



Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

December 7, 2025 | Second 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.

Discipleship Classes

2025 Spiritual Growth Opportunities

No Sunday Discipleship Classes this Week due to the Advent Workshop

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.

See the full weekly schedule of Spiritual Growth programming at tabpres.org/Adults.



Cover Art:
Peace Dove
from Adobe

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

"Prelude in d minor" *J.S. Bach*

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 | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

† 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 *Isaiah 11:6–9; 40:3–5* | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling

Leader: 'Prepare the way,' the prophets call, 'make ready the highways for God.'

People: **How we long to walk down the sidewalks in God's kingdom of peace!**

Leader: Prepare your hearts, for God's realm opens up a new day.

People: **We yearn for the time when the wolf and lamb will live together in harmony.**

Leader: Prepare the way, God promises a new day when adversaries will lay down their arms.

People: **We dream of a world transformed by God's love.**

Leader: May the God of hope fill your hearts with all joy and peace.

People: **We rejoice for God's Spirit is in our midst!**

All: *Come, let us worship the God of our hope and our salvation.*

† HYMN #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Veni Emmanuel*

CALL TO CONFESSION | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we sense that the stories of our faith have lost their power in our lives. We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times, the promises retold again and again, the call to prepare ourselves for your coming repeated so often, we don't really hear or heed them anymore. We have become numb to the freshness of the season and the excitement of waiting for the baby born in a manger.

We have replaced these messages of life with guessing what presents we are getting, with preparing for parties and the social obligations of Christmas. Bring us back to a sense of mystery, a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, a sense of excitement, a sense of anticipation, a sense that something special is about to break into our everyday world. Help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the coming of Messiah.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER & CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News.
God's promises are sure—
promises of steadfast love and forgiveness.
God deals with God's people with righteousness and justice.
Rejoice and be glad!

All: *in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.*

† 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.*

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *The Apostles' Creed* | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

*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.*

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE READINGS | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling

Isaiah 11:1–10 | Pew Bible Page 558

Romans 15:5–13 | Pew Bible Page 924

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

MESSAGE | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling

The Advent Story

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Responding to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling & Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

“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 | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

*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 #375

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom” *Merle's Tune*

+ BENEDICTION | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling

+ POSTLUDE

“Fugue in d minor” *J.S. Bach*

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

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling, Guest Pastor

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith, Interim Associate Pastor

Joshua Ridenour, Organist

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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CHORAL RESPONSE

Responding to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION | Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling & Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS | Jeff Poole

OFFERTORY

“Shepherd’s Carol” (from “Venite Adoremus”) *Michael John Trotta*

Cora Winstead, soloist

*With twist of thin, blue smoke,
Only their fire’s crackling flames the tender silence broke –
Save when a young lamb raised his head, or, when the night wind blew,
A nesting bird would softly stir, where dusky olives grew.
And all their gentle sleepy flock looked up, then slept again,
Nor knew the light that dimmed the stars brought endless Peace to men –
Nor even heard the gracious words that down the ages ring –
The Christ is born! The Lord has come.
With finger on her solemn lip, night hushed the shadowy earth,
And only stars and angels saw the little Saviour’s birth;
Then came such flash of silver light across the bending skies,
The wondering shepherds woke, and hid their frightened, dazzled eyes!
- Margaret Deland*

† **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 | Jeff Poole**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

*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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† **POSTLUDE**

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

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling, Guest Pastor

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith, Interim Associate Pastor

Jeff Poole, Elder

Matt Kauffman, Minister of Music, Organist

Joshua Ridenour, Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Guest Pastor, Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling

The Rev. Dr. Steve Ebling has devoted his life to ministry having served & pastored PCUSA congregations for 37 years in Pennsylvania, Ohio & Indiana. His greatest joy is seeing people grow in their faithfulness to Jesus. For the past three years he has served on the staff of the non-profit ministry, Altar Fly Fishing, where he brings his passion for fly fishing together with his heart to see pastors and leaders mature in Christ.

Steve and his wife, Dianne, live in Fishers, Indiana, where they delight in keeping track of their four adult children, two daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and two (soon to be three!) grandchildren who live all over the country.

Welcome to Tab, Steve!

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. Contact Jennifer Wirt if you have any questions.

Announcements

Week of December 7 – December 13, 2025

WELCOME, LITTLE ONE!

The rose on the Communion Table is in celebration of the birth of Danielle Elizabeth Morton born on November 30, 2025. The proud parents are Brandon and Morgan Morton and proud grandparents, Blake and Jeanne Morton. Congratulations to the Morton family!

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Today is the Advent Workshop! 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!

CHRISTMAS WITH TAB TAPING NEXT WEEK

The beautiful recording of Christmas worship will take place at Tab next Sunday, December 14, at 10a. Due to this special event, there will only be one worship service that day and no education hour. Please help us share the Christmas season through this beautiful worship service.

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!

