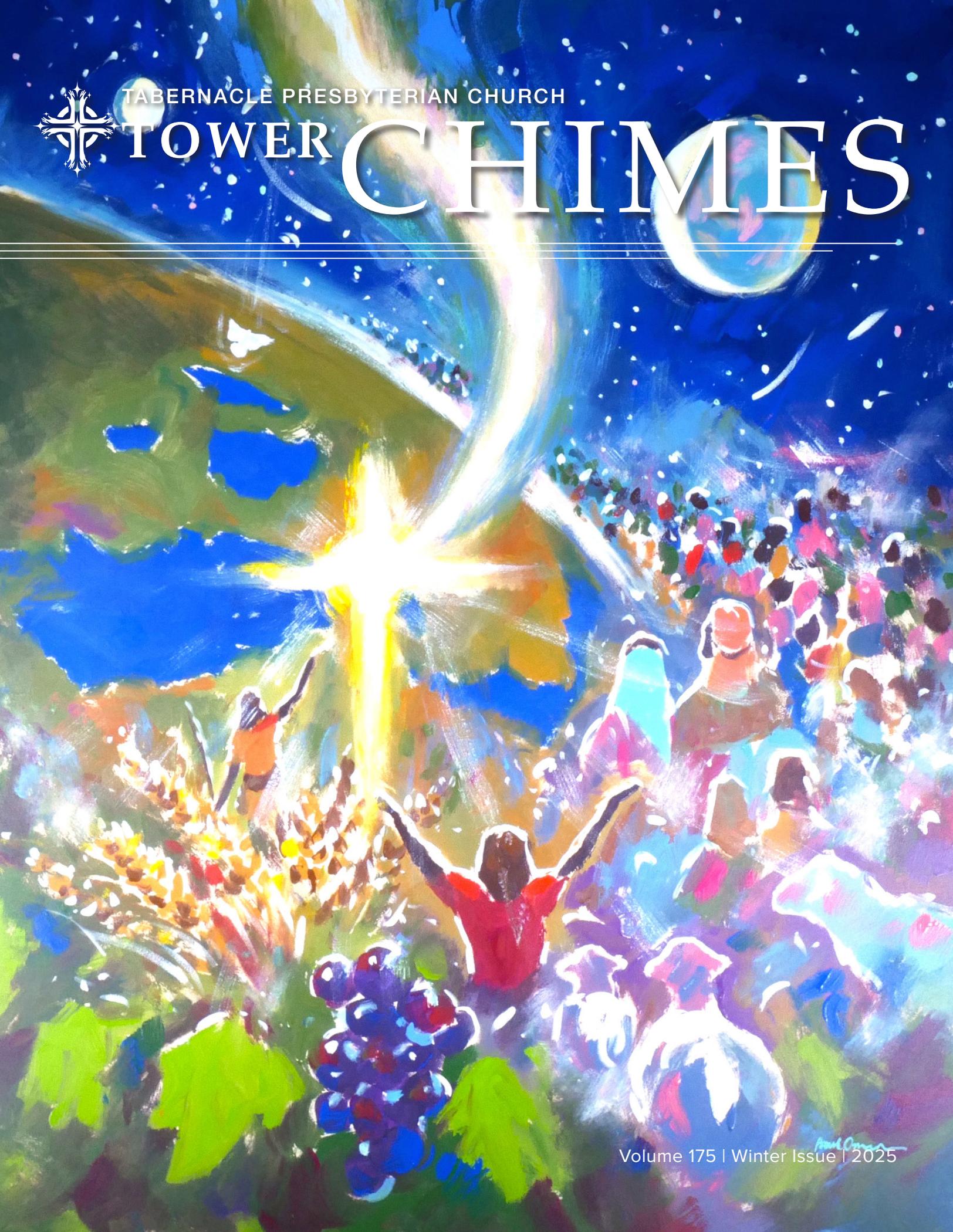




TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TOWER CHIMES





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.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8 am Communion Service
McKee Chapel

10 am Worship Service
Sanctuary

Join us as we worship live at 10a via our website at tabpres.org/worship

TAB'S TOWER CHIMES

This quarterly newsletter is also available on the church website at: www.tabpres.org

All submissions should be emailed to the Media Ministry at communications@tabpres.org. The submission deadlines for the quarterly Chimes are: January 1 for the Spring Issue, April 1 for the Summer Issue, July 1 for the Fall Issue, and October 1 for the Winter Issue.

