



Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

December 1, 2024 | First Sunday of Advent

Welcome

May you truly sense God's Spirit at work in this place and in your life.

Greetings to everyone! We extend a warm welcome to those joining us in-person or for our livestream worship service this morning. As we celebrate together, we hope you will sense God's presence as we gather.

If you are a guest this morning, please fill out one of the Connection Cards located in the pew racks so that we can get to know each other better. Simply hand your completed card to an usher or place it in the offering box. If you need assistance at any time, please feel free to ask someone seated next to you or one of the ushers.

Children are welcome to sit with their families during worship or attend Junior Church in Lower Level B following the Children's Message. Nurseries are available for infants along with programming for preschoolers.

Discipleship Classes

2024 Spiritual Growth & Development Opportunities

Spiritual Growth & Development | SUNDAY 9a PARLOR

Join us next Sunday in Lower Level B for the annual Advent Workshop, where we'll help teach the meaning of the season and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. *There will be no meeting on December 1 and 15.*

Women's Bible Study | MONDAY 6:30p PARLOR

Join Women's Bible Study as we explore the Gospel of John and Jesus' "I Am" statements using *Believe I Am* by Megan Marshman.

Pastor's Bible Study | WEDNESDAY 9:30a-10:30a PARLOR

A pastor-led Bible study covering the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

Men's Bible Study | SATURDAY 8a-9a PARLOR

Join the Men's Ministry at Tab on Saturday mornings for a study of the book of Hebrews, continuing through February 2025. Questions? Please contact Doug Conrads at dlconrads@yahoo.com.

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.

Cover Art:

The Annunciation

by Petrus Christus

8 o'clock Worship

We hope you will sense our vision for Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community as you worship with us.

† Please stand in body or spirit.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Sinfonia” (from “Christmas Cantata”) *J. S. Bach*

The Prelude is a time of worship offering praise to God as well as giving each of us an opportunity to prepare our hearts for worship. Please use this time to pray, meditate and reflect on how God might speak to you during the service this morning.

Gathering In God's Name

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this season of excitement and weariness,

People: Reopen our hearts to your presence,

Leader: For we know you meet us and hold us,

People: In and beyond the busyness,

Leader: In and beyond the glitter,

People: In and beyond the hype.

Leader: When we are tired and frayed,

People: When we lose sight of what it's all about,

Leader: When we put ourselves first,

People: When we come near to losing hope,

Leader: Let our worship forever remind us,

All: That you come to bring love!

† HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Hyfrydol*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

CANDLE OF HOPE

God, you are still speaking, and we pray this day to be good listeners. As we prepare for him, fill us with hope. For Jesus is coming, and we want to be ready for him. Amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Loving God, who will save us? For our cynicism is the fruit of our experiences, not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, but never to recognize the dove. Our perfect analysis may describe the mountain, but is helpless to move it. It is with little pride that we must confess: we suspect angels, and disbelieve good news! And so as Advent begins, we ask that you would give us a portion of the faith demonstrated by Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph, and all those shepherds who encountered angels, and believed the Good News, and welcomed the Messiah, the Christ-child, baby Jesus into their lives. For we want to be different, and need your grace...

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

† RESPONSE #581

“Gloria Patri” *Greatorex*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 | Pew Bible Page 550

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36, 42-44 | Pew Bible Page 806

POETRY READING

"Nativity" *Kenneth Steven*

*When the miracle happened it was not
with bright light or fire—
but a farm door with the thick smell of sheep
and a wind tugging at the shutters.*

*There was no sign the world had changed for ever
or that God had taken place;
just a child crying softly in a corner,
and the door open, for those who came to find.*

MESSAGE

Those Who Come

Responding to God's Word

† APOSTLES' CREED

Leader: Let us join together proclaiming some of that which we believe.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

“Let Us Break Bread Together” *Let Us Break Bread*

(Please join in singing during the serving of the Sacrament of Communion.)

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.

(Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees.

(Refrain)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring yourself into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. May we now share these stories everywhere we go, and with everyone we meet. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(please join in singing)*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

*Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Departing to Serve

† HYMN #93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Truro*

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

"Sing With Joy, Glad Voices Lift" *Hermann Schroeder*

Please join us in McKee Hallway immediately following worship for Coffee & Fellowship.

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz, Interim Senior Pastor

Matt Kauffman, Organist

Call to Worship adapted from Winter, Ruth Burgess, editor;

Prayer of Confession adapted from Cloth For The Cradle, the Wild Goose Worship Group;

Prayer of Commitment adapted from Alydia Smith;

Affirmation of Faith by Rebecca F. Harrison

10 o'clock Worship

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“The Angel Gabriel” *arr. Gerald Near*

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,” Gloria!*

*“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady,” Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!*

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 | Pew Bible Page 550

† HYMN #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” *Annunciation*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36, 42-44 | Pew Bible Page 806

POETRY READING

"Nativity" *Kenneth Steven*

*When the miracle happened it was not
with bright light or fire—
but a farm door with the thick smell of sheep
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or that God had taken place;
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OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Dear Redeemer” *César Franck*

*Come thou, come thou, dear Redeemer.
Come Lord Jesus to set us free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Joy of every longing heart.
Come thou, come thou, dear Redeemer.
Born a child, yet thou art a King,
Born to reign in us forever.
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone.
Raise us to thy glorious throne.
Amen.*

† DOXOLOGY #606

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” *Old Hundredth*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(please join in singing)*

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
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Sanctuary Choir

Dorothy Benz-Buchanan, Soloist

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Prayer of Confession adapted from Cloth For The Cradle, the Wild Goose Worship Group;

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Affirmation of Faith by Rebecca F. Harrison

Announcements

Week of December 1 – December 7, 2024

“JUST FOR MOMS” CRAFT NIGHT

All Tab ladies are invited to join us **this Wednesday** at 6:30pm in Lower Level B for an evening of adult-friendly crafts, delicious dessert, and great fellowship.