TAB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA:

CHRISTMAS COOKIES & CONVERSATION

What's better than Christmas cheer? Christmas cookies shared with friends! Join us after the 10a "Christmas with Tab" Worship Service on December 14 for a sweet time of fellowship and conversation.

Want to help? Bake a batch (or two!) of your favorite cookies and bring them with you the morning of December 14. Volunteers will meet you at the Parking Lot doors to collect cookie donations before the service.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBMISSIONS

With so much happening at Tab, we want to make it easy to keep everyone informed! If you have an announcement to publicize, please email well-curated information, including the "What, Who, When, and Where" to communications@tabpres.org.

OAKS CHRISTMAS AT TAB

As we enter the Advent season, The Oaks faculty and staff personally extend an invitation to our friends at Tab to experience Christmas with The Oaks Academy at our beloved Tabernacle Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, December 17, at 11a. We'll enjoy a delightful student performance of the 7th & 8th Grade Choir, then stay for food & fellowship following the concert.

Please let us know if you are able to join us by sending an email to Mr. Bourke Patton at bpatton@theoak-academy.org so we can prepare accordingly.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY GATHERING:

FILL YOUR CUP: COMING TO THE WELL DAILY

Take a break from the busyness of life and join us for a special afternoon in the Dining Room on Saturday, January 10, 2:30p-4:30p designed to refresh your heart and spirit. The Women's Ministry Team invites you to a warm and welcoming time of fellowship, tea, light refreshments and encouragement as we explore what it means to come to Jesus—our Living Water—each and every day.

Rev. Gracie Payne, Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian, will share an uplifting message on finding daily strength in Christ and allowing Him to continually "fill your cup," no matter the season you're in. Kindly RSVP to womenoftab@tabpres.org by January 5.

Mozel Sanders Thanks You!

Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways. To those who brought pies, provided transportation, helped unload food and commodities on Wednesday, worked in the Kitchen and Dining Room, answered the phone, ran errands, made the signs, cooked, cleaned, served, greeted and drove. THANK YOU! The dinner was a HUGE success, and we couldn't have done it without all of you!

Calendar

December 7 – December 13, 2025

Sunday, December 7

- 8a Communion Service *McKee Chapel*
- 8:45a Coffee & Conversation *McKee Hallway*
- 9:00a Advent Workshop *Lower Level B*
- 10a Worship Service *Sanctuary*
- 11a Coffee & Conversation *Parlor*
- 11a IMPACT Youth Group *Youth Room*
- 11a Home Communion *Offsite*

Monday, December 8

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 5:30p Facilities Committee *Session Room*
- 6:30p Boy Scout Troop 72/721 *Youth Room*
- 7p Cub Scout Pack 72 *Dining Room, Gallery*

Tuesday, December 9

- 8a Women's Tuesday Walkers *Offsite*
- 9:15a Women Alive Yoga *Gym*
- 10a Women Alive Book Study *Parlor*
- 5:00p Budget & Finance Committee *Session Room*
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting *McWhirter Resource Center*
- 6:30p Bible Study Fellowship *Dining Room & Gallery*
- 6:30p Communications Committee *Parlor*

Wednesday, December 10

- 9:30a Pastor's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*
- 11:45a Oaks Academy Christmas Program *Sanctuary*
- 5:15p High Five *Gallery*

Thursday, December 11

- 9a Building Blocks Rehearsal *Dining Room*
- 2:30p Tab Tutoring *Lower Level A & B, Gallery, Airplane Room*
- 6p Circles *Dining Room, Lower Level B, McWhirter Center*
- 7p Boy Scout Committee Meeting *Youth Room*
- 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *Parlor*

Friday, December 12

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

Saturday, December 13

- 8a Men's Bible Study *Parlor*
- 10a Daughters of Dorcas *Session Room*

Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

DECEMBER 14 | Christmas with Tab Taping

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

DECEMBER 21

Rev. Glenn McDonald

DECEMBER 28

Pastor Marie Wiese

JANUARY 4

Rev. Eric Gale

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."

Year-End Giving

Consider Tab as You Close the Year

2025 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Wednesday, December 31, is the final day Tab is able to physically receive contributions in the Finance Office for credit to your 2025 giving statement. Checks dated, postmarked and sent via the US Mail on or before December 31 will be credited as 2025 giving even if received in 2026.

Online giving must have a December 31 processing date for credit in 2025. All of the above is in accordance with IRS rules and regulations. Those interested in donating securities should contact Kristine Green at extension 111 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 21, or 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 Sunday morning for your convenience. Please give generously.

2026 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. IRA owners age 70 ½ and older can make up to \$115,000 in tax-free charitable donations during 2026. See your tax professional for full details.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your generous support enables Tab to spread the love and joy of Christ to thousands each year. Whether through worship, music, community outreach, pastoral care, ministry programs and events, your faithful commitment and contributions truly make a difference.

Ways to Give:

- Scan the QR code
- Text **TABPRES** to 73256