

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TOWER CHIMES



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TAB

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

OUR MISSION

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church is called by God, led by faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the Kingdom of God through worship, discipleship and outreach. Honoring our heritage at 34th and Central, we will faithfully serve our community, city and world in the present and prepare expectantly for the future.

IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8 am Communion Service
McKee Chapel



10 am Worship Service
Sanctuary
Service is also live-streamed each Sunday beginning around 9:50am.
You can find a link at tabpres.org

Join us as we worship together!

CONTACT INFORMATION

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
418 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

 (317) 923.5458  FrontDesk@tabpres.org

 www.tabpres.org  [tabpres](https://www.facebook.com/tabpres)

TAB'S TOWER CHIMES

This monthly newsletter is also available on the church website at: www.tabpres.org

All submissions should be emailed to the Tab offices at frontdesk@tabpres.org. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month for appearance in the upcoming month's Tower Chimes.



Pastoral Reflection

The “Peace Child”

Dear Friends,

Years ago I heard a story told by a Christian missionary Don Richardson that I later learned he once told when he preached here at Tab. It bears repeating.

Richardson was working with an indigenous tribe in South America. After years of living with this people, patiently learning their language and culture and earning their trust, he finally felt ready to share the Gospel message with them. So, sitting around the tribal fire one night he began to tell the story of Jesus beginning with His birth in Bethlehem. He told stories of His miracles and healings and teachings. He told how He welcomed and showed the love of God to all people, particularly those who were often denied or neglected. When He finally got to the part about Jesus’ passion he told how on the night of Jesus’ arrest the betrayer Judas kissed Him on the cheek, and with that the tribe burst into thunderous shouting and celebration. Their response caught Richardson totally off-guard, until he later learned that in that tribal culture, the greatest trickster, the greatest deceiver, was also the greatest hero. The ultimate victor was the one who could trick another into death.

The missionary was stunned. The tribe had heard the Gospel message and gotten the wrong hero. In frustration he began to search for another way to tell the story of Jesus and His saving love. Not long after, the tribe went to war with a neighboring village. After many weeks of battle, annihilation was imminent. In order to call for peace the chief took his own child and laid it at the feet of the neighboring chief, to be raised by the other tribe. The child symbolized that the war was over, without any tricks. This they called the “peace child.” The missionary saw his opening. He explained the Gospel message as God sending His own son, Jesus, as the “peace child.” In Jesus God was giving of Himself to win the salvation of His people. Hearing the Good News in this way the tribe came to faith.

This is the message the angels announced to shepherds long ago which comes to us still today:

“Unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Friends, this is the true message and meaning of Christmas: that God has gifted us with His Son, the “peace child.”

May you know the peace and presence of Christ in this season and throughout the year.

Rev. L. John Gable

December 2022

Preaching Schedule

- 4** Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:5–7
“From Silence to Singing: Zechariah”
Rev. L. John Gable, Preaching
- 11** Third Sunday of Advent
“Christmas With Tab” Television Taping
Jeremiah 33:14–16 & Luke 1:39–45
One service only at 10a
“The Blessing of Believing”
Rev. L. John Gable, Preaching
- 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent
John 1:5–7
“The Light Shines in the Darkness”
Rev. L. John Gable, Preaching

- 24** Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. Family Service
Luke 2:1–20
“The Shepherd’s Story”
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Luke 2:1–15 & Matthew 28:18–20
“For Always”
Rev. L. John Gable, Preaching
- 25** Christmas Day
One Service only at 10a
Isaiah 9:2–7 & Luke 2:1–20
“The Gift”
Rev. L. John Gable, Preaching

Event Schedule

SPECIAL

- 4** 9:00a Advent Workshop
11:30a Children’s Ministries
Mystery Night
- 10** 9:30a “Christmas With Tab”
Rehearsal
- 11** 10:00a “Christmas With Tab”
Television Taping
11:00a Annual Christmas Tea
- 20** 6:30p Session & Deacon Joint Mtg
- 23** 12:00n Church Offices Close
- 24** 5:00a Family Christmas Eve Service
8:00p Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service
- 25** 10:00a Christmas Day Service (No 8a
Service or Education Hour)
- 26** ALL DAY CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
- 30** 12:00n Church Offices Close

