



Tabernacle Presbyterian Church  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

November 30, 2025 | 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

2025 Spiritual Growth Opportunities

**A Study of Faith & Science | SUNDAY 9a MCWHIRTER RESOURCE CENTER**

Can faith and science work together? Join Bart Ost for a discussion-based class exploring scripture, theology, and science to better understand God's creation and our role in it.

**Grace Filled Living | SUNDAY 9a PARLOR**

What does it look like to live the way of Jesus in a world that often runs in the opposite direction? Join us this fall for Grace Filled Living, a discussion-based study of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7), led by Andrew Hart.

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

Pastor Tim Ayers will lead us through the scriptures of Advent for the next several weeks. Plan on joining us for this insightful look at the time leading up to the birth of Christ.

**Men's Bible Study | SATURDAY 8a PARLOR**

Dive into Scripture in a small group setting, connect in fellowship, and encourage one another through prayer and discussion. Men's Bible Study is a time for growth, accountability, and building strong relationships. Bring your Bible and come ready to grow in faith!

**Women's Bible Study | MONDAY 7p PARLOR**

Explore the Bible, grow in faith, and connect with other women in meaningful fellowship as we seek to live out the powerful truths found in God's Word. This prayer and study time is an encouraging start to the week and great way to connect and learn with other women.

### 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:  
*Blessings of Advents Wreath*  
from St. Andrews Church

See the full weekly schedule of Spiritual Growth programming at [tabpres.org/Adults](http://tabpres.org/Adults).



# 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.

## PRELUDE

**As The Prelude** begins, we invite you to use this time to quiet your heart, reflect on God's presence in your life, and remember Christ's promise of redemption. Thanks be to God on this Lord's Day.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS | Mark John

### † GREETING ONE ANOTHER

"Lift Up Your Heads" *Truro*

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

## Gathering In God's Name

### † CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 46 | Mark John

Leader: A voice cries out:

**People:** "Prepare for God's arrival!"

Leader: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

**People:** Fill in the valleys, level off the hills.

Leader: Smooth out the ruts, and clear out the rocks.

**People:** For our God is coming!"

**All:** *Let's worship together.*

### † HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Hyfrydol*

## CALL TO CONFESSION | Mark John

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;  
We have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings.  
Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.  
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again.  
Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

## MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation:

**People:** If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,  
and the light around me will be night,"

Leader: Even the darkness is not dark to God,  
and the night is as bright as the day.

**People:** The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us;  
has come to us in Jesus Christ,

Leader: Who binds up the brokenhearted,

People: Heals all our infirmities,

Leader: And relieves our burden of sin.

People: So arise, shine; for your light has come,

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: Thanks be to God!

#### † HYMN #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.

## Proclaiming God's Word

### SCRIPTURE READING | Mark John

Philippians 1:12–18 | Pew Bible Page 953

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

### MESSAGE | Rev. Dr. John Person

God Uses Everything

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PRAYER

## Responding to God's Word

#### † HYMN #828

"More Love to Thee, O Christ" *More Love to Thee*

#### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *The Apostles' Creed* | Mark John

*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 | Mark John

“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 | Mark John

Leader: Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new creation, saying: Come quickly, Lord;

**All:** *Our hope is in you.*

Leader: With expectation, we pray for the church...let your reign of love shape us, as a master potter skillfully forms a vessel, that we may reveal your beauty to the world. Come quickly, Lord;

**All:** *Our hope is in you.*

Leader: With expectation, we pray for the world...draw near to those who wait for you. Break into their circumstances with blessing. Heal the earth that waits your restoration. Come quickly, Lord;

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Leader: With expectation, we pray for this community...transform the places in which we live. Grant that the gifts you have given all of us may be used for the common good of sharing your message of love and grace. Come quickly, Lord;

**All:** *Our hope is in you.*

Leader: With expectation, pray for loved ones . . . comfort all who suffer and despair. Assure them of your presence and care. Let your face shine and save us. Come quickly, Lord;

**All:** *Our hope is in you.*

Leader: God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully through Christ, our loving Savior, in whose name we now join together in the prayer that you gave to us:

**All:**  
*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

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me” *All the Way*

*All the way my Savior leads me. What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt his tender mercy, who thru' life has been my guide?  
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus fashions all things well.*

*All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread;  
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial, feeds me with the living bread.  
Tho' my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.*

