decided to investigate a couple of cordless mics for Fellowship Hall. Saturday Prayer Walk did not happen; Donna was the only one who showed up (it was cold and windy). Easter Sunrise Service was well attended. Our traditional service was well attended, great music.
- Plans are continuing for our Potwin birthday celebration, Cinco de Potwin', Dale will provide the food for the meal, the congregation will be asked to bring desserts.
- The Shared Taskforce will meet on April 20th.
- The session authorized the baptism of Felix Nutter, it will take place on April 19th.
- The Presbytery Meeting will be on April 25th Salina. Gwen will be Potwin's Commissioner.



YOU'RE INVITED!!!!

You are invited to celebrate the graduations of
Marley and Ella Abbey at the home of
Pat Abbey on Sunday May 17, 2026 1:00-4:00PM.

Marley is graduating from Topeka High School.
Ella is graduating from Pittsburg State University.

An RSVP to Pat Abbey would be appreciated.

In the event of rain, the celebration will be moved to
Fellowship Hall at Potwin Presbyterian Church.



CONGRATS, GRADS!

Please join us in congratulating all of the youth listed below for their upcoming graduations and promotions. We are all so proud of you and your accomplishments. Many blessings to you all as you start the next part of your journey.

PROMOTIONS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL

Jeremiah Clay

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Marley Abbey—Topeka High

Lily Hutchison—Topeka West

Maia Strobel—Topeka West

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Ella Abbey—Pitt State



**Please join us after worship on Sunday May 10th downstairs
in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our graduates!**

News from Doorstep

It is hard to believe we are already in the month of May! Soon kids will be out of school for the summer, there will be graduations, weddings, vacations and celebrations.

Speaking of celebrations, Doorstep has a big one coming up in June, our 60th Anniversary! The special projects committee and staff have been busy planning an event for you to participate in for Doorstep!

During the planning we ended up creating a new event, and we hope to make an annual fundraiser. Introducing: ***Doorstep's NeighborFest***!

On Saturday June 6th we will gather in the Christ the King Catholic Church parking lot for a variety of activities! The event will start with 8am registration and 9am start for the 9th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run. We will have two routes planned through the neighborhood. Then at 9:30am we will start to welcome vehicles for the Classic Car Show, including a "People's Choice" Award. There will be bounce houses, face painting and a balloon artist in the Family Fun Zone, all FREE!

We are also planning to have a variety of food trucks, a DJ, a few raffles, emergency vehicles, a firetruck, police car, and the Storm Chaser truck will be there. The event will run from 9am – 2pm, with car show voting at 12:30pm and awards at 1:00pm. The walk/run is \$30 and the car show entry fee is \$20. **This is a fundraiser for Doorstep!** We are working on a project we plan to unveil at the event highlighting the future of Doorstep!

See our flyers/posters for more information and QR codes or go to our website to access the information: <https://DoorstepTopeka.org> and links to register online.

Come out on June 6th and help Doorstep celebrate 60 years of neighbors helping neighbors!



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Current Doorstep Needs ~ April 2026

Clothing Room Needs: (Gently Used, Not New)

Men's Underwear ~ All Sizes

Men's Jeans ~ Esp. Sizes 32 – 38 & 46, 48

Men's Belts ~ All Sizes

Men's Pajamas ~ All Sizes

Men's Shoes

Women's Pajamas ~ All Sizes

Kids Clothing ~ Boys & Girls ~ Esp. Sizes 3 - 10

Boys & Girls Jeans ~ All Sizes

Teen Girl Jeans – All Sizes

Toasters, Coffee Makers, Etc

Pots & Pans ~ Esp. Saucepans more than Skillets

Quilts & Comforters ~ All Sizes

Shower Curtain Liners

Indoor Trash Cans up to 13-gallon size

Hygiene Items: Feminine Hygiene Products (Pads & Tampons), Men's 3 in 1 (shampoo, conditioner, body wash), Toothbrushes, Toothpaste (full size), and Anti-Perspirant.