STAY CONNECTED!

Subscribe to Tab's weekly email for the latest news, events, and updates.

CONNECT WITH US

 (317) 923.5458

 www.tabpres.org

 FrontDesk@tabpres.org

 [tabpres](https://www.facebook.com/tabpres)

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
418 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Cover Art from Tab Family Fest
Advent by Paul Oman

Happening Soon

Here's What to Expect...

Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

DECEMBER 7

Rev. Steve Ebling

DECEMBER 14 | Christmas with Tab

10a Worship only

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

DECEMBER 21

Rev. Glenn McDonald

DECEMBER 28

Pastor Marie Wiese

JANUARY 4, 2026

Rev. Eric Gale

JANUARY 11, 2026

Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden

In This Issue

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- 4** From Steve Smith
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- 6** Christmastime at Tab
- 9** Tab News
- 10** Calendar

Welcome, Dr. Clark Cowden!

Tab's New Transitional Head Pastor.

The session is pleased to provide this brief biographical sketch of our incoming transitional pastor, the Rev. Dr. Clark D. Cowden.



Dr. Cowden has a lengthy history and experience in all aspects of church leadership and governance. He is coming off of two back-to-back one-year transitional pastorates at First Presbyterian in Hollywood, California and from St. Andrews Presbyterian in Redondo Beach, California.

Dr. Cowden will arrive on site on Monday, January 5, and will be preaching for the first time on January 11. We look forward to his service among us and are grateful for how God continues to lead and care for this congregation.

Dr. Cowden had a grandfather who was a Presbyterian pastor, an uncle who was a Presbyterian pastor, and a great-uncle who was a Presbyterian pastor. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the youngest of three boys. When he was eight years old, his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. When he was 15 years old, his family moved to Terre Haute, Indiana.

Clark received his Bachelor of Science degree in Christian Education and Systems Analysis from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

After graduating from Fuller Seminary, he served as the associate pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, IN. Then he pastored the Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Walled Lake, Michigan, which is a suburb of Detroit. After that, he was called to be the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of San Joaquin in California's central valley, where he supervised 40 churches from Bakersfield to Fresno. Next, he served

as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of San Diego, where he supervised about 40 churches in San Diego County. He also served a six-year term on the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has been on mission trips to Mexico, El Salvador, and Nepal, and has also visited Canada and the United Kingdom.

Clark's mother passed away in 2020. His dad is still living and resides in Terre Haute, Indiana. His oldest brother lives in Fishers, Indiana, and his other brother lives in Tacoma, Washington. His older son Ryan graduated with his Ph.D. from Indiana University in May of 2025 and is now a professor at Gordon College in the Boston, Massachusetts area. His younger son Justin and his wife Nikki live in Phoenix, Arizona. Justin is a data scientist. Nikki was born in the Philippines and is a medical doctor. Clark is a big sports fan and follows the Colts, the Pacers, the Fever, and the Big Ten. He enjoys running and pickleball. He likes reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with family.

Staying Connected

The Power of Care & Prayer

We Show Up.

Or at least we want to. We want to show up to pray...when you are in the hospital, when you find yourself in a rehab center, when you are experiencing a life crisis in your home...it is a privilege to show up for you to offer a prayer, a bit of encouragement, or whatever support we can in the midst of life's inevitable trials.

Now, just a brief word about prayer. Prayer in theory is a wonderful thing. We often say that we believe in the power of prayer. Then promised prayer can be a marvelous boost, also. The words "we're praying for you" really do make a difference. But...an actual, in-person prayer can be the biggest help of all. Why? Because Jesus promises that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." So, prayer - in the presence of the Lord - is a great key to unleashing his healing power. (See James 5:16)

Please note that in the top paragraph I said "we" want to show up for you in this way. Obviously, I'm including myself here, as well as our deacons - whom I've witnessed going out of their way to be present for others in times of distress. Then our Tuesday evening prayer gathering (6:30 – 7:15 in McKee Chapel). I know they would love to have you show up to be prayed for, and to join them in prayer. Of course, there is also an electronically based prayer hotline, which you can access by emailing prayer@tabpres.org, and we have blue cards in the pews that you can use to submit prayer requests during worship. The "we" I referenced encompasses a very broad group!

