

## 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 7, 2014**



*“The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

### ***His Calling and Our Praise***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Luke 1:46-47, 50; Lamentations 5:19*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.**

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**All: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.**

**\*O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** – Hymn #208 vs. 1, 3, 4

*(\*Indicates when to stand)*

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

**\*SING TO THE KING**

Sing to the King who is coming to reign.  
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.  
Life and salvation his empire shall bring,  
and joy to the nations, when Jesus is King.

*(Chorus)*

*Come, let us sing a song,  
a song declaring that we belong to Jesus;  
he is all we need. Lift up a heart of praise.  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus; sing to the King.*

For his returning we watch and we pray;  
we will be ready the dawn of that day.  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed,  
'cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

*(Chorus 2x)*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*SCRIPTURE OF PRAISE: Psalm 18:28, 30-31**

**All: You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Your way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?**

**\*GOD IS WITH US**

The glory of God has come to the earth,  
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,  
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim  
Glory to His name

*(Chorus)*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us now.*

Eternity's likeness has come into time,  
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive,  
Down from the heavens on this holy night,  
Our God in a manger, Our God as a child.

*(Chorus)*

Oh, let us bring Him more than our silver and gold  
Oh, let us bring Him all our pain and joy  
Oh, let us bring Him every fear untold  
Oh, let us bring Him our sin to pay full

*(Chorus 2x)*

**CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

- 8:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:15 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
- 2:00 p.m. – Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange (30 Chip Court)

**THIS WEEK**

- Tuesday – Leadership Training Class, 7:00 p.m. at the church
- Wednesday – Men's Fraternity Study, 6:00-7:30 a.m., at the church
- Senior High Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 at the church
- Junior High Youth Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the church
- Thursday – Feed the Flathead, 5:30 p.m., Central Christian 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, December 16 – Elders/Deacon's meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the church
  - Sunday, December 21 – Christmas Coffee Hour, 9:45-11:15 a.m. at church
  - Tuesday, December 23 – Elizabeth Women's Group, noon, Jo Anne Ross' home
  - Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, January 6 – Trustees Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the church
  - Saturday, January 10 – Habitat for Humanity Work Day, details TBA
  - 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

## 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](mailto: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) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM) ..... Lloyd & Eileen Pierson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) ..... Dar Wassink & Nilla Swenson  
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) ..... Darcy Hearn  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) ..... Tami Jentz  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3 yrs.) ..... Andersons  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Carolyn Duncan & Alyssa Hobus  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Dar Wassink  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Hanni Hanson

### NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 14

USHERS/GREETERS (8:30 AM) ..... Nick & Hanni Hanson  
USHERS/GREETERS (11:15 AM) ..... Lloyd & Eileen Pierson  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:15 AM service only) ..... Dar Wassink & Nilla Swenson  
WORSHIP NURSERY (8:30 AM) ..... Darcy Hearn  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM infants) ..... Motleys  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3yrs) ..... Lancasters  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS ..... Amy Bennett & Julie Thompson  
COMMUNION PREP ..... Barbara Makowski  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP ..... Yvonne Hernandez

## His Renewal and Our Hope

### COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION:** *1 John 1:5-8*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All: Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!** (*Psalm 79:8-9*)

### SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**DECLARATION OF GRACE:** *Psalm 28:8-9*

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

*\*WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Hymn #213*

### PRAYER, OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Diaconal Offering today: Please use the Special Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.  
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)*

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

*\*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: Transforming Light**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 4:13-17**

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

**\*GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN**

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior, was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray

*(Chorus)*

*Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly Father, this blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born, the son of God by name

*(Chorus)*

“Fear not, then” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior, of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him, from Satan's power and might.”

*(Chorus)*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas, all others doth deface

*(Chorus)*

**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**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Hope Church, Kalispell,  
(formerly New Covenant), Pastor Lance Dannic

**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.

**DIACONAL OFFERING:** This morning we share in worshipping through our diaconal  
offering for those needing assistance in our church and community. Please use the Special  
Offering envelopes located in the pew racks.

