

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Presbyterian Church in America or “The PCA” is a distinctly evangelical denomination in the Reformed tradition. The Bible as the Word of God is the primary standard for our faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, although subordinate to the Bible in their authority, set forth our understanding of biblical truth in a consistent, concise, and reliable form.

In the Reformed tradition, there are five key tenets, among others, that we hold to: By Scripture Alone; By Christ Alone; By Grace Alone; By Faith Alone; and To God Alone be the Glory.

- We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God’s truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God’s displeasure, except by His mercy.
- We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.
- We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God’s people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.
- We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.
- We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

CONTACT INFORMATION

*“Serving One Another in Love”
Galatians 5:13*

CHURCH OFFICE - 752-2400

PASTOR – Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR – Shane Waldron

OFFICE STAFF/BOOKKEEPER – Carlynn Stahlberg

CUSTODIAN – Kelly Brown

ELDERS

Grady Bennett..... 314-4207

Dave Hanson 249-8893

Tom Jentz 755-2029

Steve Johnson...on sabbatical

Duane Martin..... 756-6026

Don Olmsted.....250-7915

Matt Riley756-8913

Steve Thompson857-3326

Jan Wassink.....249-6590

DEACONS

Buford Bennett 261-7124

Doug Brown 890-0760

Ike Eisentraut..... 257-2222

Bill Gamble 249-0152

Micah Hill.....890-2058

Mike Stahlberg ...on sabbatical

Bruce Tulloch755-4550

BUILDING TRUSTEES

Doug Brown 890-0760

Donnie Burns..... 261-9830

Russ Hadley..... 752-3661

Nick Hanson253-4668

Matt Vander Ark.....270-1904

LORD’S SUPPER OBSERVANCE

At Faith Covenant, the Lord’s Supper is observed each Lord’s Day as the climax of our worship service. We invite to the Lord’s Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ. We recommend the use of wine; however we offer both juice and wine in the tray to allow true liberty of conscience. The wine is located in the two outer rings and the juice is located in the center ring.



611 3rd Avenue East • Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone (406) 752-2400 • Fax (406) 752-2569
office@faithcov.com • www.faithcov.com



Displaying God’s Glory in a Community of Grace

December 23, 2012



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:14, Rev. 19:5*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

*(*Indicates when to stand)*

We ask that you please turn off cell phones during the worship service. Thank you.

**WHILE BY THE SHEEP – Hymn #215*

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL – Hymn #194*

**THE FIRST NOEL – words included*

The first Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Chorus)

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent
and to follow the star wherever it went.

(Chorus)

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind has bought.

(Chorus)

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 55:2-3*

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

All: Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. This we ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Lamentations 3:22-23*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

***COMMON CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

The Nicene Creed – Hymnal page 846

**WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL? – words included*

Who is he in yonder stall
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
Who is he in deep distress
fasting in the wilderness?

(Chorus)

*'Tis the Lord O wondrous story;
'tis the Lord the King of glory.
At his feet we humbly fall;
crown him, crown him Lord of all!*

Who is he the people bless
for his words of gentleness?
Who is he to whom they bring
all the sick and sorrowing?

(Chorus)

Who is he that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?
Who is he that from his throne
rules thro' all the world alone?

(Chorus)

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.

*Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

**INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY – Hymn #216*

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent – Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: Preparing for Peace

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

(See pages 8-10 for sermon outline, text and questions)

**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM – Hymn #201*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.

(See FCC Observance information on the back page.)

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

– Elder Steve Thompson

**GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN – Hymn #224*

***BENEDICTION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:

Cornerstone Community Church, Kalispell, Pastor Luke Knoll.

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:

Jim & Jill Hadlock work for Campus Crusade as missionaries. Jill is a communications staff for the national headquarters in Florida and Jim is a project manager for the "Jesus Film" project. They are in the process of adopting a child and just finished moving. Pray for God's grace and guidance as they prepare their home for another child. Pray for protection for Jim as he travels to Africa to help with the recording and translation projects for the "Jesus Film."