All of us want to be showing up for you – to experience and share the healing power of God. So please let us know! You can email the church at frontdesk@tabpres.org, or phone at 317-923-5458. You can email me at steve.smith@tabpres.org, or call my cell at 317-402-3011. We will do our best to avail ourselves of all the gifts promised by our Lord. As you, I seek to continue...

In His Service,

Steve Smith

Steve

Member Spotlight

Meet the Ahearns

from Maya Wagle

When you meet Beth and Mark Ahearn, you realize they have progressed from Young Life at Indiana University to mature life in Carmel and are still holding hands!

Their Highest Common Factor (HCF remember your math?) is Christ and their devotion to His Word is their “safe harbor.”

Born in 1956, Beth, in her own words, is an Oregonian by birth, Californian by migration and a Hoosier by longevity. The youngest daughter, followed by a brother, in a family of four children, she grew up in a Protestant home. Her father was a Track and Field and Cross-Country coach at the College level: having many of his Collegiate athletes become Olympians from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics; all the way to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. After moving to Bloomington in her teenage years; at age 15, having attended FCA conferences with her father, and the ministry of Young Life, she felt the Holy Spirit move, calling her to follow Christ. Then, after receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University (IU), she taught in a variety of settings with children from preschool through high school. Her teaching career culminated with Ruth Lilly Health at Marion University. It was at Indiana University that she met the love of her life, Mark, in a bible study of former Young Life students. From then onwards, they never looked back.

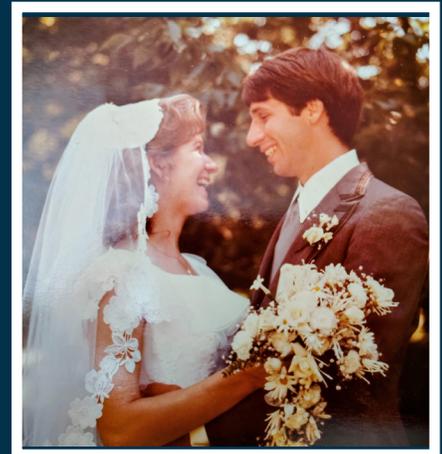
Mark, born in Fort Wayne, in 1954, has breathed Hoosier air almost all his life. The oldest of three boys, the Catholic family moved to Michigan, Iowa, Illinois (all Big 10 states!), finally returning to Indiana. Mark felt the calling of the Holy Spirit in his senior year at high

school. He grew further with a trip to Windy Gap Young Life Camp. He met Beth at a Young Life reunion meeting he helped plan at Indiana University. Rhetorically, Christ was not only the bridge to salvation, He also mediated a relationship with Beth! They married in 1977, at the tender ages of 21 and 23, welcoming their only son Christopher, in 1983.

After an undergraduate in Political Science at IU, Mark attended law school. His working life meandered through government and the private sector. His first government boss was former Vice President Dan Quayle. Other appointments included District Staff Director for then Representative Dan Coats, later becoming his State Director; General Counsel for a private company, Legislative Director for Representative Mike Pence; General Counsel at INDOT in Governor Daniels’ administration; and General Counsel for Governor Mike Pence. He currently works part-time as Special Counsel for Strategic Initiatives at Purdue University.

Their church life zigzagged through Presbyterian and Christian churches in Indiana. The fruit of the Holy Spirit was epitomized in their dedication to missions. They joined Tab in 2011. At Tab, Mark has served on the HR Committee and Christian Education as well at Tab Tutoring. Beth, meanwhile, has actively participated in VBS and Tab tutoring; and has been a Deacon, with one year as moderator. As they continue their years with Christ at the helm, they anticipate traveling more, gardening more, reading more, and being open to new opportunities to serve.

Beth keeps Isaiah 40:38–41 as her anchor—His strength props up her weakness. Mark feels 2 Tim 3:16–17 has been his guiding light, enabling him to do God’s work as His servant; while 1 Cor 15: 58 encourages him, that his laboring for God is never in vain!



