Potwin Post

NOVEMBER 2026

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Pastor's Post

"Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse." Philippians 4:8, The Message

What better month to practice gratitude than November? The air is crisp, green trees are transformed into beautiful fall colors, we take time to cheer for our favorite football team…and so much more.

November starts with All Saints' Day…a remembrance of those who have been saints of the church…those who have gone before us. It is on this Sunday that we remember not just those who have passed in the last year, but those who have been a foundational part of this community of faith. I love hearing your stories about parents and grandparents and great grandparents who have been part of this congregation. It is on their shoulders that this community of faith is built. I hope you'll bring pictures of your loved ones on Nov. 1 so that we can remember their lives.

In the middle of the month, on Commitment Sunday, we will memorialize the contributions Janet Lafferty made for her time as Potwin Presbyterian's bookkeeper.

Toward the end of November, we will share a worship service and a Thanksgiving meal with the congregation of West Side Christian Church. Together, we will collect canned goods to serve the community through the Blessing Box. What better way to celebrate our current discipleship than through sharing it with each other?

We finish up our current worship series on November 1, just in time to begin participating in all these activities. As we go through November, remember to notice where God is in the world around you and give thanks with a grateful heart. It's a beautiful way to offer God thanks and blessings for all that God/Christ/Spirit has given us.

With Warmth,
Pastor Donna

OCTOBER 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.

- The pew plaque in memory of Janet Lafferty is on the pew. The other plaque the Session approved last month will be placed on the wall around the quilt. All will be dedicated on November 15th.
- The Session made final changes to the Stewardship letter to be sent to the congregation – it will go out soon.
- We will apply for a Peacemaking Offering Grant to help with Peacemaking Camp we have supported in the past.
- We will be reinvesting a CD that will mature soon.
- The final two lifts will be installed soon.
- We had more leaks from the roof in the office this week. We will hold off on repairs until we are sure the roof is fixed.
- The By-Laws were updated with two minor changes. These will need to be voted on by the congregation.
- There will be a joint Thanksgiving worship service with West Side Christian at 10AM on November 22nd. A Thanksgiving meal will follow in Fellowship Hall. Details will follow.
- In the evaluation of the picnic, it was felt that it was fun with good food, too bad it had to be indoors due to rain. Thanks to Dale Schuette for cooking the meat with all the fixings.
- Thanks to Beth Shaw for a large shopping trip for the Blessing Box. Also, thanks to Beth for repairing the Blessing boxes.
- Linda will soon be delivering winter hats to the three schools we regularly support; hats will also be put in the Blessing Boxes.
- The Session called a Congregational meeting to receive and act on the report from the nominating committee and to address the changes made to the By-Laws. The meeting will be after worship on November 15th.

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 9/1/26	**$14,594.04**
September Receipts	**$13,124.13**
September Disbursements	**$ 8,483.65**
BALANCE 9/30/26	**$19,234.52**
RESERVE ACCOUNTS	**$38,045.09**

Thank you for your generous contributions to the World Communion Offering in the month of October.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Thanks to everyone who donated for the chair-lift fund. We hope to have two installed on the north side of the building soon, allowing access to Fellowship Hall.



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

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

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

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

Session
Rev. Donna Gilchrist, Moderator

2026	2027	2028
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



Megan Edmonston	6th
Jayla Edmonston-Netherland	16th
Caleb Chermok	16th
Dale Schuette	18th
Beth Currier	19th
Lily Hutchison	20th
Libby Adams	24th



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.



Loose Coin Offering



November

Topeka Rescue Mission

The Topeka Rescue Mission is a homeless shelter that has served Topeka, for more than 60 years. TRM is dedicated to providing food, shelter, clothing, training and hope to homeless and impoverished men, women and children. Every little bit goes to help the homeless in Topeka and to assist them in providing the basics plus assist them in personal growth and change.

TRM MINISTRIES

Deadline for December Potwin Post is Nov. 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.

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 welcomed the birth of their daughter, Krislynn Dawn Rose, on October 20th
- 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.



ANNUAL POTWIN COOKIE WALK 2026

IT'S COOKIE WALK TIME!!! This is our 29th Annual Cookie Walk, WoW!! Isn't that amazing? Each of them have been incredibly successful thanks to the generous support and help from all of you. THANK YOU!!! Through the years we have been able to help our children and youth grow in their faith by providing financial support to attend church camps, youth retreats, Triennium, and mission trips, and to help those facing food insecurity in Topeka by making donations to community agencies who have food pantries.

The cookie walk only happens because of you and we again need your help. We will have tables lined with trays of your favorite Christmas cookies and candies. Our customers will be given a glove and a box, and they will walk around the tables selecting all the cookies/candy they want to buy, we will weigh them, and they will be sold for $8 per pound.

We hope you will be able to help make cookies/candy for this event. The more we have, the more choices for our customers. We hope you can help and consider bringing some of your holiday favorite. I am excited to share with you that our friends at Westside Christian Church will be joining us this year and will be baking and helping run the sale. If you can't help by making cookies, we still will need help setting up during the afternoon of Friday, December 11th and helping during the event and tear down following the event. We will also have flyers to put up around town and in area businesses that will need to be posted.

We invite and encourage each of you to join in the fun of this special event, you can buy a variety of cookies for yourself, for holiday entertainment, and as gifts, it's also a good time to meet and greet our friends and neighbors while also helping those who are in need within our community.

