



Tabernacle Presbyterian Church  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

December 22, 2024 | Fourth 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, December 29 as we welcome the New Year with stories of gratitude and prayers.

**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](mailto: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:

*Advent Wreath with Candles*

by Adobestock

# 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

“Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming” *arr. John Leavitt*

**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 waiting and longing,

**People: Of looking for you to come into our world,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In our lives and in our families,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In our neighborhoods and in our communities,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In our work and in our learning,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In our nation and in our world,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In Tabernacle Presbyterian Church,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: In grace and with hope,**

Leader: We are seeking light.

**People: Jesus, you are the light of the world.**

Leader: May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you.

**All: And hearts to welcome you!**

### † HYMN #109

“Blest Be the God of Israel” *Merle's Tune*

## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

### UNISON PRAYER

*Joyful God, you are so generous with us. Guide us, now, as we get ourselves ready for Jesus' birth. Help us to open our hearts, so that you can fill them with all your good gifts – hope and peace and love and joy! Amen.*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Silent word, creative act, hidden truth, revealed love: we wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come, and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of the widening cracks of indecency and injustice, and anxious about the future. Yet, we refuse your guidance, instead wishing you would act according to our desires. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us; waiting for genuine contrition on our part; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen, and then respond with burning passion for your truth, your compassion, your mercy. Forgive us. Do not give up on us, we pray. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits; that when our time of waiting is past, we may embrace you fully, and act for you faithfully...*

### MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

#### † RESPONSE #581

"Gloria Patri" *Greatorrex*

*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 7:10-16 | Pew Bible Page 554

#### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-24a | Pew Bible Page 783

#### 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 To Find A Messiah

# Responding to God's Word

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

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

*We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who endured the forces of human brokenness, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world – reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied. We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving Spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts, and leads us to truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God's promises; for the time when the darkness will hold no fear, and the light will no longer blind; for the time when creation will be made whole once more, and God's peace will reign forever. 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)*

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who 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 #128**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” *Polish Folk Melody*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

“Veni Emmanuel” *arr. Robert J. Powell*

**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 Grace Church, Ealing, London;*

*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith adapted from Candles & Conifers, Ruth Burgess, Editor*

# 10 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

“The First Noel”

*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 waiting and longing,

People: Of looking for you to come into our world,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In our lives and in our families,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In our neighborhoods and in our communities,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In our work and in our learning,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In our nation and in our world,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In Tabernacle Presbyterian Church,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: In grace and with hope,

Leader: We are seeking light.

People: Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Leader: May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you.

All: *And hearts to welcome you!*

### † OPENING SONG

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Silent word, creative act, hidden truth, revealed love: we wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come, and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of the widening cracks of indecency and injustice, and anxious about the future. Yet, we refuse your guidance, instead wishing you would act according to our desires. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us; waiting for genuine contrition on our part; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen, and then respond with burning passion for your truth, your compassion, your mercy. Forgive us. Do not give up on us, we pray. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits; that when our time of waiting is past, we may embrace you fully, and act for you faithfully...*

### MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

### † SONG

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

## Proclaiming God's Word

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16 | Pew Bible Page 554

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-24a | Pew Bible Page 783

### 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 To Find A Messiah



# Responding to God's Word

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

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

*We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who endured the forces of human brokenness, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world – reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied. We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving Spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts, and leads us to truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God's promises; for the time when the darkness will hold no fear, and the light will no longer blind; for the time when creation will be made whole once more, and God's peace will reign forever. Amen!*

## RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

“Be Born In Me”

### PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who 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

## † CLOSING SONG

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

## † BENEDICTION

## † POSTLUDE

Please join us in the Parlor immediately following worship for Coffee & Fellowship.

### Today's Worship Participants

*Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz, Interim Senior Pastor*

*Pavel Polanco-Safadit, Piano*

*Ivonne Blanco, Jeanne Rieger, Leah Crane, Vocals*

*Matt Gall, Drums*

*Karis Crane, Bass*

*Eric Guion, Guitar*

*Call to Worship adapted from Grace Church, Ealing, London;  
Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith adapted from Candles & Conifers, Ruth Burgess, Editor*

# Announcements

Week of December 22 – December 29, 2024

## SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

Feeling the weight of the season? This intimate service of prayer, scripture, and music offers a space to acknowledge grief, light a candle of hope, and find peace in God's presence. Our service begins immediately following today's 10am worship in the Sanctuary and can be attended in person, via live stream, or at a later date on YouTube, @tabindy.

## 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. Today's offering 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](http://tabpres.org/ChristmasJoy).

## ONE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

Next Sunday, join us for one worship service only at 10am in the Sanctuary. No 8am Chapel Service or 9am Education Hour.

## GRACIOUS GIFTS

Stop by the Gracious Gifts table in McKee Hallway after worship in December to learn how you can honor a friend or loved one this holiday season with a gift to a local or global mission. Visit [tabpres.org/GraciousGifts](http://tabpres.org/GraciousGifts) to discover the organizations we are supporting this year.