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### **Food Room Needs:**

Vegetable Soup

Egg Noodles

Baked or Pork & Beans

Scalloped Potatoes ~ Box

Pancake Syrup

Powdered Milk

Peas

Canned Fruit ~ Variety

Canned Milk

Canned Beans ~ (Pinto, Black, Chili)



**DOORSTEP**  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### **Donations Accepted:**

**Monday – Friday  
9am – 2pm**

1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
(10<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan)  
Use the South Door

## 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**

**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 Pastas (All Types), Pasta Sauce, Rice (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 Fruit/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

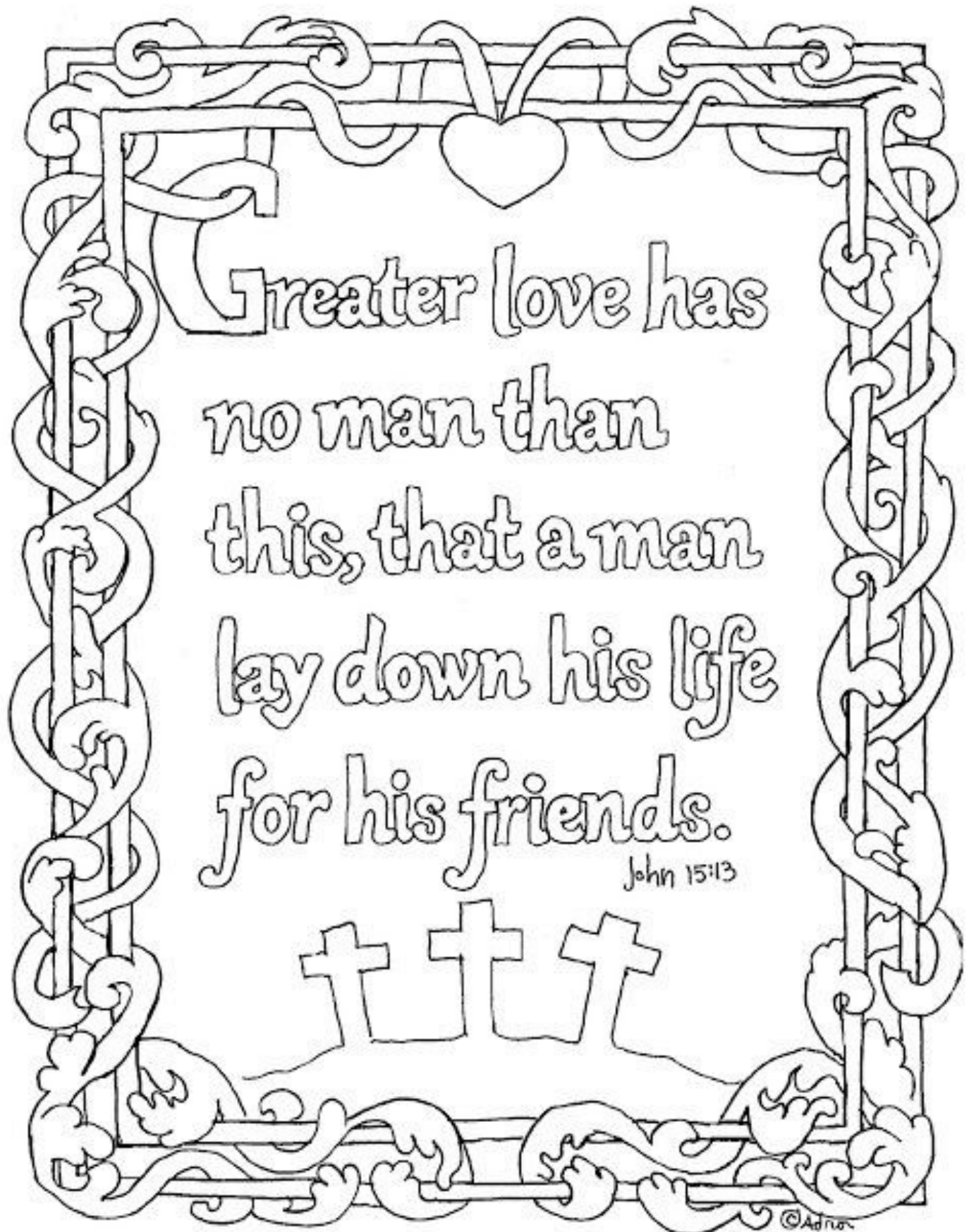
*(Additional Mobile Access Partnership needs list items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to TRM using the link below.)*