CHRISTMASTIME AT TAB

Worship Services & Events

Tab's Christmas season is always special and we hope you will join us for these moments where memories and traditions are cherished.



Women's Christmas Craft Night

DECEMBER 3 | 6:30p–8:30p

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 upon request.

Advent Workshop

DECEMBER 6 | 9a–11a

This year's Advent Workshop will take place on December 7 from 9a–11a in Lower Level B. We will have 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!

Indiana Landmark's Historic Church Tour

DECEMBER 6 | 10a–3p

On December 6, 2025, Tab will participate as one of the historic church tour sites! Indiana Landmarks will advertise but we need to host! If you are interested in hosting refreshments, being along the tour path, or greeting visitors at Tab, please email frontdesk@tabpres.org. All volunteers will be located at Tab.



Christmas with Tab

DECEMBER 14 | 10a Worship Only

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith, preaching

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!



Christmas Eve Family Service

DECEMBER 24 | 5p

Join us this Christmas Eve for a warm and joyful Family Worship Service at Tab—a time where all ages gather to celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth. This service invites children, parents, and grandparents alike to pause and savor the true meaning of the season. Come share in the light, laughter, and love as we worship together on this holy night.



Christmas Eve Traditional Service

DECEMBER 24 | 8p

Join us for a reverent and beautifully crafted Traditional Worship Service surrounded by candlelight, timeless Scripture readings, and cherished hymns. Come be part of a sacred tradition that anchors the season with hope and joy.



Tab's Christmas Tea

DECEMBER 14 | 11:15a

After the special worship service, please join us in the Dining Room for Christmas cookies and conversation. Christmas Cookie favorites are welcomed! Please bring yours to share! Deliver your favorite homemade cookie to church Dining Room by 9:30a the morning of the Christmas Tea. This tradition is always a lovely time celebrating the Christmas holiday in fellowship together.

Preteen Christmas Party at Half Liter

DECEMBER 14 | 11a

Tab Preteens are invited to celebrate this fun season with our Christmas Party at Half Liter on Sunday, December 14, immediately following worship. If you want to join us, please contact Mrs. Wirt by December 11 so we can reserve a large enough table!

Fresh Stop

A Few Words from Our Neighbors

from Sally John

“If I didn’t have fresh stop vegetables, I would be living off of macaroni and cheese and Ramen noodles”

—a SNAP recipient

Many Americans, especially those with lower incomes, are suffering from preventable, debilitating conditions as they consume the “Standard American Diet (SAD). The SAD is defined as “a common eating pattern in the U.S. characterized by high intake of processed, energy-dense foods and low intake of nutrient-dense whole foods. It’s strongly associated with rising rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses,” according to Chat GPT.

This past season (not including the last Fresh Stop, which is next week), Tab sold 331 shares to families at three different price points according to income. This ministry has provided a way for folks to easily and affordably include more excellent nutrition in their diets.

Here are some things people had to say about Fresh Stop:

“It’s the same produce that you would get from the Farmer’s Market at a reasonable cost. I know a lot of people are not used to cooking with healthier options, but they also give us the newsletter, which is really cool, so I get access to try different recipes. I’m grateful to be a part of this community”

—a lower income person



“My favorite part about Fresh Stop is somebody else choosing the fresh vegetables, and it’s cost-effective, very cost-effective...the hints for how to keep the vegetables are great”

—a lower income person

“What I love about it is getting fresh vegetables that I can afford...The newsletters are really helpful, they tell you what you can do with the produce, so you don’t end up with this mush”

—a SNAP recipient



“I really appreciate the education piece on the newsletter... we have education, we have community, we have resources. It’s really a place for everybody”

—a lower income person

“I like cooking and the fresh food. I like the variety, I like it being local farms...Try it a couple times and you’ll probably be hooked to coming back because it’s such variety, it’s local, it’s seasonal...you get tomatoes that taste like tomatoes, it’s fresh, it’s coming directly here from the farms”

—a higher income person

“We visited Tab in 2024, and in the Bulletin, it said something about Fresh Stop and I always love the vegetables. I like the idea that you get vegetables from a farm you trust, so they don’t use chemicals...I never waste them”

—a higher income person



Staff Update

Randy Phillips, Interim Director of Administration



I was married to Penny Peterson Phillips at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church 42 years ago. Following 27 years of relocating for professional opportunities, we are now residing in Carmel. We have three children: Peter (Mary), Molly P. Tropp (Harrison), and Sally P. Dunbar (Mark). We are fortunate to have 8 grandchildren.

