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Pastor's Post

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30, The Message**

With the end of summer, calendars fill up and the pace of life picks up. Fall is here, with vibrant colors and pumpkin spiced everything. On October 4th World Communion Sunday arrives, followed by Thanksgiving with family and friends, then before we know it Advent and Christmas will be here. All these things require time and energy, and we can become so involved with our commitments at church that we forget Christ is at the center of it all. This is especially true in smaller churches where it is easy to become a committee of one – taking on the work of five or six people.

Jesus offers respite, "Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest." Time alone with God is part of this rest – Jesus took time to go up on the mountain to pray alone, and we need that time also. Scripture from *The Message* Bible tells us, "Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." It's important to make space in your life not just to pray prayers of petition, but to take time to "be" with God, becoming so comfortable that words are not necessary. Let God bathe you in the waters of grace, showering you with abundant love.

Throughout life as we learn to relax into God's presence, we become attuned to the communication of the Holy Spirit. It's in times of quiet listening that we receive nudges from the Holy Spirit showing us the next steps on life's path. "I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you," scripture tells us. There are times to rest and times to lead. Sometimes we receive guidance that reminds us to tell others, "No, I can't do that right now. That task doesn't fit me." At other times we realize we need to ask for help rather than doing something on our own. (In a community of faith there are always people willing to help carry the load, but often they may not know where they are needed.) And there are still other instances where God lets us know that we are to take the lead, sharing unique skills that are an exact fit for a particular circumstance.

Jesus slipped away for rest and prayer. He set boundaries about what he would do or tolerate. He worked with a community of disciples who supported each other and learned together. And he led with grace and love. This fall, as our lives become busier, may we remember to look to Christ as our example.

With Christian Love,
Pastor Donna

*Scripture taken from *The Message*. Copyright ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.



SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

WORK GROUP CHAIRS

Administrative – Jordan Nutter & Cameron Charity

Property & Grounds – Bob Harrison

Worship & Education – Gwen Jones

Fellowship – Libby Adams & Caitlin Charity

Mission & Outreach – Linda Tuller

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

- Cameron agreed to serve as the chairperson of the nominating committee, Debi Harvey and Brenda Strobel are the committee members selected by a vote of the congregation and Donna is a non-voting member.
- We will be remembering and memorializing Janet Lafferty and her years of service to Potwin in early November.
- Loman Hills Elementary, Williams Magnet and Robinson Middle schools each received \$200 checks from our August Loose Coin offering.
- The church picnic is(was) on September 20th. Libby has volunteers lined up to help. Dale will bring his grill and cook meats, everyone else is encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts.
- Our Triennial visit from the Presbytery was held in conjunction with our final new pastor visit with Melanie Hancock and Sue Dindinger (our COM liaison). The Elders and Donna shared the happenings of the past few months with them.

*****If you are interested in assisting with any of the Work Groups listed, please contact the corresponding Session member or the church office.***



TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 8/1/26	\$13,262.92
August Receipts	\$ 8,594.81
August Disbursements	\$ 7,263.69
BALANCE 8/31/26	\$14,594.04
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$38,006.67

Thank you for your generous
contributions to
Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.
in the month of September.

Thank
You

FINANCIAL NEWS

Our fundraising total for new chair lifts on the north side of our building has reached \$7700.00. We hope they will be installed so we can enjoy our usual Thanksgiving and Christmas events in Fellowship Hall with access to everyone.



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



Don Lafferty	2 nd
Ava Breitenstein	3 rd
Ashlynn Chermok	6 th
Linda Tuller	9 th
Steve Black	14 th
Amy Abbey	18 th
Pat Gideon	19 th
Lisbeth (Ohse) White	22 nd
Pat Abbey	27 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!!
😊

Deadline for November Potwin Post is Oct. 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



October World Communion Offering

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" ~ Micah 6:8.

We are excited to share an update about how our shared gifts are making a difference! The Peace & Global Witness initiatives have found a wonderful new home within the World Communion Offering, one of our three national PC(USA) special offerings. Your continued generosity will keep fueling vital ministries dedicated to racial and gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and building interfaith bridges.

This transition brings an exciting change to how we support our own community. In the past, our church automatically kept 25% of the Peace & Global Witness funds for local projects. Now, we have the wonderful opportunity to apply for national grants, allowing us to dream big and secure dedicated funding to lift up our local outreach efforts. We invite you to learn more about this beautiful partnership by visiting PCUSA web at <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/world-communion-offering>.

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.