*All the way my Savior leads me; oh, the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, cloth'd immortal, wings its flight to realms of day  
This my song thru' endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.*

## † BENEDICTION | Rev. Dr. John Person

## † POSTLUDE

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

### Today's Worship Participants

*Rev. Dr. John Person, Guest Pastor  
Mark John, Commissioned Lay Pastor  
Joshua Ridenour, Organist*

#### GUEST PASTOR, REV. DR. JOHN PERSON

This morning we again welcome guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. John Person, who resides in Glenview, IL with his wife, Nancy. They have two adult children and two grandchildren who are in the Chicago area. John is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Bethel Theological Seminary (DMin). John served Tab from 1978 - 1989 as Associate Pastor in the areas of Youth, Christian Education and Adult Education. He has also served 2 other Presbyterian

churches respectively in Minnesota (8 yrs.) and Ohio (22 yrs.). John serves as a volunteer at Winnetka Presbyterian Church in Winnetka, IL as pulpit supply and co-director of Stephen Ministry. His wife, Nancy, serves as a Deacon. John and Nancy have many fond memories of Tab and the relationships they developed while in Indianapolis. Welcome “home” John and Nancy!

# 10 o'clock Worship

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

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## PRELUDE

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Leader: Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION | Mark John

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We have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings.  
Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.  
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again.  
Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.  
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People: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,  
and the light around me will be night,"

Leader: Even the darkness is not dark to God,  
and the night is as bright as the day.

People: The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us;  
has come to us in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Who binds up the brokenhearted,

**People:** Heals all our infirmities,

Leader: And relieves our burden of sin.

**People:** So arise, shine; for your light has come,

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

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*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.*

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *The Apostles' Creed* | Mark John

*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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | Jane Harvey

# Proclaiming God's Word

## SCRIPTURE READING

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**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

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## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PRAYER

# Responding to God's Word

## † HYMN #828

“More Love to Thee, O Christ” *More Love to Thee*

## RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS | Mark John OFFERTORY

“Angelus ad Pastores” *Hans Leo Hassler*

*Angelus ad pastores ait,*  
The angel said unto the shepherds,  
*Annuntio vobis Gaudium magnum,*  
I bring to you tidings of great joy  
*Quia natus est vobis hodie*  
For on this glad day to you is born  
*Salvator mundi!*  
The Savior of the world!  
*Alleluia!*

## † HYMN #606 | *Doxology*

*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 | Mark John

### PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER | Mark John

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Leader: God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully through Christ, our loving Savior, in whose name we now join together in the prayer that you gave to us:

**All:**

*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..*

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*All the way my Savior leads me. What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt his tender mercy, who thru' life has been my guide?  
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus fashions all things well.*

*All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread;  
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial, feeds me with the living bread.  
Tho' my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the rock before me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.*

*All the way my Savior leads me; oh, the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, cloth'd immortal, wings its flight to realms of day  
This my song thru' endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.*

### † BENEDICTION | Rev. Dr. John Person

### † POSTLUDE

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

## Today's Worship Participants

*Rev. Dr. John Person, Guest Pastor*

*Elder Mark John*

*Jane Harvey, Gracious Gifts*

*Matt Kauffman, Minister of Music*

*Joshua Ridenour, Organist*

*Sanctuary Choir*

# Calendar

November 30 – December 6, 2025

## Sunday, November 30

- 8a Communion Service *McKee Chapel*
- 8:45a Coffee & Conversation *McKee Hallway*
- 9:00a Children & Youth Education  
*Lower Level B & Youth Room*
- 10a Worship Service *Sanctuary*
- 10a Junior Church *Lower Level B*
- 11a Coffee & Conversation *Parlor*
- 11a IMPACT Youth Group *Youth Room*

## Monday, December 1

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 6:30p Boy Scout Troop 72/721  
*Youth Room*

## Tuesday, December 2

- 8a Women's Tuesday Walkers  
*Offsite*
- 9:15a Women Alive Yoga *Gym*
- 10a Women Alive Book Study *Parlor*
- 5:30p Spiritual Growth Meeting  
*Off-Site*
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting  
*McWhirter Resource Center*
- 6:30p Bible Study Fellowship  
*Dining Room & Gallery*
- 6:30p Communications Committee  
*Parlor*

## Wednesday, December 3

- 9:30a Pastor's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 5:30p Missions Committee *Off-Site*
- 6p Women's "Just for Moms" Craft  
*Night Lower Level B*