**LADIES CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE:** Ladies, you are invited **TODAY** to  
the Christmas Cookie Exchange at 2 p.m. at Laura Pierson's home (30 Chip Court). Bring  
two dozen cookies to exchange and a silver elephant gift (a gift item for \$5 or less that  
you would want to receive). We will also be collecting donations of any amount to help  
out the women of the Refuge with emergency needs such as auto fuel. *However, cookies  
and donations are optional - you are welcome to just bring yourself for Christmas  
fellowship!* (no childcare provided)

**CALLING ALL NURSERY VOLUNTEERS!** In January we will start offering both  
nurseries for both services. Please contact Darcy Hearn as soon as possible regarding  
which service you would like to volunteer for - call Darcy at 270-8933.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUR:** Christmas break for Sunday School will be Sunday,  
Dec. 21 and 28, so join us for an extended coffee hour and holiday treats between  
services on Dec. 21 hosted by the fellowship committee.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Service will be held this year at 7:00 p.m.

**JOHN FLORIDIS BENEFIT CONCERT:** Guitarist John Floridis will hold his annual  
benefit concert tonight, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Whitefish.  
The concert benefits Neighbors in Need that serves as a fund of last resort for those in  
need in the Flathead valley.

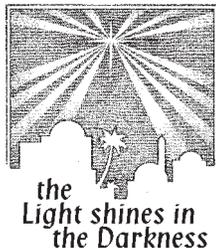
**COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD:** Those of you who  
are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve next Thursday, Dec. 11, at Central  
Christian Church. If you have questions, contact Joyce Schmautz or Jenae Schmautz.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH:** Glacier Symphony and Chorale will be performing Handel's  
Messiah Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in at Bethany Lutheran Church, Bigfork; Saturday,  
Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center; and Sunday, Dec. 14, at  
3 p.m. at Flathead High School. A church discount of \$5 off senior and adult tickets is  
available by calling the box office at 407-7000 and mentioning "CHURCH DISCOUNT."  
Student tickets are just \$5.

**HOPE PREGNANCY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** For parents suffering the loss  
of a child through miscarriage or extreme prematurity, often the only physical memories  
they have are mementos given by hospital staff. Hope Pregnancy Ministries is searching  
for volunteers to craft keepsake boxes for families. Very small handmade clothes,  
blankets, hats & booties are also requested. Contact Ladawna for specific measurements  
at ladawnawlk@yahoo.com or 871-5710.

*Questions and thoughts for discussion:*

1. How is a message of repentance bringing a light to the Gentiles?
2. Consider: *“The Father gave us the Son to be a lamp to the world, to illumine us with divine light and to rescue us from satanic darkness,”* —Cyril of Alexandria. In what specific ways are you able to participate in Christ’s redemptive work where you are?
3. Consider: *“Poor spiritual vision —having wrong spiritual priorities—influences the entire direction of our lives.”* —Sinclair Ferguson. What areas of your life are you having a hard time keeping focused on the Lord?
4. Consider: *“We become what we hate if we focus to much on the object of our scorn.”* —Bryan Chapell. Have you seen this in your life or in others? How are we to resist this temptation?
5. How does the gospel shape our hope now in this life by what is yet to come?



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

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**CHURCH OFFICE:** 752-2400 / [office@faithcov.com](mailto: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	Matt Riley .....	756-8913
Tom Jentz .....	755-2029	Micah Tinkham .....	471-0080
Duane Martin.....	sabbatical	Steve Thompson.....	857-3326
Don Olmsted .....	250-7915	Jan Wassink.....	249-6590

**DEACONS**

Buford Bennett .....	261-7124	Micah Hill .....	270-7940
Doug Brown .....	890-0760	Mike Stahlberg.....	270-2509
Ike Eisentraut.....	257-2222	Bruce Tulloch.....	755-4550
Bill Gamble .....	249-0152		

**BUILDING TRUSTEES**

Brian Bay.....	752-9087	Nick Hanson.....	253-4668
Paul Hobus .....	270-5434	Russ Hadley (lead).....	752-3661
Matt Vander Ark .....	871-0615		

**SERMON OUTLINE**  
**December 7, 2014**  
**Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson**  
**Sermon Series: Advent 2014**  
**Sermon Title: *Transforming Light***

**I. Dawning Light - Becoming like Jesus**

**II. Troubling Darkness**

**A. Becoming lost along the way**

**B. Becoming what you hate**

**SERMON TEXT**  
**Matthew 4:13-17 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth [Jesus] went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--  
<sup>16</sup> the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Matthew 6:22-24 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.