I was the Chief Strategist and Senior Portfolio Manager with Hilliard Lyons Trust Company. In addition to my responsibilities with Tab, I am a member of the Ball State Foundation, on the Investment Committee for the Village of West Clay, and a volunteer with the Indiana Organ Donors.

Returning to Tab makes me realize how special it is. For 27 years, we searched for another Tab, without success. Thank you for welcoming us back.

Realm: Where Tab Life Happens!

STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED. STAY INVOLVED.

There's so much happening in our church and we don't want you to miss out! Realm is your all-access point for everything Tab: upcoming events, announcements, group messages, volunteer opportunities, and more. If you're not using Realm, you're likely missing important updates and ways to get involved!

WITH REALM, YOU CAN:

- See what's happening and register for events
- Get church announcements the moment they're posted
- Send messages to individuals and groups
- Update your contact information so you never miss a connection
- Give online and track your donations
- Sign up to volunteer—before spots fill up
- Share photos, stories, and memories with your Tab family

Your participation matters! Every time you connect, register, or update your info, you help us strengthen our church community and keep everyone in the loop.

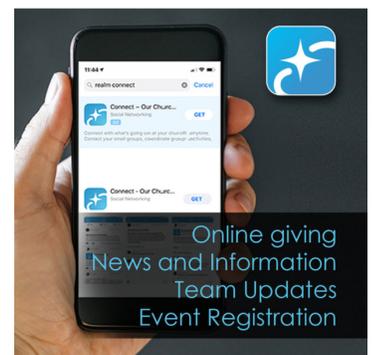
ALREADY A MEMBER? YOU'RE ALREADY IN REALM!

Need help logging in or have questions? Contact us at frontdesk@tabpres.org

ON THE GO? NO PROBLEM!

Download the Realm Connect app—free from the Apple App Store or Google Play. It's simple, secure, and easy to use.

Visit OnRealm.org/TabPres, scan the QR code, or download the mobile app.



Tab News

Announcements & Events

OFFICE CLOSURES

The Church Offices will be closed on December 24 at 12 noon and all day December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

On December 31 the church offices will again close at 12 noon and all day on January 1 in observance of the New Year.

On January 19, 2026, Church Offices will be closed in observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

10a WORSHIP ONLY DEC. 28

On Sunday, December 28, Tab will only offer a 10a Worship Service. There will be no Education classes or other worship services that week.

HOME COMMUNION

The Deacons will be delivering Home Communion to homebound members on December 7, 2025. If you would like to receive Home Communion please call the Front Desk or email frontdesk@tabpres.org

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPEN HOUSE

The Spiritual Growth Team will host the Coffee & Conversation after the 10a Worship in the Parlor on December 21. They will be serving hot chocolate and ginger bread cookies while unveiling the Spiritual Growth Winter 2026 Catalog of classes and opportunities.

LENTEN MEAL & STUDY

The Spiritual Growth Team will sponsor a series of Wednesday evening dinners with small group devotions during Lent 2026. The kick-off will be on Ash Wednesday, February 21, at 6p and continue through March 25. All are welcome and childcare will be available. Please contact Bart Ost for more info.

HELP! MISSIONS UNIT VOLUNTEERS

The annual Missions Unit will begin on January 4. This year's "trip around the world" will include visits to Alaska,

Belgium, Canada, Indonesia, Poland, Tanzania, and Turkey. The very popular missions unit requires many adult and teen volunteers as we help Tab's children to learn about the people, customs, religious practices, art, food, games, and history of our featured countries. Most importantly, to learn about the men and women spreading the good news about Jesus Christ around world. Sign-up sheets are available in McKee Hallway. Please contact Jennifer Wirt if you have any questions.

PRETEEN LUNCH AND A MOVIE

January 19, all Tab 5th- & 6th-graders are invited to our annual MLK Day "Lunch and a movie" outing. We'll have lunch at Culvers, and then see a movie at either the Glendale Landmark theater or the AMC Castleton theater.