## Thursday, December 4

- 2:30p Tab Tutoring *Lower Level A & B, Gallery, Airplane Room*
- 6p Circles *Dining Room, Lower Level B, McWhirter Center*
- 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
*Parlor*

## Friday, December 5

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

## Saturday, December 6

- 8a Men's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 10a Indiana Landmarks Holiday  
Church Tour *Main Level*

## Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

### DECEMBER 7

Rev. Steve Ebling

### DECEMBER 14 | Christmas with Tab Taping

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

### DECEMBER 21

Rev. Glenn McDonald

### DECEMBER 28

Pastor Marie Wiese

# 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 \$25

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*please print clearly*

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:       In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Front Office no later than Sunday, December 7. Include your check to Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, marked "Poinsettia."

# Announcements

Week of November 30 – December 6, 2025

## CHRISTMAS WITH TAB

The beautiful recording of Christmas worship will take place at Tab on December 14 at 10a. Please come to celebrate the season. The recording will later air on WNDY-TV, Channel 23 at 7p Christmas Eve and on WISH-TV Channel 8 at 11a Christmas Day. Please tune in for this Tab tradition in-person and on TV!

This beautiful production is made possible through generous support from Tab Family & Friends. If you would like to support this year's production, please reach out to Kristine Green.

## "JUST FOR MOMS" WOMEN'S CRAFT NIGHT

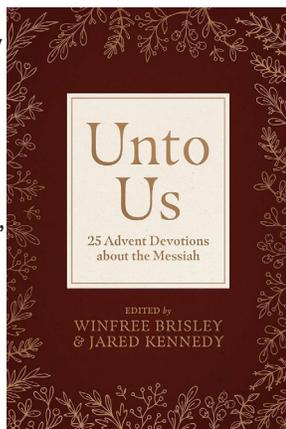
All Tab ladies are invited to our annual "Just for Moms" Craft night on Wednesday, December 3, from 6:30p–8:30p in Lower Level B. We'll have four adult-friendly crafts, dessert, and terrific fellowship. Childcare will be available for children 5 and younger.

## ADVENT WORKSHOP

The Advent Workshop will take place on December 7, 9a–11a in Lower Level B. Join us for Christmas music, refreshments, eight crafts for older children and adults and a separate room with several crafts for children ages 5 and younger. We'll also have a group craft to prepare Christmas cards for Tab's homebound members. This beloved annual event is for all Tab members, not just families with children!

## PICK UP AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The Spiritual Growth Team invites you to pick up a free Advent devotional, "Unto Us," generously provided by anonymous Tab members. This unique resource pairs daily reflections with Scripture passages from Handel's Messiah, inviting us to slow down, listen, and rediscover the wonder of Christ's coming. Whether weary, hopeful, or simply seeking to refocus your heart, these readings will help you meet Jesus with renewed joy and anticipation this season. Copies are available each Sunday or anytime at the Front Desk. Join us in preparing our hearts—remembering with fresh wonder that a Savior has been born unto us.



## MISSIONS UNIT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The annual Missions Unit will begin on January 4; this year's "trip around the world" will include visits to Alaska, Belgium, Argentina, Indonesia, Poland, Tanzania, and Turkey. We'll need many adult and teen volunteers to join the team as we help Tab's children to learn about the people, customs, religious practices, art, food, games, and history of our featured countries, and most importantly, about the men and women spreading the good news about Jesus Christ around world. Sign-up sheets are available in McKee Hallway or the lower level hallway beginning 11/23. Please contact Jennifer Wirt if you have any questions.

## PRETEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

We'll be having our Preteen Christmas Party at Half Liter on Sunday, December 14, immediately following worship. Please RSVP to Mrs. Wirt by December 11 so we can reserve a large enough table.

## IT VOLUNTEER

If you have experience in Information Technology, specifically setting up Zoom meeting equipment, troubleshooting screen-to-computer connections, and other technology skills, we need your help! On Sunday mornings, we are seeking a person to assist with technology needs as we have so many classes and other connection needs. If you are willing to help once a month, email [jenny.sturgis@tabpres.org](mailto:jenny.sturgis@tabpres.org)

## 2026 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

Thanks to all who have responded to our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2026 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 2026, they will be in McKee Hallway for pickup on December 7.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at Tab's Worship Service on Sunday, December 21, or give online at [tabpres.org/giving](http://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 Sunday morning for your convenience. Please give generously.