- Audrey Trask, eldest daughter of Angela Juarez, and her partner James as they await the birth of their baby girl due at the end of October
- Rev. Ivan Greuter of West Side Baptist Church – cancer diagnosis
- Rev. K.O. Noonoo of Westminster Presbyterian Church – health concerns
- 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



2026 AUGUST PRESBYTERY REPORTS

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE (PMEC)

Report to Presbytery

August 25, 2026

INFORMATION ITEM

1. November Presbytery Meeting and All-Presbytery Retreat – November 9-11, 2026

The final Stated Meeting for 2026 will take place on:

Monday, November 9th – THIS IS A DATE CHANGE – please adjust your calendar

This meeting is an in-person meeting and will take place at **Acorns Resort at Milford Lake** in the Conference Center. Registration/refreshments/fellowship will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until around 4:00 p.m.

Our program will be:

“The Worn Out Faithful: How to Reclaim the Joy of Christian Service”

As church leaders, we are committed to serving our congregations with dedication and love. We may even be tempted to pour out more than we have to give. With the demands of our current realities within both church and culture, the drive to be constantly productive threatens our joy of service. During our time together we will explore different ways to restore the delight of Christian discipleship and create sustainable rhythms that enable our churches to thrive.

Our Preacher and Guest Presenter will be:

Rev. Sarah Colwill

Director of Lilly Initiatives, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Prior to her joining the presbytery staff, Sarah served as pastor at Church on the Mall, a small congregation located within a suburban shopping center. She also led a campus ministry at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and served as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Springfield township in Flourtown, PA. Rev. Colwill received her Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary after graduating from Penn State University.



The All-Presbytery Retreat will take place immediately following the Presbytery Meeting through Wednesday morning, November 11th. Sarah's program will continue through the retreat and registrants will have ample time for fellowship and sabbath.

Everyone is invited: Pastors, Church Leaders, Church Members, PNK Members – ALL PNK PEOPLE!

Watch for more details coming soon!

Submitted by:
Adrian Hunley, chair
Presbytery Meetings and Events Committee

LEARN TO SEE
LEADERSHIP
DIFFERENTLY

AND Shift your mindset



KANSAS
LEADERSHIP
CENTER.

Make more progress on what matters most to you – start your journey on the KLC Path with *When Everyone Leads*, a Kansas Leadership Center program offered by a certified facilitator.

Based on KLC's bestselling book, **When Everyone Leads** makes leadership radically accessible and inclusive, and helps unleash capacity for collective leadership in teams, organizations, coalitions and communities.

This program is packed with interactive group discussions and provides ample time for you to reflect on application to the challenges that matter most in your context.

START TO SEE AND SEIZE YOUR MOMENTS TO LEAD

Register by: October 1, 2026

Facilitators: David Dubovich
and Bill Rose-Heim

Westside Christian Church

432 SW Lindenwood Ave, Topeka,

9:00 am 10/10/2026



Register: <https://bit.ly/4rf8sNe>

Potwin Lunch Bunch

Join us for food and fellowship at “Annie’s Place” at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please RSVP to Pat Abbey so she can call ahead.
Can’t wait to see there!

Who: Everyone is welcome!!

What: Potwin Lunch Bunch

When: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM

Where: Annie’s Place 4014 SW Gage Center Dr.



THANK
YOU

—\$8,800

—\$4,400

—\$100

We're at \$7700!
Together we can
reach the
final goal!

HELP PAY
FOR NEW
CHAIR LIFTS

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR
GOAL OF \$8,800 FOR TWO
NEW CHAIR LIFTS!

DONATE
TODAY!



**August 23rd
Coffee House
Church**





Fourth Annual
Night of Praise
A Fundraiser Benefiting
TRM TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION
OCT 11 • 6PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
FAIRLAWN NAZARENE CHURCH
FOR MORE INFO
VISIT: TRMONLINE.ORG/NIGHTOFPRAISE

JESUS SAVES POWER OF PRAYER

DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Starlight Auction
Fall 2026 Edition
Begins: October 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Ends: October 24, 2026 at 10:00 p.m.

Step into the glow and be a part of a week filled with wonder, whimsy, and community impact.

The Starlight Auction brings together supporters, dreamers, and faithful givers for an online event that sparkles with possibility. Discover unique items, bid boldly, and help Doorstep continue being a light in the Topeka community.

How it Works:
Register Here:
<https://givebutter.com/StarlightAuctionFall26>
Browse items.
Bid and Bid Often
Shine Bright for Doorstep

DOORSTEP IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
August ~ December 2026

AUGUST 20TH 60 FOR 60 Collection Challenge Items & Tier Information due to Lisa. 785-357-5341 lisa@doorstepinc.com

AUGUST 31ST Individualized Flyers for Mission Member's 60 FOR 60 collections emailed for use in September.

SEPT 15TH A commitment to provide an auction item(s). Give Lisa donation information, 785-357-5341 or lisa@doorstepinc.com

SEPT 18TH Paper Adoption Forms for the Duck Race due to Doorstep by 2:30pm.