WEEKLY

- MWF** 11:00a Tab’s Open Door
- MON** 6:00p Women’s Bible Study
- TUE** 9:30a Women Alive
6:30p Prayer Group
- WED** 9:30a Pastors’ Bible Study
- THU** 3:45p Tab Tutoring
6:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- FRI** 7:00p Circle of Hope
- SUN** 8:00a Communion Service
9:00a Education Hour
10:00a Worship Service
11:00a Youth IMPACT

MONTHLY

- 1st MON** 12:00p HR Committee Meeting
- 1st TUE** 7:00p Spiritual Growth & Dev.
- 1st WED** 5:30p Missions Comm.
- 2nd MON** 5:30p Facilities Comm.
6:00p Diversity & Justice Team
- 2nd TUE** 5:00p Budget & Finance Comm.
7:00p Children’s Ministries Comm.
- 3rd TUE** 7:00p Session & Deacons’ Mtg
- 3rd WED** 6:30p Moms of Tab
- 4th TUE** 5:00p Media Committee

Please visit tabpres.org for a complete calendar of events.

Member Spotlight

Welcome to our New Members!

On October 16, 2022, we welcomed the following new members to our Tab Church family. Their pictures are on display in McKee Hallway. Please seek out these new members and do your part to welcome them to the fellowship of Tab!



Yao Akpalou & Mawuto Ahiafor

We welcome Yao and Mawuto to the Tab family as they moved to the United States in the last year. They live on the northwest side of Indianapolis. They are the parents of 3 month old Grace.



Doug Ramaker

Doug is retired and has spent much time in the past as a volunteer home builder. He is currently enjoying volunteering with the Open Door Café. In his free time, Doug enjoys playing chess and gardening.



Penny & Randy Phillips

After living for many years in both Cincinnati and Louisville, Penny and Randy moved to Carmel following Randy's retirement from Hilliard Lyons. They were members of Tab for many years and married here. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren, and they enjoy time together with their family. Penny is the daughter of Tab members John and Nancy Peterson.



Paul Asare

Paul is the husband of Tab member Debora Amo. While Debora moved to the Indianapolis several years ago, Paul moved here from Ghana in the last year, along with his and Debora's sons Sekyi and Okley. They are also parents to daughter Naa.



Kelly Winkler

Kelly has attended Tab for quite some time. She is active in attending both the Pastors' Bible Study and a Monday afternoon women's Bible study with fellow Tab members. She was baptized by John Gable on October 16, 2022.

A Look Back

A Time of Challenge and Opportunity

by Bruce McDonald

Frank Kik's inspirational message in April 1992 fueled a remarkable era at Tab of focus on community ministries. The most notable response was the creation of the early versions of what would become the Raphael Health Center, even while multiple other ministries were birthed or grew at this time. One untimely event was the sudden and unexpected resignation of Dr. Kik in January 1994. And while Kik's absence was impactful, his vision continued and the congregation continued to thrive. In September 1995, Tab called Rev. Peter Larson as its 15th pastor. Two weeks later, SpecTABulation, a well-attended all-church celebration, was held on the playing field with booths highlighting Tab's varied ministries and outreaches, a catered meal, and with carnival games appealing to the multiple young families in our midst. It was a time of great expectation and optimism for the future.

