



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

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!

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:

Journey to Bethlehem

by Mike Moyars

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 | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Transition Team

† 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 | Rev. Glenn McDonald

Leader: The angel has announced it:

People: Jesus, our Savior, is born!

Leader: Like the shepherds, let us share the good news:

People: Jesus, our Savior, is born!

Leader: Like the angels, let us praise God, saying:

People: Jesus, our Savior, is born!

All: *Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors! Let us celebrate the birth of our Savior, born in a manger, sent to free us from all sin. Glory to God in the highest!
Come, let us worship God!*

† HYMN #140

"Once in Royal David's City" *Irby*

CALL TO CONFESSION | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, through the prophets and apostles you have challenged us to lay aside the works of destruction and prepare for your new creation. We confess that we continue to cling to our sinful ways—greed and lust, abuse and waste, envy and strife.

Forgive us, Holy God. By your Spirit, lead us to live in a way that honors you, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior, who is coming in glory to reign.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER & CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear and believe the Good News.

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. Steven Smith

Luke 2:1–20 | Pew Bible Page 832

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

MESSAGE | Rev. Glenn McDonald

Ordinary People

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Responding to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION | 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 #110

"Love Has Come" Bring a Torch

† BENEDICTION | Rev. Glenn McDonald

† POSTLUDE

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

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Glenn McDonald, 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.

Please stand in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

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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 | Rev. Glenn McDonald

† **HYMN #108**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" *Divinum Mysterium*

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING | Elder Byron Robinson

Luke 2:1–20 | Pew Bible Page 832

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

MESSAGE | Rev. Glenn McDonald

Ordinary People

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Responding to God's Word

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS | Elder Byron Robinson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *Gustav Holst*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high!”
Amen.*

† **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 | Elder Byron Robinson**

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**

**Please join us in the Parlor immediately following worship for
the Spiritual Growth Open House.**

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Glenn McDonald, Guest Pastor

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith, Interim Associate Pastor

Elder Byron Robinson, Liturgist (Missions)

Matt Kauffman, Minister of Music

Joshua Ridenour, Organist

Sanctuary Choir

BENEDICTION FROM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen." Origins uncertain, but attributed to The Rev. Dr. John H. Armstrong, "author, mentor, minister."

Guest Pastor, Rev. Glenn McDonald

Glenn McDonald grew up at Tabernacle Presbyterian and is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister with 42 years of experience as a congregational and workplace pastor. He is the author of Morning Reflections, a not-for-profit ministry through which he sends out email devotions five days a week.

Glenn was the organizing pastor of Zionsville Presbyterian Church in suburban Indianapolis, which was identified in a 2001 study by Lilly Endowment as one of the 300 Excellent Protestant Congregations in America.

Glenn and Mary Sue, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, share life with ten cats and four rescue horses, including three mustangs, on a horse farm outside Lebanon. They have four children and nine grandchildren, all of whom live in central Indiana.

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 21 – December 27, 2025



Winter Warm-Up

A SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 21

11 AM | PARLOR

SPIRITUAL GROWTH'S (SG'S) OPEN HOUSE

Visit with the Spiritual Growth Team TODAY, after the 10a Worship Service, in the Parlor. We'll have festive treats for adults and kids including gingerbread cookies, chocolate milk, and coffee, with live piano music! We look forward to sharing our plans for 2026 and you are invited to greet Tab's new Director of Spiritual Growth, our own Bart Ost, CRE. Come by for warm fellowship and good conversation among friends.

"THREE-ROOM" RENOVATIONS

Thanks to generous private contributions, Tab recently completed the "renovation" of three rooms for adult meeting areas enhancing Spiritual Growth programming. These spaces consist of 1) The Nook (the former nursery at the end of the Parlor hallway) 2) The Corner Forum (off the Gym), and 3) The McWhiter Center/Library. These spaces will be open for a visit today, following the 10a Worship Service.

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR CLARK COWDEN

Congregational Life is hosting a Welcome Reception for our new Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden, on his first Sunday at Tab, January 11! This special time of greeting our new Interim Pastor will be held at 8:45a in McKee Hallway for those who attend the 8a service and in the Dining Room immediately following the 10a worship service. Join us as we celebrate his arrival to Tab!

Submissions for the weekly bulletin can be emailed to communications@tabpres.org by noon on Wednesday to appear in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Tab will have only one Worship Service next week at 10a with no Education Hour & no Communion Service.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Today is the Annual Christmas Joy Offering Day! You may also 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.

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.

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.

Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

DECEMBER 28

Pastor Marie Wiese

JANUARY 4, 2026

Rev. Eric Gale

JANUARY 11, 2026

Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden

JANUARY 18, 2026

Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden



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.

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.

Calendar

December 21 – 27, 2025

Sunday, December 21

- 8a Communion Service
McKee Chapel
- 9a Children's Education
Lower Level B
- 10a Worship Service *Sanctuary*
- 10a Junior Church *Lower Level B*
- 11a Spiritual Growth Open House
Parlor
- 5p Youth Christmas Party *Offsite*

Monday, December 22

- 11a Open Door Café *Dining Room*

Tuesday, December 23

- 8a Women's Tuesday Walkers
Offsite
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting
McWhirter Resource Center

Wednesday, December 24

- 11a Open Door Café *Parking Lot*
- 5p Christmas Eve Family Service
Sanctuary
- 8p Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service *Sanctuary*

Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

Friday, December 26

- 11a Open Door Café *Parking Lot*
- 3:30p Circle of Hope *Parlor*

Saturday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 28

Tab will have only one Worship Service next week at 10a with no Education Hour & no Communion Service.



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



Christmas With Tab

Christmas Eve at 7pm WNDY-TV

& Christmas Day at 11am WISH-TV

The Sanctuary Choir with Chamber Orchestra and Harp

DR. STEVE SMITH, PREACHING