PRESIDENTS' DAY LUNCH & MOVIE

All Tab elementary students are invited to participate in our annual "lunch and a movie" get-together at Tab on President's Day, February 16. We'll meet at noon in Lower Level B to have lunch, and then we'll play some games and watch a family-friendly movie (with popcorn, of course!) until 2:15.

2026 PYOCA REGISTRATION

Registration opens January 4 at https://pyoca.org/summer_camp/ for summer camps at Pyoca, our presbytery's camp and conference center. If your child would like to go, Children's Ministries will pay a partial scholarship for one week of camp for each "Tab kid" who registers. Spots in the various camps fill up quickly, especially for the elementary programs, so sign up early!

TAB GOLF CLASSIC – THANK YOU!

The Deacons would like to thank all the donors and volunteers who gave so generously to make this year's Tab Golf Classic a success. The event raised over \$14,000, which will benefit both the Deacons' Benevolence Fund and the Community Care Fund.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

This January we will install the newly nominated church officers to the Tab Session, Deacons, and Trustees.

This is an important time for us to pray over these special Tab members as they care for our church in the coming months and years.

Elders

Class of 2027

Mark John

Class of 2028

Kyle Barnett

Sarah Brennan

Stephanie DeTrude

Dan Hursh

Joe Kukolla

Deacons

Class of 2028

Debora Amo

Mansa Darku

Heather Hoffer

Jean Hursh

Jenny Lingeman

Paul McIntyre

Penny Phillips

Sandy Roob

Ruth Anne Wright

Trustees

Class of 2028

David Perry

Class of 2029

Emily Boits

Keith DeTrude

December & January

Event Schedule

DECEMBER

- 3** 6:00p Women's "Just for Moms" Craft Night
- 6** 10:00a Indiana Landmarks Holiday Church Tour at Tab
- 7** 9:00a Advent Workshop
11:15a Home Communion
- 14** 10:00a "Christmas with Tab" Service
11:00a Tab's Christmas Tea
11:15a Preteen Christmas Party
- 15** 7:00p Children's Ministries Comm. Christmas Dinner
- 16** 6:00p Session & Deacons Christmas Dinner
- 21** 11:00a Spiritual Growth Open House
- 24** 12:00p CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES
5:00p Christmas Eve Family Worship Service
8:00p Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service
- 25** ALL DAY CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
- 28** 10:00a 10a Worship Service Only
- 31** 12:00p CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES

JANUARY

- 1** ALL DAY CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
- 18** 2:00p Evansville Choir Department Concert
- 19** ALL DAY Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
TBD Preteen Lunch & Movie

WEEKLY

- MWF** 11:00a Tab's Open Door Café
- MON** 6:30p Boy Scout Troop
7p Cub Scout Troop
7:00p Women's Bible Study
(no meeting in December, returns January 5)
- TUE** 8:00a Women Tuesday Walkers
9:15a Women Alive Yoga
10:00a Woman Alive Study
6:30p Prayer Team Meeting
6:30p Bible Study Fellowship
- WED** 9:30a Pastors' Bible Study
- THU** 2:30p Tab Tutoring
6:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal
(no meeting in December, returns January 8)
7:00p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- FRI** 3:30p Circle of Hope
- SAT** 8:00a Men's Bible Study
- SUN** 8:00a Communion Service
8:45a Coffee & Conversation
9:00a Education Hour
10:00a Worship Service & Junior Church
11:00a Coffee & Conversation
11:00a Youth IMPACT

MONTHLY

- 1st **TUE** 5:30p Spiritual Growth Team
- 1st **WED** 5:30p Missions Committee
- 2nd **MON** 5:30p Facilities Committee
- 2nd **TUE** 8:00a Recreation Meeting
5:00p Budget & Finance Comm.
6:30p Communications Comm.
7:00p Children's Ministries Committee
7:15p Worship, Music & Arts Committee
- 3rd **TUE** 5:30p Congregational Life Comm.
7:00p Session Meeting
- 4th **TUE** 7:00p Deacons' Meeting
- 2nd & 4th **SAT** 10:00a Daughters of Dorcas

Please visit tabpres.org for a complete calendar of events.

TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
418 East 34th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205-3795

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Tabernacle Presbyterian Church at the above address.

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:

please print clearly

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."