

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.



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Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

December 28, 2014

“I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

Acts 26:17-18

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Calling and Our Praise

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 89:1,2,5*

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever.

All: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

***ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH** – *Hymn #214*

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

***IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE** – *Hymn #38*

*(*Indicates when to stand)*

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

***THERE IS A REDEEMER**

There is a Redeemer – Jesus, God’s own son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

(Chorus)

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

(Chorus)

When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place.

(Chorus 2x)

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *Isaiah 58:13-14*

If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Father, we confess that we often do not delight in you; we seek our own pleasures, our own priorities.

Minister: We confess that we are satiated and bored:

All: Creation has bored us. Work has bored us. Family and friends have bored us. Your truth has bored us.

Minister: We have so much, but are jaded and cynical. We think that your world is here to serve us, and so we are ungrateful when things go well for us, and we are not patient when they do not.

All: We believe our every desire should be satisfied, so we are not delighted when they are, and we are not humbled when they do not. We celebrate, but do not worship; we laugh but do not know joy. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.

Minister: Renew us, by your Spirit, that we would be amazed with your grace—incarnate, blood-stained, resurrected, Messianic grace—that Jesus would be glorified.

All: Amen

CALENDAR

TODAY

- 8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 11:15 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE

THIS WEEK

- Thursday – Happy New Year!
- Saturday – Falling of the Greens, 10 a.m. at the church

LOOKING AHEAD

- Tuesdays – Music practice, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays – Men’s Fraternity Study, 6:00-7:30 a.m., at the church
- Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups 7:00 p.m. (Sept.-May)
- Weekly – Adult Small Groups (Sept.-May)
- 1st Sundays – Diaconal Offering
- 1st Tuesdays – Trustee Meeting
- 3rd Tuesdays – Elders/Deacons’ meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays – Elizabeth Women, noon, at Jo Anne Ross’ home, (Sept.-May)

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- Tuesday, January 6 – Trustees Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the church
 - Wednesday, Jan. 7 – Men’s Fraternity resumes, 6 a.m. at the church
 - Wednesday, Jan. 7 – Senior High and Junior High Youth Groups resume, 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, January 8 – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church
 - Saturday, January 10 – Habitat for Humanity Work Day, see announcements
 - Sunday, January 11 – Prime Timers 50+ Potluck, 12:30 at the church
 - Tuesday, January 13 – Elizabeth Women’s Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross’ home
 - Tuesday, January 20 – Elders/Deacons’ meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
 - Tuesday, January 27 – Elizabeth Women’s Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross’ home
 - Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Annual Meeting & Soup Supper, 6 p.m. at the church

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.

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

DEACON OF THE MONTH Mike Stahlberg
 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 (8:30 AM) Mike Stahlberg & Yvonne Hernandez
 USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM) Lloyd & Eileen Pierson
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) Tamie Jentz & Annie Hill
 WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) Darcy Hearn
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) Hanni Hanson
 WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3 yrs.) Cathy Hanson
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Glenda Quick & Eileen Pierson
 COMMUNION PREP Fosberys
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Mark Rice

NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 4

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) Mike Stahlberg & Yvonne Hernandez
 USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM) Lloyd & Eileen Pierson
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) Annalise Pierson & Taryn Iddings
 First WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM infants) Neumann
 First WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Hearn
 Second WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) Wiersma
 Second WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) Carlson
 FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Cathy Hanson & Kate Anderson
 COMMUNION PREP Eileen Pierson
 COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Benni Tulloch

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.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

– The Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Question 32

Minister: Why are you called a Christian?

All: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.

**THE FIRST NOEL*

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)

PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
11:15 a.m. Service: Children ages 4-6 are excused for Children's Church
(held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall)*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM – Hymn #201

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

His Word and Our Response

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World

Sermon Title: *Project Paul*

Sermon Text: Acts 26:9-20

(See pages 6-8 for sermon outline and text)

***HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING** – Hymn #203

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.
(See FCC Observance on page 10)*

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

***JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME** – Hymn #195

***BENEDICTION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Stillwater Christian School and for Christian teachers in the local public schools

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Pray for Jim and Jill Hadlock with the Jesus Film Project that their translation work will bring the gospel to many unreached people in southern and eastern Africa.

There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** classes TODAY Sunday, Dec. 28. Classes will resume Jan. 4 at 10:15 a.m.