SEPT 26TH The Great Topeka Duck Race - 10am Virtual. Adoptions stop at 10am.

OCTOBER 1ST Auction Items Due to Doorstep with Donation Form

OCTOBER 18TH-24TH Doorstep's Starlight Online Auction LIVE! 10am on Oct 18th to 10pm on Oct 24th.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS Doorstep will be Closed on: November 11th Veterans Day At Noon Nov 25th, Nov 26th & 27th

DECEMBER 14TH-18TH Doorstep's Christmas Adoption Project Volunteer Opportunities Available!

www.DoorstepTopeka.org

Doorstep Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8am - 3pm

Doorstep Newsletter Article ~ October 2026

We have had a busy year with special events to help mark our 60th anniversary, along with some regular and new fundraisers. We appreciate everyone's support in whatever events you have chosen to participate in so far.

We decided to eliminate the Golf Tournament and instead are moving the online auction to October going forward. This will allow us to spread out our Spring events. We are planning to do Soup Line 2.0 again in 2027 with some additional soups!

The 2nd **Starlight Online Auction** will be live for bids October 18th @ 10am until October 24th @ 10pm. We are getting auction items ready, and you will be able to preview them before the auction starts. We have some other changes planned with the auction site to make bidding a little easier. We will have holiday items, experiences, gift items with the holidays around the corner, and it all goes for a good cause!

Our **60th Anniversary Building a Better Doorstep Capital Campaign** is underway, and we need your donations to help renovate our building to improve accessibility and dignity; create a safer and more efficient facility; and increase our capacity to serve. Currently we are focused on raising the first 40% (\$400k); this threshold will make us eligible to apply for a grant through the Mabee Foundation in the hope of receiving \$200k for our project. Please consider donating to this valuable project in 2026 and/or 2027 to make these upgrades a reality that benefits our clients, volunteers and donors! Visit: www.DoorstepTopeka.org to donate, mail your donation to Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, Ks 66604. Please note 'remodel' on your check.

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.)

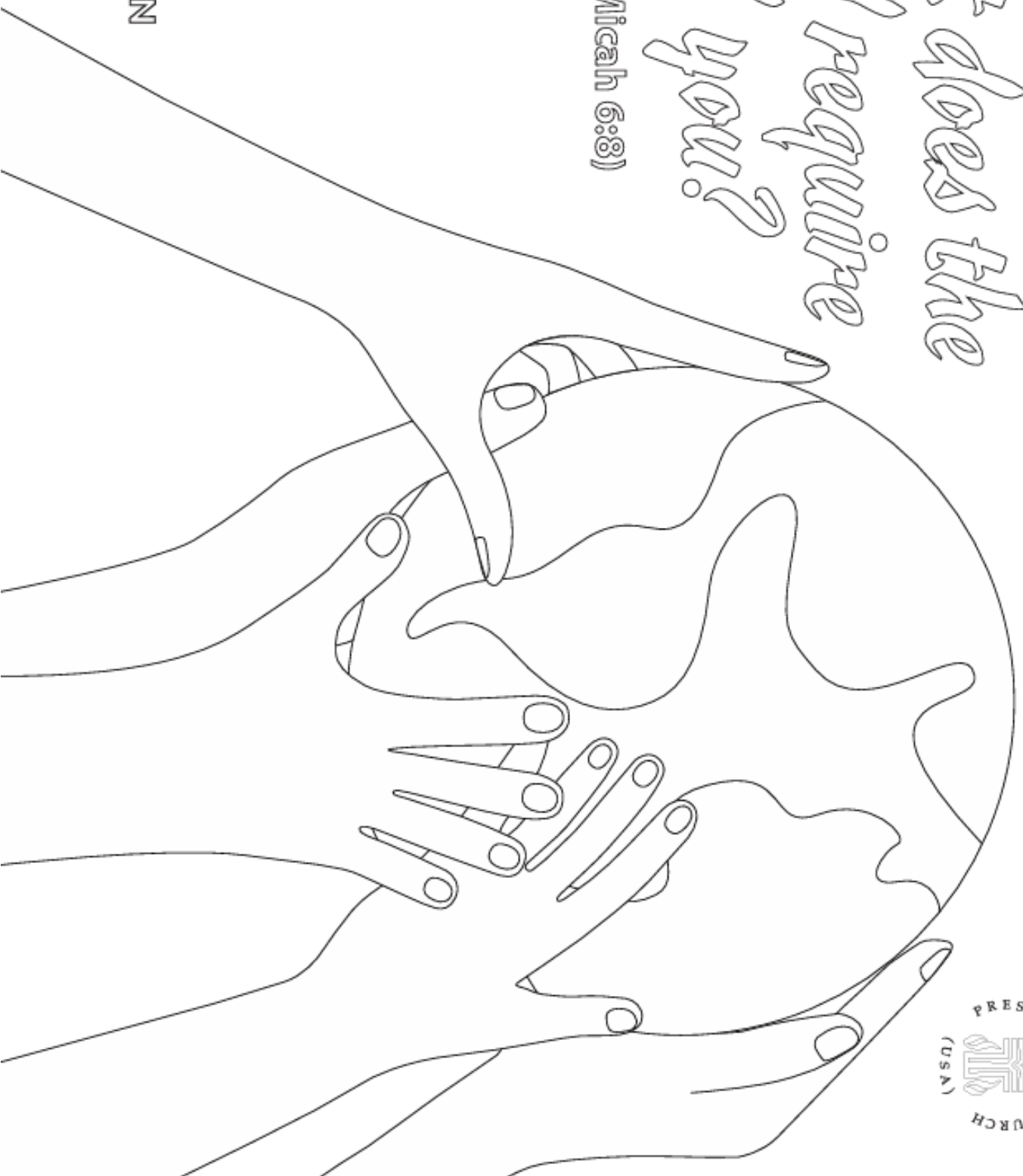
- Women's Underwear size small 4-6
- Men's Underwear sizes 30-36
- Men's Jeans sizes 30-36
- Travel size deodorant, conditioner, lotion, soap & shampoo

