

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.



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December 9, 2012

*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me...to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.”
Isaiah 61:1-2*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

(*Indicates when to stand)

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

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

***JOY HAS DAWNED** – music in pew racks

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

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

His Renewal and Our Hope

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *2 Samuel 22:26-28*

With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.

All: Lord of all mercy and compassion, I am neither blameless nor pure. My heart is crooked, and I elevate myself at the expense of others. Forgive me for my sins, and cleanse me from my defilement, that through my Redeemer, Christ Jesus, I might be pure and spotless. Grant me a humble heart, and by your Holy Spirit, enable me to strive for new and fresh obedience, all to the praise of your glorious grace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *2 Samuel 22:29-31*

For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God-his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

***WHAT CHILD IS THIS** – Hymn #213

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)*

***EMMANUEL** – words included

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.
(Repeat)

***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 the Right Proclamation

Sermon Text: Isaiah 61:1-3

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

***GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE** – Hymn #207

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 Matt Riley

***ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY** – Hymn #218

***BENEDICTION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:

Kalispell Christian Center, Pastor Kevin Geer.

MISSION PROJECT OR MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR:

Rohan & Becky Crown, PCA church planters in Lethbridge, AB. Pray for continued protection and expansion of the gospel and for the raising up of leaders and elders within their church.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES on

December 23, December 30 or January 6. Classes will resume meeting on January 13 at 11:15 a.m.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE** Candlelight Service will be held this year 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.

BLESSINGS TO GARRETT & SARAH MORRISON AND FAMILY:

Daughter Lilly Mae was born November 27, weighing 8lb. 1oz. and was 21” tall.

BLESSINGS TO RYAN, SARA & OLIVER MOTLEY:

Daughter Lucia Marie was born December 3, weighing 7lb. 11oz.

Thank you for your **GENEROUS GIVING AT OUR ANNUAL THANKS DINNER.** We were able to disburse \$837.83 in funds to Neighbors in Need, a local Christian organization offering help to the needy, and to the PCA Ministerial Relief, which assists needy retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children.

OUR CHURCH LIBRARY has books available for your use, is open Monday thru Thursday, 9:00-3:00 and every Sunday, and is located in the office building. Check out is easy—instructions are posted on the library wall.

GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU NOVEMBER 30:
Targeted Budget = \$218,309.43; Offerings received = \$231,551.00

CLARISSE and ANDY Sunday school offering status:

Monthly goal = \$100; December-to-date amount: \$102.04

COMMUNITY KITCHEN—FEEDING THE FLATHEAD: Those of you who are volunteering with Feed the Flathead will serve this week on **Thursday, December 13** at **Central Christian Church.** If you have questions, contact Sharon Thompson or Joyce Schmautz.



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 Nick & Hanni Hanson
CHILDREN’S CHURCH Leah & Breanna Wiersma
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Turners
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs) Martins
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Amy Bennett & Laura Pierson
COMMUNION PREP Gary & Barb Fenner
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Yvonne Hernandez

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 16

USHERS/GREETERS Nick & Hanni Hanson
CHILDREN’S CHURCH Leah & Breanna Wiersma
WORSHIP NURSERY (infants) Nick Hansons
WORSHIP NURSERY (toddlers thru 3yrs Kyle Hansons
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS Jeanie Brenneman & Nicole Hill
COMMUNION PREP Carlynn Stahlberg
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP Diane Nugent

CALENDAR

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship
11:15 a.m. – Sunday school for all ages

THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Elizabeth Women, noon at Jo Anne Ross’
Wednesday – Men’s Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
– Jr. High Youth Group, 7:00–8:30 p.m. at church
– Sr. High Youth Group, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Bennett’s home, 513 Crestview Rd. in Kalispell
Thursday – Community Kitchen: Feeding the Flathead

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.

Tuesday, December 18 – Elder/Deacon meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 23 – No Sunday school
Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 30 – No Sunday school
– Prayer & Worship Service, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1 – Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 6 – No Sunday school
Tuesday, January 8 – Elizabeth Women, noon at Jo Anne Ross’
– Elder home visits, 7:00 p.m.
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.

SERMON OUTLINE

December 9, 2012

Sermon: Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.

Sermon Series: Advent – Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title: *Preparing for the Right Proclamation*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 61:1-3

I. A proclamation with power

II. A proclamation that divides

SERMON TEXT: Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV)

61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Questions and thoughts for discussion:

- 1. Isaiah provides us with the prophetic context of the advent and ministry of Jesus. What about this proclamation of good news would have been welcomed? Potentially misunderstood?**
- 2. Jesus read the first two verses of Isaiah 61 when he started his public ministry (Lk 4:16-21). He did not read: "*and the day of vengeance of our God.*" Why might he have left this off at this time?**
- 3. In the OT, what is meant when someone was 'anointed'?**
- 4. What error do we make if we entirely spiritualize the ministry of Jesus? What error do we make if we make Jesus message only about issues of social justice?**
- 5. Prof. Max Müller, having studied and translated Hindu and Islamic texts for decades, stated that the theme of these religious works was salvation by works. What is the theme of the gospel? What role do good works have in Christianity?**
- 6. In what way does the truth of the proclamation of Jesus make in your life? Are you living as one who has been set free?**
- 7. Why does the proclamation of good news also contain the message of God's wrath? How are we living between these two events?**