Contact Gwen Jones (785 220-1426 or email gsj_5775@yahoo.com) if you have any questions and if you can bake and/or help on the 11th and/or 12th. Thank You!!



Potwin Lunch Bunch

Join us for food and fellowship at “Annie’s Place” at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Who: Everyone is welcome!!
What: Potwin Lunch Bunch
When: Tuesday November 10, 2026 at 11:30 AM
Where: Annie’s Place 4014 SW Gage Center Dr
RSVP to Pat Abbey by Monday Nov. 9th





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!

Doorstep Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8am - 3pm

www.DoorstepTopeka.org

DOORSTEP DONATIONS

In light of the abundance of clothing and homeware donations at Doorstep, please focus your donations on needed food and hygiene items this month.

FOOD DONATIONS – We strive to provide our neighbors with nutritious, well-rounded 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 the most common in our meal packages:

Macaroni & Cheese
Pinto Beans
Spaghetti
Canned Fruit
Canned Soups
Ramen Noodles
Milk (canned & powdered)
Hamburger 1lb pkgs
Cake Mixes
Cereal (hot & dry)
Jelly
Bread
Egg Noodles
Rice
Spaghetti Sauce
Tuna
Sugar
Cooking Oil
Canned Vegetables
Corn
Green Beans
Peas
Pork & Beans
Crackers
Peanut Butter
Flour

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEM DONATIONS

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



Topeka Rescue Mission General 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 USDA 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

Topeka Rescue Mission Christmas Needs List

Please visit the TRM Christmas Needs List on Amazon for additional donation requests. Items purchased from the Amazon Wishlist will be shipped directly to TRM. You may also bring items from the list below to the church and place them on the donation table on the north side of the Sanctuary.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AGWU6YN344N4/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



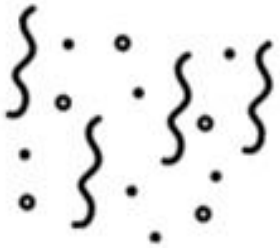


MAKE A GRATITUDE DICE

Cut and glue your cube. Roll the dice and take turns answering the questions.

Play everyday.

What are you looking forward to?



Gratitude means taking time to notice the things that are good in life.

What's the kindest thing someone has done for you recently?



What made you laugh today?



What's the most beautiful thing you saw today?



Who have you enjoyed being around?



Practicing gratitude can make you happier

What's the best thing that's happened so far today?



Play alone or with someone you trust.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULIONS – Krislynn Dawn Rose Thomson was born to Audrey Trask, daughter of Angela Juarez, and her parnter James on Tuesday October 20th weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces and 20 inches long. Krislynn is the first grandchild of Isaac and Angela. Bianca and Carolina are eager to teach their niece a few wrestling moves when she gets older.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday November 1, 2026. Set your clocks back by one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night to ensure you arrive to worship at the right time on Sunday morning.

SAVE THE DATE –

- **Sunday November 1** – Daylight Savings Time ends. **All Saints' Day**. Bring photos to worship of your loved ones who have passed on so we can remember their lives.
- **Tuesday November 10 –** Potwin Lunch Bunch. Please join us for the second meeting of the Potwin Lunch Bunch Tuesday Nov. 10 at Annie's Place 4014 SW Gage Center Dr at 11:30 AM. We had a nice group last time with nine people attending. Please RSVP to Pat Abbey by Monday November 9th so she can call ahead.
- **Wednesday November 11 –** Veterans Day. The church office will be closed to visitors.
- **Sunday November 15** – Commitment Sunday. Please bring your completed pledge forms to worship so we can dedicate our pledges for 2027.
- **Sunday November 22** – Please join us on November 22nd when we will gather for our all church Thanksgiving worship and dinner. This year as part of a planned joint worship and fellowship event from the Joint Ministry Committee, West Side Christian will be joining us at Potwin for this combined worship and fellowship meal. We will gather at 10:00 for worship and for the fellowship meal immediately following. The Turkey and Ham will be provided and Dale Schutte has agreed to bring the mashed potatoes and gravy. West Side members are going to sign up to bring salads and desserts and we at Potwin are asked to sign up to bring side dishes and rolls/breads. Signup sheet will be posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. We are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving celebration made even more special with our friends from West Side joining us. Join us for fun and fellowship.
- **Thursday November 26** – Thanksgiving. Church office will be closed.
- **Saturday December 12** – Potwin Church Annual Cookie Walk 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Please see the article on page 6 for more details.

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.



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3	4	5	6 Happy Birthday Megan Edmonston	7
8	9	10 Lunch Bunch at Annie's Place 11:30AM	11 Church Office Closed	12	13	14
15 Commitment Sunday	16 Happy Birthday Caleb Chermok & Jayla Edmonston-Netherland	17	18 Happy Birthday Dale Schuette	19 Happy Birthday Beth Currier	20 Happy Birthday Lily Hutchison	21
22 Shared Worship at Potwin 10AM w/ WCC & Thanksgiving Feast after worship	23	24 Happy Birthday Libby Adams	25	26 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	27	28
29	30	Bell Choir Rehearsal Tuesdays 6:00 PM				Sunday Worship 9:15 AM



NOV. 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