Larson enthusiastically encouraged more engagement in the community and the congregation responded accordingly. In 1998, for example, the annual report included some numbers of note: 2,300 participants in Tab Rec; 48,000 bowls of soup served; 250 children in Sunday School; 500 inner-city children receiving school supplies; and 700 regular patients seen at Raphael. Tab's tutoring program grew considerably, the Unleavened Bread Café opened down the street with Tab's support, along with renewed involvement in the Mid-North Church Council, Mapleton-Fall Creek Community Development Corp, Mid-North Food Pantry, Prison Ministries, the Shepherding Center, and the Christian Neighborhood Legal Clinic. But Tab's focus wasn't just local. Eleven different foreign missionary teams were supported in such far-flung places as Russia, Senegal, Nepal, Kenya, Laos, Morocco, Romania, Colombia, and even Bloomington, Indiana. There was no shortage of mission opportunities for any Tab member.



In 1997, long-shelved plans from the early 1980s to expand the Tab Rec program into the adjacent Tab Park were revisited. This time Tab opted to partner with the YMCA in developing ambitious plans to construct a Family Life Center with a focus on expanding Tab's current recreation offerings but also to address more holistic community needs, in keeping with the focus of the Y. Conceptual plans were developed to construct a large addition to Tab on the existing playing field. It was an exciting time.

The year before, in 1996, Tab members Jeff and Sue Pankratz had approached the Session with a vision they had of being urban missionaries in our own neighborhood. Together with another family, the Pankratzes proposed to purchase an abandoned house at 23rd and Guilford, in the midst of what was derisively referred to as Dodge City, a high-crime area known for empty lots, abandoned homes, frequent arson, plenty of drug dealing and occasional shootings.





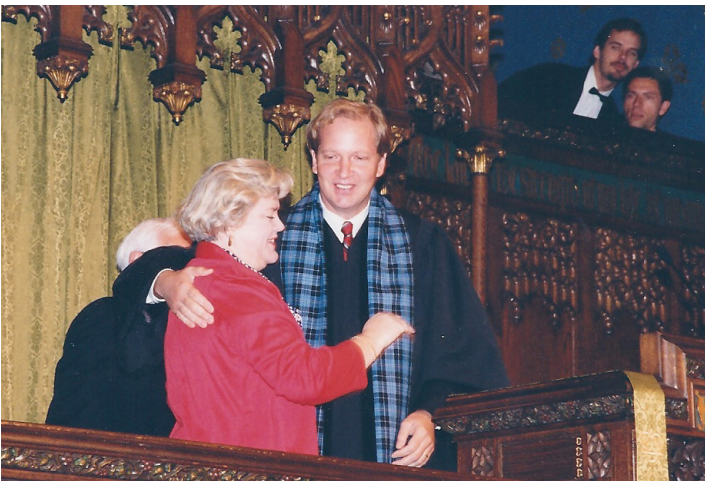
The session fully supported the Pankratz family and within a year, they had moved into their newly renovated home. At the same time, several young Tab families began to act upon their dream of starting a Christian school, to provide an alternative to the public-school offerings. Four blocks from the Pankratz house, at 23rd and Park, a vacant IPS building which had housed School 45, came up for sale. With help from the Tab Endowment Fund and other private individuals, Tab partnered with St. Vincent Hospital to purchase the building and formed Jubilee Partnerships. The building was then used for urban outreach and ministry, including the new home for The Oaks Academy. Yet while the various ministries thrived and The Oaks quickly established itself in the neighborhood, the Tab session and the congregation as a whole was not fully supportive of extending more financial investment. Perhaps, in the minds of many, the drive for increased community missions had occurred at the expense of congregational care. Conflicts arose from this and other issues, and a wedge seemingly was placed between Larson and a sizable portion of the congregation, resulting, ultimately, in his resignation in early 2000.

Tab now found itself in a crisis of identity and soul searching. Many members left. And yet, while the plans for the proposed Family Life Center faded away, it is notable that The Oaks Academy continued to thrive and is now one of

the more outstanding private schools in the State of Indiana, clearly an example of God's ultimate blessing of the visions and dreams of many Tab members, despite the failings of individuals and institutions. And Dodge City, no doubt because of the initial urban-missionary initiative, and the early Jubilee investments, left its ugly past behind. In 2001, with the help of the City of Indianapolis, Fall Creek Place was developed; by 2005, more than 350 homes had been either built or renovated in that 26-block area. More urban residential development grew from that start.

