

BOZEMAN

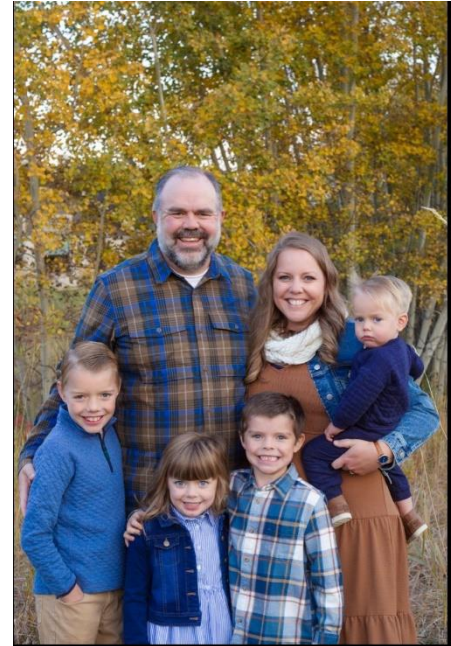
Reformed Baptist Church



Dear friends and co-laborers of Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ and a Merry Christmas to you all! As we come to the end of the year we have so much for which to give thanks to God. We have been meeting on the Lord's Day for a year now and the Lord has continued to bless our gatherings. The Lord is building a confessional Reformed Baptist church here in Bozeman, Montana.

It is with great joy that I can inform you that our church plant will be constituting on February 23rd. We praise God that our core group desires to covenant together in obedience to Christ. We warmly invite you to attend the constituting service here in Bozeman in order to praise our Triune God together. I will send out more details regarding the service as the day approaches. We hope to constitute with 18 members as the core group has been forming and reforming under the means of grace. The Lord has blessed us with a diverse group, including two older couples whose wisdom and churchmanship have been an encouragement to us. We also have a few younger families with a total of 14 children in our midst who are being trained to sit and participate in worship. The Lord has also brought a few single men to our congregation who have served the church well.



Our group has been growing under the preaching of the word of God and the confessional teaching during Sunday School. For the past five months I have been teaching on the nature of congregationalism and our covenantal commitment in church membership. This has been a great blessing and help towards the establishment of our congregation as we grow in our understanding of the privilege and responsibility of church membership. We boldly confess that we desire to *“willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, in professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel.”* (2LCF 26.6)

We have seen many visitors come through the doors this past year who are looking for a new church for one reason or another. We have ministered the gospel to many people in our community and we trust the Lord will gather to us those who desire to be united in the same love and sound doctrine. Unfortunately, two families moved away from us because of the ever-growing cost of living in Bozeman. Another, young man moved away to attend law school. Recently, one family who was with us for over eight months decided to find a church more suitable for their doctrine and for their teenage boys. While we were saddened to see them leave, we thank the Lord that he has strengthened our core group and given us an even greater love for one another and for the doctrines we confess.

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We are still meeting in a library of a Christian school in the afternoons but are actively seeking a new meeting place. I have been talking to a church about renting their building which they are not currently utilizing. This building is in a nice community closer to downtown and next to the high school, which could open up a few ministry opportunities for us. We are also looking at a few commercial buildings, which are not ideal but could work. Please pray for the Lord to provide a more suitable place to meet.

This next year we are planning on beginning a catechism class for some of the children during Sunday school. The Lord has blessed us with two gifted men who desire the ministry who will be teaching the class. This will give these men an opportunity to utilize their gifts and for the church to further examine them. We also hope that they these men will be able to take IRBS courses in the future. Please pray for our children to embrace Christ in the gospel and to be further catechized in the faith. Please also pray for the Lord to raise up other officers amongst us. Our men continue to faithfully meet bi-weekly for a book study. We have read through *The Treatise of the Law and the Gospel* by John Colquhoun, *The Mystery of Christ, His Covenant and His Kingdom* by Sam Renihan, and are currently reading *With Reverence and Awe* by D.G. Hart. These studies have proven very useful in laying the foundation for a confessional church.

After we constitute, we hope to join two associations. It is our desire to join the *Confessional Baptist Association* at the next General Assembly in April. We are thankful for the CBA's commitment to church planting and their commendation of the work in Bozeman. We hope that our *holding communion together* will be of mutual benefit for our churches. This past September a regional association of churches was formed in Montana, *The Rocky Mountain Association of Reformed Baptist Churches*. This is a small association which began in Helana but is expanding to the Rocky Mountain region. This association has been a great blessing to our church plant, and we hope that our formal communion together will only strengthen our confessionalism and cooperation for the gospel.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for us and your generous giving to this work. I am truly grateful and humbled by your partnership in the gospel. By your generosity I was fully supported this past year which enabled me to give myself fully to the ministry of the word and prayer. Thank you also for your pledges for 2025. If you are able to give to this work or desire more information on the budget for 2025, please reach out to me or contact our sending church, Sycamore Reformed Baptist Church: sycamorereformedBCsound@outlook.org. All giving will continue to be sent to Sycamore until we are constituted. You can also help us out by befriending our Facebook page here. [Facebook](#).

Your fellow servant of Christ,

Brett Shaw

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