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Service will be held tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: Each year the offering taken at our Christmas Eve service is given to families or individuals of Faith Covenant who have particular needs. Our Deacons determine need and distribute the entire offering to those in need of extra assistance.

PRAYER & WORSHIP SERVICE: Please join us next Sunday, December 30 from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. for our monthly evening service. Childcare will be provided.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will not meet December 26. They will *resume meeting on January 2.*

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will not meet December 26, or January 2. They will *resume meeting on Wednesday, January 9.*

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES today, December 30 or January 6. Classes will resume meeting on January 13 at 11:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please remember to have your Annual Meeting reports turned into the church office by Wednesday, January 9, along with a list of members who will be staying on your committee and the number of openings available for 2013.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 for our **ANNUAL MEETING.** A 6:00 p.m. soup supper will precede the 7:00 p.m. meeting. All members are encouraged to attend but you do not need to be a member to attend.

CLARISSE and ANDY Sunday school offering status: Monthly goal = \$100; December-to-date amount: \$119.24

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next month on **Thursday, January 10** at *Central Christian Church.*



For Prayer Chain requests or to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 752-2400 or email to office@faithcov.com.

DECEMBER MINISTRIES

DEACON OF THE MONTH Buford Bennett
NURSERY M.O.M. (Mom of the Month)..... Carol Martin
NURSERY COORDINATOR.....Darcy Hearn
Direct Nursery questions, concerns, praises, etc., to Darcy at 270-8933.

TODAY

USHERS/GREETERS Gary & Barb Fenner
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Rose Ann & Aaron Clark
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Will Schmautz?
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs)..... Rowes
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Joani Eisentraut & Nicole Fisher
COMMUNION PREP Carol Martin
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Theresa Paolini

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 30

USHERS/GREETERS Aaron & Jevon Clark
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Rose Ann & Aaron Clark
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Hills
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs)..... Lancasters
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS..... Kelly Brown & Sharon Riley
COMMUNION PREP Donelle Holderbaum
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Lori Vander Ark

CALENDAR

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship
11:15 a.m. – No Sunday school today

THIS WEEK

Monday – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Christmas Day
Wednesday – No Men's Prayer Breakfast this week
– No Jr. High Youth Group (resumes Jan. 9)
– No Sr. High Youth Group (resumes Jan. 2)

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesdays – Music practice, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays – Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
– Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Sept.-May)
Sundays – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
1st Tuesdays – Elder home visits
3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons' meeting, 7:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women, noon, at Jo Anne Ross' home, (Sept.-May)
Last Sunday of month – Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30 – No Sunday school
– Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1 – Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 2 – Senior High Youth Group at the Bennetts
– No Junior High Youth Group
Sunday, January 6 – No Sunday school
Tuesday, January 8 – Elizabeth Women, noon at Jo Anne Ross'
– Elder home visits, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 9 – Junior High Youth Group resumes meeting
Thursday, January 10 – Women's Ministries meeting, 4:00 p.m.
– Community Kitchen: Feeding the Flathead
Tuesday, January 15 – Elder/Deacon meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 30 – Soup Supper & Annual Meeting

SERMON OUTLINE

December 23, 2012

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent – Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: *Preparing for Peace*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

I. The shadows of glory

II. The power of suffering

SERMON TEXT: Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 2:13-18 (ESV)

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Questions and thoughts for discussion:

1. Why do people try to immediately assign blame to any tragedy or problem? What about this is a good? Bad?
2. The Bible associates Jesus with peace in numerous places. Yet it also speaks of Jesus not bringing peace. How are we to understand this dilemma?
3. What are some lessons we learn from the narrative of Herod and the children at Bethlehem?
4. What does it mean that “we are not to measure God’s love by the shadows”?
5. Where else do we see this idea of God’s glory casting shadows?
6. Why must we see this full picture of the shadows of Christ’s glory to understand the gospel?