Meanwhile, Tab's congregation, while somewhat chastened and diminished, continued with its emphasis on local ministries. In late 2002, Tab called John Bruington as its new pastor. While trying to build upon the celebration of its 150th anniversary the year before, however, this new era was seemingly hampered by a loss of energy. Membership and attendance dropped, the number of giving units fell, operating-budget deficits rose, and staff turned over. Bruington struggled in his attempts to remedy these ills and in June 2006, he resigned as pastor.

The previous 15 years had been difficult ones, with a struggle to find consistent and effective leadership, given the arrival and unplanned departures of three pastors. And yet Tab grew in multiple areas, as its mission outreach continued to expand and extend its reach. The lack of consistent leadership allowed many lay individuals to step up and lead in spite of Tab's difficulties, clearly demonstrating that the local congregation is more than its pastor; it's the people who make up the body. Still, it was difficult to consider that maybe Tab did not have better days ahead, and that God's hand was no longer on this congregation. Fortunately, effective interim leadership from former co-pastor Bob Hunter provided a time of quiet reflection for the Tab family to consider what these last 15 years had meant and what had been learned from this period of affliction, for lack of a better word. Indeed, better days were ahead.



Tab News

Announcements & Events

GRACIOUS GIFTS

It is that wonderful time of year when Gracious Gifts, Tab's Alternative Gift Market, opens to provide an opportunity to honor family or friends with a monetary gift in their name to one or more great missions. A table will be in McKee Hallway on Sundays, December 4, 11 and 18. Be sure to stop by, bring your questions and learn more about the missions represented. What better way to start your Christmas shopping. Questions? Contact Libby Pike (elizabethmpike@icloud.com) or Wendy Wilkerson (lobsterlady2@gmail.com).

TAB TUTORING

Tab tutoring started their year on September 8 with 15 students signed up, and we are currently serving 22 students with a waiting list. We are so thankful to our church family for their support and prayers and would like to ask those who may be considering how they can serve the community to prayerfully consider tutoring a student. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about Tab tutoring please call Carolee Berry at 317-989-9064, Barb Babcock @ 317-730-3898 or Carol Newell @ 540-597-0794.

MISSIONS UNIT 2023

It is nearly time for all Tab elementary students to begin their "trip around the world" during this year's Missions Unit. On January 7 we will prepare for our journey by making passports and name pins, decorating our travel bags and learning a bit about the steps involved in becoming a missionary. Then on January 14, and continuing through February 26, we will be visiting a new country each week to learn about the geography, culture, religious practices and Christian mission efforts in that country. This year's countries include Chile, Nigeria, Greece, India, New Zealand, Hawaii and Switzerland. We need many adult and teen helpers to make the Missions Unit a success. To volunteer you can sign up beginning November 20 in the Lower Level B Hallway and the following Sundays in McKee Hallway. We would love for you to join us as we help Tab's kids to see the world!

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Tab's annual Advent Workshop will take place on Sunday, December 4, from 9a–11a in Lower Level B. We will have crafts, music and cookies for adults and older children, as well as special crafts for toddlers and preschoolers in the Preschool Room. This is an event for the entire church family, not just those with children, so everyone is welcome to participate in the fun and fellowship!

PRETEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

All Tab 5th and 6th graders are invited to our annual Preteen Christmas Party on December 11. We will leave Tab immediately after the 10a worship service concludes, traveling in the Tab van to Buca di Beppo for lunch and festivities. There is no cost to families for the lunch, but each participant is asked to bring a wrapped gift suitable for either gender (\$10 spending limit, please) for a small gift exchange. If your student would like to join us, please RSVP to Jennifer Wirt by December 8.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 23 & December 30:

Church offices will close at 12n for the holidays

December 26 & January 2:

Church offices will be closed for the holidays

2022 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Friday, December 30, is the final day Tab is able to physically receive contributions in the Finance Office for credit to your 2022 giving statement. Checks dated, postmarked and sent via the US Mail on or before December 31 will be credited as 2022 giving even if received in 2023.