FALLING OF THE GREENS: Many hands make lighter work, so if you can pitch in to undecorate the church on Saturday, Jan. 3, at 10 a.m. your help would be appreciated!

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Two new classes will start for adults on January 4. Pastor Shane will be teaching "Psalms: Truth in Song", and Micah Tinkham will teach "Perspectives on the End Times." Sign up in the fellowship hall!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please remember to have your Annual Meeting reports turned into the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 31, along with a list of members who will be staying on your committee and the number of openings available for 2015.

HABITAT WORK DAY JANUARY 10: Mission volunteers needed for Habitat for Humanity! Faith Covenant is once again sponsoring a group of volunteers to help at the construction site in Columbia Falls on Saturday, January 10, at 7:45 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. You can volunteer all or part of the day. Lunch and hot and cold drinks are provided. There are jobs for men, women, and teens between the ages of 15 and 18 with parental permission. A sign up sheet along with parental permission forms and a map are located in the fellowship hall. Sign up by Jan. 4 so Habitat for Humanity organizers can plan for the day.

PRIME TIMERS 50+ POTLUCK: If you have 50 or more years of life experience, you won't want to miss this potluck Sunday, January 11. Bring one dish of your liking and bread, drinks and dessert will be provided. Show up at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to share food and a good time with your peers!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - JOY: Ladies mark your calendars for another Bible study journey using spiritual disciplines to explore the concept of joy as the quiet and confident assurance of God's sovereignty. The study will meet monthly (January-May) starting Jan. 31 at the church. Sign up in the foyer and contact Chany Ockert with questions (260-3221).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 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.

GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU DECEMBER 14:
Targeted Budget = \$288,365.38; Offerings received = \$294,153.51

Questions and thoughts for discussion:

1. In the book of Acts, this is the third telling of Paul's conversion (ch 9, 22). What does that tell us of its significance to Luke the author?
2. Compare the three accounts of Paul's conversion. What does each one add to our understanding.
3. A goad was a sharp stick used to drive animals. V-14 does not speak so much about Paul kicking against a guilty conscience as it does him resisting God's definite plan for his life. Where have you done the same in your life? What was the outcome?
4. Consider: *"The opening of the eyes did not mean intellectual enlightenment only, but conversion ... For conversion includes a radical transfer of allegiance and of environment. It is both a liberation from the darkness of satanic rule and a liberation into the sphere of God's marvelous light and power."* —John Stott
5. How was Paul's blinding (ch 9) a sign of God's covenant curse upon him? (Cf Deut 28:28-29)
6. What does it mean that we can use God to keep away from God?
7. In vs 17-18, Paul is commissioned with opening up the eyes unbelievers. How is that an overflow of what it means to be united to Christ?

***Faith Covenant Church
exists to spread a love for God and His glory,
through the WORD:***

**Worship
Outreach
Relationship
Discipleship**

CONTACT INFORMATION

"Serving One Another in Love" Galatians 5:13

CHURCH OFFICE: 752-2400 / office@faithcov.com

SENIOR PASTOR: Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Shane Waldron

PASTOR OF MUSIC: Aaron Scott

OFFICE STAFF: Kristin Bay, Hanni Hanson

BOOKKEEPER: Carlynn Stahlberg

CUSTODIAN: Kelly Brown

ELDERS

Grady Bennett..... 314-4207
Tom Jentz 755-2029
Duane Martin.....sabbatical
Don Olmsted 250-7915

Matt Riley 756-8913
Micah Tinkham 471-0080
Steve Thompson..... 857-3326
Jan Wassink..... 249-6590

DEACONS

Buford Bennett 261-7124
Doug Brown 890-0760
Ike Eisentraut..... 257-2222
Bill Gamble 249-0152

Micah Hill 270-7940
Mike Stahlberg..... 270-2509
Bruce Tulloch..... 755-4550

BUILDING TRUSTEES

Brian Bay..... 752-9087
Paul Hobus 270-5434
Matt Vander Ark 871-0615

Nick Hanson..... 253-4668
Russ Hadley (lead)..... 752-3661

SERMON OUTLINE

December 28, 2014

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson

Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World

Sermon Title: *Project Paul*

I. Going your own way

II. Given a purpose

III. Grace in action

SERMON TEXT

Acts 26:9-20 (ESV)

⁹ “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹² “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹ “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.