What does the Lord require of you?

(Micah 6:8)



WORLD
COMMUNION
OFFERING



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS – Two of our Potwin youth are participating in the Confirmation class at First Pres. Congrats to Aurora Lucas and Carolina Juarez! We are proud of you both for taking the next step in your faith journey!

KIDS' CLOSET – We are still collecting Halloween costumes for the Kids' Closet. There will be a clearly labeled box in the Sanctuary to put your new or gently used costumes in. Help us to help our neighbors in need!

"WHEN EVERYONE LEADS" WORKSHOP – You're invited! On Saturday, October 10th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. a "When Everyone Leads," workshop from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) will be offered at West Side Christian Church to friends and community partners. This **free** community event (regular cost of \$200/person) includes a resource book as well as lunch and snacks. There is space for fifty participants, so if you're interested please register soon at this link:

<https://christianchurchinkansas.regfox.com/when-everyone-leads-topeka-west-side-cc-oct-10>

The registration deadline is October 1st. This is not your average leadership workshop. Kansas Leadership Center works closely with the Kansas Department of Health, and graduates from their workshops are implementing projects addressing hunger, homelessness and other issues across the state. KLC trainings offer new ideas, fresh skills, and the encouragement to address challenges of all shapes and sizes.

WE NEED YOUR YARN!!! – If you have "stash" of unwanted yarn, please consider sharing it with Linda Tuller and Kris Fillmore. They crochet hats for our Blessing Box and also give to the schools we support. They are adept at using any leftover amounts; it does not have to be a full skein. Thank you so much for your support of this mission project.

SAVE THE DATE – Please refer to the corresponding flyers in the newsletter for details on the following events:

- **Sunday October 4** – World Communion Sunday
- **Saturday October 10** – "When Everyone Leads Workshop" at Westside Christian Church 9:00AM-4:00PM
- **Sunday October 11** – Topeka Rescue Mission "Night of Praise" at Fairlawn Nazarene Church 6:00PM. Doors open at 5:30PM.
- **Tuesday October 13** – Potwin Lunch Bunch at Annie's Place 11:30AM. Please RSVP to Pat Abbey beforehand so that she can call ahead to Annie's Place.
- **October 18-October 24** – The Doorstep Starlight Auction begins on Sunday October 18th at 10:00AM and ends on Saturday October 24th at 10:00PM.

BELL CHOIR & MUSIC NEWS – Handbell Choir rehearsals have resumed, Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. We are still looking for 2-3 additional ringers. If you are interested – or know someone who might be – please contact Gwen Jones. No music reading or handbell experience is required; we will happily teach you. Come join the fun!

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.

OCTOBER 2026

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Sunday Worship 9:15 AM	Doorstep Starlight Auction begins 10/18 at 10AM and ends 10/24 at 10PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal Tuesdays 6:00 PM		1	2	3
					Happy Birthday Don Lafferty	Happy Birthday Ava Breitenstein
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
World Communion Sunday		Happy Birthday Ashlynn Chermok			Happy Birthday Linda Tuller	W.E.L. Workshop 9AM to 4PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
TRM Night of Praise 6PM	Columbus Day	Lunch Bunch at Annie's Place 11:30AM	Happy Birthday Steve Black			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Happy Birthday Amy Abbey	Happy Birthday Pat Gideon			Happy Birthday Lisbeth (Ohse) White		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Coffee House Church 		Happy Birthday Pat Abbey				Halloween 

OCT. 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