Online giving must have a December 31 processing date for credit in 2022. All of the above is in accordance with IRS rules and regulations. Those interested in donating securities should contact Kristine Green at x111 in the Finance Office well in advance of year end.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at Tab's Worship Service on Sunday, December 18, or you may give online at tabpres.org/giving. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you will be helping families of active and retired church workers. The offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges for education. Special envelopes will be available that Sunday morning for your convenience. Please give generously.

Christmas with Tab

Sunday, December 11, at 10:00a

The Sanctuary Choir with strings, harp and brass

JOHN GABLE, PREACHING

Invite your friends to watch the telecast on:

Christmas Eve at 10:00p

Christmas Day at 12:00n

WHMB TV 40.1

Watch a classic Christmas with Tab from our archives:

Christmas Day at 3:00p

WFYI TV 20.1

Read Through the Bible

December

1 Galatians 5:1–15	Lamentations 5	Psalms 147	17 Philippians 4	Ezekiel 24	Isaiah 52
2 Galatians 5:16–26	Ezekiel 1	Psalms 148	18 Colossians 1:1–23	Ezekiel 25–26	Isaiah 53
3 Galatians 6	Ezekiel 2–3	Psalms 149	19 Colossians 1:24–2:19	Ezekiel 27–28	Isaiah 54
4 Ephesians 1	Ezekiel 4–5	Psalms 150	20 Colossians 2:20–3:17	Ezekiel 29–30	Isaiah 55
5 Ephesians 2	Ezekiel 6–7	Isaiah 40	21 Colossians 3:18–4:18	Ezekiel 31–32	Isaiah 56
6 Ephesians 3	Ezekiel 8–9	Isaiah 41	22 Luke 1:1–25	Ezekiel 33	Isaiah 57
7 Ephesians 4:1–6	Ezekiel 10–11	Isaiah 42	23 Luke 1:26–56	Ezekiel 34	Isaiah 58
8 Ephesians 4:17–32	Ezekiel 12–13	Isaiah 43	24 Luke 1:57–80	Ezekiel 35–36	Isaiah 59
9 Ephesians 5:1–20	Ezekiel 14–15	Isaiah 44	25 Luke 2:1–20	Ezekiel 37	Isaiah 60
10 Ephesians 5:21–33	Ezekiel 16	Isaiah 45	26 Luke 2:21–52	Ezekiel 38–39	Isaiah 61
11 Ephesians 6	Ezekiel 17	Isaiah 46	27 Luke 3:1–20	Ezekiel 40–41	Isaiah 62
12 Philippians 1:1–11	Ezekiel 18	Isaiah 47	28 Luke 3:21–38	Ezekiel 42–43	Isaiah 63
13 Philippians 1:12–30	Ezekiel 19	Isaiah 48	29 Luke 4:1–30	Ezekiel 44–45	Isaiah 64
14 Philippians 2:1–11	Ezekiel 20	Isaiah 49	30 Luke 4:31–44	Ezekiel 46–47	Isaiah 65
15 Philippians 2:12–30	Ezekiel 21–22	Isaiah 50	31 Luke 5:1–26	Ezekiel 48	Isaiah 66
16 Philippians 3	Ezekiel 23	Isaiah 51			

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Tab family extends our care and sympathy to David and Cathleen Perry in the death of David's father, Glenn Perry, on Wednesday, October 19. Services for Glenn were held on Saturday, October 29 at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati.

The Tab family extends our care and sympathy to Dan Gushee in the passing of his brother Steve on October 25 in Arizona.