[www.trmonline.org/needslist](http://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](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/O6BQ8QXTPLGA/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)





WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER

# MARY MAGDALENE REVEALED



The First Apostle, Her Feminist Gospel  
& the Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet

MEGGAN WATTERSON

***Mary Magdalene Revealed*** is a book by Harvard scholar, Meggan Watterson. Watterson explores the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, a book that was saved by some desert monks in the 4th century. You can take a look at it here: <https://a.co/d/083pNSi8>. An online book study is planned starting Thursday, April 23rd, 6:30 - 8pm. Participants should order their own books from a favorite bookseller. Contact Pastor Donna if you'd like the link to join the study. Feel free to join the study at any time.

Potwin Presbyterian Church

137 Birthday



Come help us celebrate our church's birthday on Sunday May 3rd

After Morning Worship

Taco and Potato Bar provided by Dale (Red) Schutte,  
please bring a desert to share.

More plans will be announced soon regarding a group mission  
project for our time together.

Remember  
to wear red!



**Pentecost**  
**Sunday May 24th**

# **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HAPPY 137th BIRTHDAY POTWIN CHURCH**

We will be celebrating Potwin Church's 137th birthday on **Sunday May 3rd** after worship with a taco bar provided by our very own Dale Schuette! Please bring a dessert to share. All are welcomed and encouraged to join us!

## **CONGRATS GRADS**

Please join us in congratulating and celebrating our 2026 graduates! We will hold a reception for them on Sunday May 10th after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Please refer to page XX of this newsletter for a list of all graduates.

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Pentecost Sunday is May 24th. Please remember to wear red to worship that day!

## **BELL CHOIR & MUSIC NEWS**

Many thanks to the Potwin Bell Choir for the music provided throughout the year. Bell choir will resume in September. Anyone wishing to join the choir or interested in learning to play bells should see Gwen Jones. If you have friends who like to ring, invite them to join us!

If you have any musical talents you would like to share and help provide Special Music 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.



# May 2026



| Sun                                                                                                                                  | Mon                                                                                                               | Tue                                        | Wed | Thu | Fri                                        | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Sunday Worship</b><br><b>9:15 AM</b>                                                                                              | Church office<br>will be <b>closed on</b><br><b>Monday May 25</b><br>in observance of<br>Memorial Day.            |                                            |     |     | 1<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Brenden Chermok | 2   |
| 3<br><b>PPC 137th Birth-<br/>           day Celebration<br/>           after Worship</b><br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Dennis Strobel     | 4                                                                                                                 | 5<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Lindsey Fincham | 6   | 7   | 8                                          | 9   |
| 10<br>Graduate Celebra-<br>tion after worship<br> | 11                                                                                                                | 12                                         | 13  | 14  | 15                                         | 16  |
| 17<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>John Martin                                                                                              | 18<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Erica Marshall                                                                        | 19                                         | 20  | 21  | 22                                         | 23  |
| 24<br><b>Pentecost Sunday</b><br>*Remember to<br>wear red to the<br>worship service!                                                 | 25<br><b>Office Closed</b><br> | 26<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Janet Lafferty | 27  | 28  | 29                                         | 30  |
| 31<br>                                            |                                                                                                                   |                                            |     |     |                                            |     |

**MAY 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](http://www.potwinpres.org) & on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/PotwinChurch>.

You can reach us by email at  
[potwinchurch@att.net](mailto:potwinchurch@att.net)

