

## 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 21, 2014**



*“I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations...”*  
*Isaiah 42:6*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

### **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.*

**\*LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES** – Hymn #198 vs. 1, 4, 5, 6

**\*AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD**– Hymn #226 vs 1, 2, 4, 5

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**\*ANGELS, FROM THE REALM OF GLORY** – Hymn #218 vs. 1, 2, 5

## **His Renewal and Our Hope**

**COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN**

**SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION:** *Romans 2:1*

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

**All: Righteous and Holy Sovereign, save me from myself, from the deceits of my sin, from the treachery of my perverse nature, from denying your charge against my offenses, from a life of continual rebellion against you; for I know that all my thoughts, affections, desires, and pursuits are easily alienated from you. Father of my spirit, King of my life, drive me not from your presence, but wound my heart that it may be healed, break it so that your own hand may make it whole. Amen. (Adapted from prayer in Valley of Vision)**

**SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN**

**DECLARATION OF GRACE:** *Revelation 21:3-4*

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

## **CALENDAR**

### **TODAY**

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

### **THIS WEEK**

Wednesday – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday – Merry Christmas!

### **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](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).....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).....Nicole Waldron & Annalise Pierson  
WORSHIP NURSERY (11:15 AM toddlers thru 3 yrs.) .....Sharon Salyer  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Fellowship Committee  
COMMUNION PREP.....Carolyn Duncan  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP .....Diane Nugent

## NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 28

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 3yrs) .....Cathy Hanson  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS.....Glenda Quick & Eileen Pierson  
COMMUNION PREP.....Fosberys  
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP .....Mark Rice

## \*SCRIPTURAL CONFSSION OF FAITH: Colossians 1:15-20

**All: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

## \*JOY HAS DAWNED

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love, Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky, with the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life, shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands, prophesy the story  
Gold a King is born today, incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam Son of heaven, given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Savior what a Friend, what a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history

## 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)*

## SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT! – Hymn #210

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**His Word and Our Response**

**Sermon: Pastor Shane Waldron**

**Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World**

**Sermon Title: *Lover of the Light***

**Sermon Text: Isaiah 42:1-9**

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

**\*WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL**

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)*

Lo, at midnight who is he prays in dark Gethsemane?

Who is he on yonder tree dies in grief and agony?

*(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)*

**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**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOCAL OR REGIONAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR:** Neighbors in Need

**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.

**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:** Join your church family for holiday fellowship at an extended coffee hour with holiday treats between services TODAY at 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. hosted by the fellowship committee. Christmas break for Sunday School will be Sunday, Dec. 21 and 28, and it will resume Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

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

**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.

**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.

**GENERAL OFFERING SUMMARY THRU DECEMBER 14:**

Targeted Budget = \$288,365.38; Offerings received = \$294,153.51

**HOME FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** A free annual community Christmas concert hosted by Crossroads Christian Fellowship will be Dec. 22, and Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts.

**THREE DETAILED BIBLE READING PLANS** are available to you on the table in the Fellowship Hall to help you read through the Bible in a year.

*Questions and thoughts for discussion:*

1. What idols do you struggle with? In other words, what do you worship instead of God? Who or what do you follow besides God?
  
2. Have you ever experienced a situation in which you really wanted something, only to find out later it was the worst thing for you? Please share.
  
3. Has God ever denied you something that you really wanted, and later you discovered that his “no” was the best thing that could have happened to you? Please share.
  
4. How is it an act of faith to follow the instruction of God rather than your own desires? What keeps you from following him? What facets of Christ’s character in Isaiah 42:1-9 help you to follow him?

***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 21, 2014**

**Sermon: Pastor Shane Waldron**

**Sermon Series: Advent 2014 - A Light in the World**

**Sermon Title: *Lover of the Light***

**Introduction: Jesus brings us from darkness into light.**

### **I. The Menace: Idolatry**

### **II. The Means: Empowered by the Father**

### **III. The Message: Justice for the Nations**

### **IV. The Mode: Meekness and Strength**

## **SERMON TEXT**

**Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- <sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;
- <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- <sup>6</sup> “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- <sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.
- <sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them.”