CENTENNIAL COOKBOOK

Please note the correction to the deviled eggs recipe on page 56. It should read 2 teaspoons of sugar and 2 teaspoons of cider vinegar (not tablespoons, as is printed.) Thank you for making those edits!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income:

YTD budgeted income:	\$1,820,722
YTD actual income:	\$1,855,150
Actual exceeds budgeted by:	\$34,428

Expenses:

YTD budgeted expenses:	\$1,922,265
YTD actual expenses	\$1,869,942
Under budget by:	\$52,323

We thank you for your commitment to God's work here at Tab!

2023 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

Thanks to all who have responded to our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2023 we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your pledged gifts of support assist the Session in planning for the coming year, and we thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Tab. If you have indicated that you would like pledge envelopes for 2023, they will be in McKee Hallway for pickup on December 11.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCD)

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a QCD. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. In addition to the benefits of giving to a charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare. See your tax professional for full details.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lily Sturgis | 17 Bloor Redding |
| 2 Jan Lewis | 18 Sherry Mitchell |
| 3 Charlton Browning | 19 Jane Kukolla |
| Hannah Malito | Jim Pfeiffer |
| Don White | Carol Lukemeyer |
| Linda Flederjohn | 20 Emily McClelland |
| 4 Ace Rodriguez | Grace Schubert |
| Brodie Sears | 21 Bob Shaw |
| Mariah Buchanan | Truman Finnell |
| 5 Phillip Luzader | Greg Kashman |
| Kelly Donaldson | 22 Jack Thompson |
| Scott Ledger | Emma Lynn |
| Emma Fraser | 23 Carolyn Rembusch |
| 6 Jennifer Hamilton | Annie Krueger |
| Ron Harvey | Lisa Evans |
| Hunter Browning | Nick Hill |
| Mary Dougherty | 24 Theresa Roberts |
| Gayle Berger | Audrey Howe |
| 7 Thomas Summers | Rod Smith |
| Whitney Hatter-Barbosa | Carolyn Queisser |
| 8 Kate Warren | 26 Jeannie Byers |
| Vicki Rude | Donna Garrett |
| Ethan Dieterich | Johnny Miles |
| 9 John Reynolds | 27 Samantha Miller |
| 10 Hannah Canterbury | Gavin Green |
| 11 Shannon Woller | 28 Tom Lapp |
| Kathryn Gilroy | 29 Chris |
| Lily Donaldson | Buchanan-Schwanke |
| 13 Grace Schumm | 30 Jeff Hotchkiss |
| Diego Urfalian | Kathy Miller |
| 15 John Woller | Terra Seidel |
| Sarah Schroeder-Mohr | Kevin Ahearn |
| Margaret Teague | 31 Sara Butler |
| Leona Lingeman Kistler | Kate Ems |
| Heidi Hoopingarner | Rita Lingeman |
| Missy Mocek | Maya Mocek |
| 16 Jane Harvey | Jeff Menzel |
| Robin Pfeiffer | Yao Akpalou |
| Jessica Wentworth | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 4 Chad & Stephanie Lynn 18 years
- 18 Kyle & Brittany Barnett 12 years
- Nick & Maggie Birk 12 years
- Greg & Kathy Miller 46 years
- 19 Bill & Nancy McLane 25 years
- 20 Glenn & Nancy Koehring 47 years
- Frank & Cathy Schubert 25 years
- 21 David & Paula Means 9 years
- 23 Jeff & Julie Swiatek 9 years
- 24 Mike & Pat Cracraft 55 years
- 26 Johnny & Dawn Miles 22 years
- 28 Dave & Mary Mills 50 years
- 29 William & Karen Jefferies 32 years

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

418 East 34th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205-3795

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Tabernacle Presbyterian Church at the above address.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



*Help make Tab even more
gorgeous at Christmas!*

Purchase a poinsettia and donate "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone you love. It will decorate our beautiful Sanctuary throughout the Christmas season.

Cost for each plant is \$20

Given by: _____
please print clearly

☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Honor of:

please print clearly

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please return this form to the Front Office no later than Sunday, December 4. Include your check to Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, marked "Poinsettia."