## 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.

# Christmas Eve Worship



**Family Christmas  
Eve Service @ 5 PM**

**December  
24**



**Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and  
Carols @ 8 PM**

### 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 are available for pickup in McKee Hallway.

### MISSIONS UNIT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

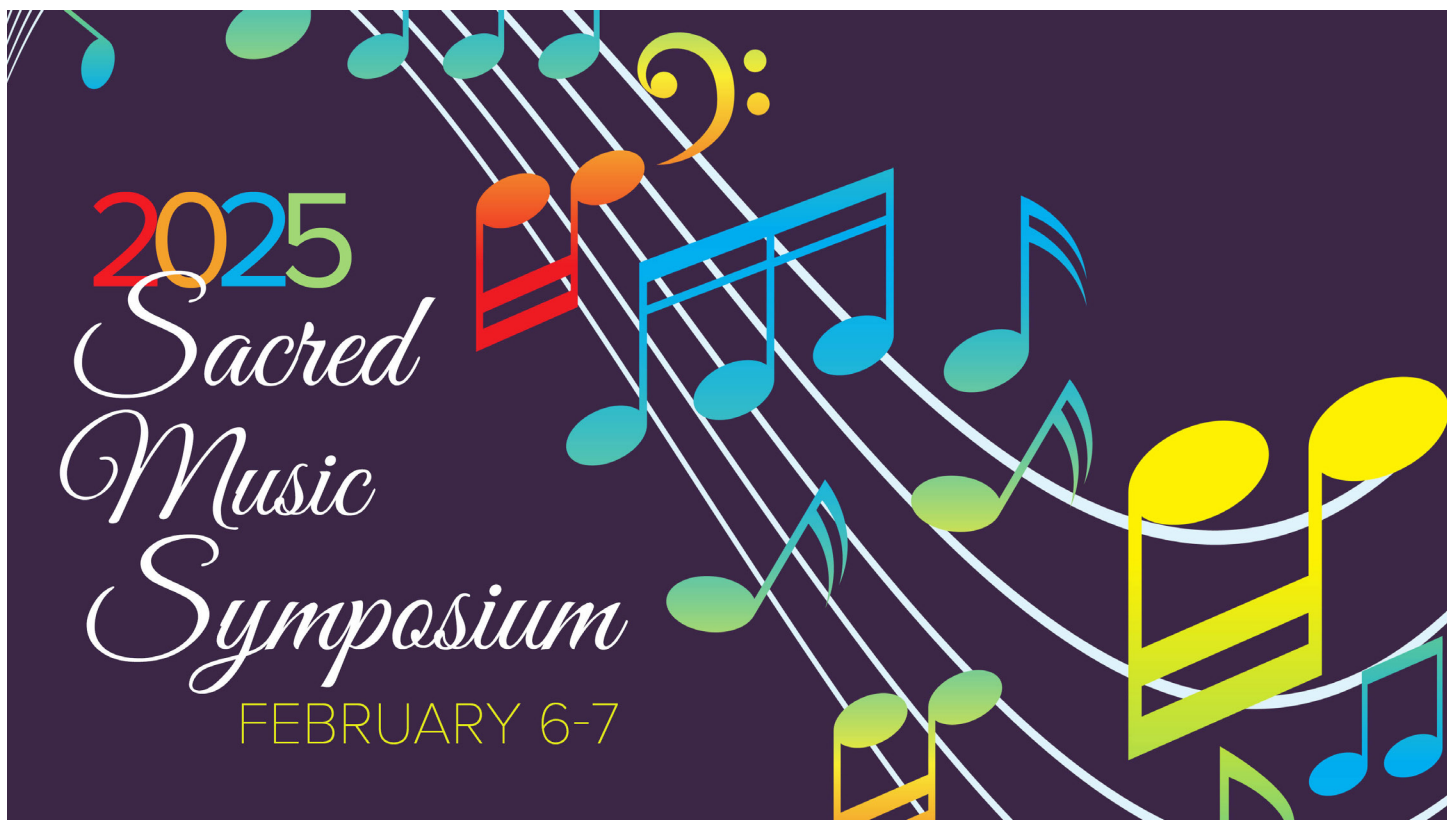
The annual Missions Unit begins January 5, with visits to Arizona, France, Madagascar, Vietnam, Colombia, Egypt, and Norway. We need adult and teen volunteers to teach Tab's children about these countries' people, culture, and faith. Sign up in McKee Hallway. For more info, contact Jennifer Wirt at [Jennifer.Wirt@tabpres.org](mailto:Jennifer.Wirt@tabpres.org). Join us in this exciting mission!

### PRETEEN LUNCH AND A MOVIE

All 5th- and 6th-graders are invited to our annual MLK Day Lunch and a Movie on January 20! We'll start with lunch at Culver's, followed by a movie at Glendale Landmark Theater or AMC Castleton Theater. Mark your calendars—more details coming soon!

### SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025

Join us for the 2025 Sacred Music Symposium at Tab! This national event offers workshops, choral reading sessions, and opportunities for music ministers, choir members, and worship leaders to connect and grow. \$150 registration (includes meals and music). Sign up at [tabpres.org/SacredMusic](https://tabpres.org/SacredMusic) by January 27 for inspiration and professional development!



### 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 22 – December 29, 2024

## THIS WEEK AT TAB

### Sunday, December 22

- 8a Communion Service *McKee Chapel*
- 8:45a Coffee & Fellowship *McKee Hallway*
- 9a Congregational Meeting *Sanctuary*
- 9a Children's Education *Lower Level B*
- 9a Youth Education *Youth Room*
- 10a Worship Service *Sanctuary*
- 10a Junion Church *Lower Level B*
- 11a Coffee & Fellowship *Parlor*
- 11a IMPACT Youth Group *Youth Room*

### Monday, December 23

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*

### Tuesday, December 24

- 12p Church Office Closed
- 5p Christmas Eve Family Service *Sanctuary*
- 8p Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols *Sanctuary*

### Wednesday, December 25

- All day Church Building Closed

### Friday, December 27

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

### Saturday, December 28

- 8a Men's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 10a Purls of Wisdom *Session Room*