GRACIOUS GIFTS

Honor a friend or loved one this holiday season with a gift to a local or global mission. Stop by the Gracious Gifts table in McKee Hallway each Sunday in December. This year, we’re focusing on: Camp Pyoca, Circles, Indy Grace Place, Katy’s Kids, Keller’s, Mid North Food Pantry, Missio Link, Open Door, Raphael Health Center, and the Wittig’s. For questions, contact Libby Pike at elizabethmpike@icloud.com or Wendy Wilkerson at lobsterlady2@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Next Sunday, December 8, is the final day to order Christmas poinsettias “In Memory” or “In Honor” of a loved one. Order online at tabpres.org/Poinsettias or return the form at the Front Office. Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve services. Don’t miss this holiday tradition!

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Join us for the Advent Workshop next Sunday, from 9-11am in Lower Level B. This all-ages event includes crafts, card signing for homebound members, holiday music, and fellowship. Special crafts will be available in the preschool room for children ages two through five. No fee or RSVP required!

HOME COMMUNION

On Sunday, December 8, our Elders and Deacons will be bringing Communion to our homebound members. If you or someone you know would like a visit, please contact the Front Office. We would be honored to share this special time with you.

2025 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you to those who have responded to the 2025 Stewardship Campaign. If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, please do so soon to help with planning for the upcoming year. Pledge envelopes will be available for pickup in McKee Hallway on December 8.

PRETEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for the Preteen Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15, right after worship at Half Liter. Enjoy food, fun, and festivities as we celebrate the season with friends. **Please RSVP to Jennifer.Wirt@tabpres.org by December 12.** We look forward to celebrating with you!

CHRISTMAS WITH TAB & CHRISTMAS TEA

Join us on Sunday, December 15, for our annual "Christmas with Tab" service at 10am. This special holiday worship service will feature some of your favorite carols and a presentation of “Gloria” by Antonio Vivaldi, performed by our Sanctuary Choir, soloists, and instrumentalists. Bring a friend and join us for this uplifting service as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After “Christmas with Tab”, continue the celebration with us at our Annual Christmas Tea in the Dining Room! Bring your homemade holiday cookies to share. You can bring them that morning or drop them off at the Front Desk the week before. Come enjoy delicious treats, festive conversation, and the joy of the season as we celebrate together.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 5 PM** Family Christmas Eve Worship
- 8 PM** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



OPEN DOOR CAFÉ'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Join us for Open Door's Annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 18, at 11am in the Dining Room. Enjoy fellowship, good food, and a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus' arrival. Come for the joy, stay for the community!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church through the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering, to be collected on December 22, provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and supports leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Learn more at tabpres.org/ChristmasJoy.

2024 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Tuesday, December 31, is the final day to submit contributions to the Finance Office for credit to your 2024 giving statement. Checks postmarked by December 31 will count for 2024, even if received in 2025. Online gifts must be processed by December 31. Donations of securities should be arranged with Kristine Green at ext. 111 before year-end, in accordance with IRS regulations.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT: UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES

Mark your calendars and join us on January 5 for *Nurturing the Heart Within: Discovering Self-Compassion through God's Love*. This 8-week series will be led by Dr. Shannon Woller, incoming President of the Indiana Psychological Association and newly elected Elder at Tab. Details coming soon!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your support helps Tab spread the love of Christ through worship, music, outreach, and more. Your contributions make a real difference. Scan the QR code or text TABPRES to 73256.



Calendar

December 1 – December 7, 2024

THIS WEEK AT TAB

Sunday, December 1

- 8a Communion Service *McKee Chapel*
- 8:45a Coffee & Conversation
McKee Hallway
- 9a Spiritual Growth & Development
Class *Parlor*
- 9a Children's Education *Lower Level B*
- 9a Youth Education *Youth Room*
- 10a Worship Service *Sanctuary*
- 10a Junior Church *Lower Level B*
- 11a Coffee & Conversation *Parlor*
- 11a IMPACT Youth Group *Youth Room*

Monday, December 2

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 5p HR Committee Meeting *Online*
- 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 72 *Lower Level*
- 6:30p Boy Scout Troop 72/721
Youth Room

Tuesday, December 3

- 10a Women Alive *Parlor*
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting *McKee Chapel*
- 6:30p Bible Study Fellowship
Dining Room
- 7p Spiritual Growth & Development
Meeting *Parlor*

Wednesday, December 4

- 9:30a Pastors' Bible Study *Parlor*
- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 5:30p Missions Committee Mtg *Offsite*
- 6:30p 'Just for Moms' Craft Night
Lower Level B

Thursday, December 5

- 2:30p Tab Tutoring *Gym & Lower Level*
- 6p Circles *Dining Room*
- 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Parlor*

Friday, December 6

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 3:30p Circle of Hope *Parlor*

Saturday, December 7

- 8a Men's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 10a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Parlor*
- 5p Boy Scout Lock-In *Youth Room*