



FLORENCE, KY

Rev. Brandon Burke

We give thanks to God for His mercy and grace as we reflect on our first year as a church plant.

In February of 2024, Christ Reformed Church (CRC) began holding evening service in Florence, KY (between the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter). Our story, however, did not begin there. In 2021, I was installed as a co-pastor at Ascension Reformed Church (ARC), and one of my tasks was to assess and grow interest in a Reformed mission work on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. Known as part of the “Greater Cincinnati” area, Northern Kentucky consists primarily of three counties: Kenton, Boone, and Campbell, yet can also include the three outlying counties of Pendleton, Gallatin, and Grant, yielding a total population of around 448,194—and fast growing.

In 2021, we began holding monthly Fellowship Groups in Kentucky, wherein the Kentucky-native ARC members could gather for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship, and also invite friends and neighbors. In fact, this is how several of our current core group members first got involved. As time approached to launch CRC, our monthly Fellowship Groups, which met in homes, morphed into a monthly Reformed Bible Study, which met at the church property that we planned to rent for CRC evening services. The Reformed Bible Study was a great opportunity



to present and explain key Reformed doctrines, such as unconditional election, covenant theology, and infant baptism.

Since launching evening services in February of 2024 with thirteen souls from ARC (including my

family), the Lord has been very kind to us. Almost immediately we held a New Members’ Class, which brought five additional souls into our membership. We also celebrated a profession of faith from a baptized young adult. By the end of 2024, we offered a second New Member’s Class, which brought our membership to twenty-four souls. Our average weekly attendance for the year, however, was thirty-six souls.

Over the past year, we have begun training two young men to serve as deacons, we started a monthly Fellowship Group that meets in homes, and held our first Nine Lessons and Carols Christmas Service. I can report with thankfulness to God that our core group is growing, both numerically and spiritually.

We enter 2025 with the same vision as our beginning, namely, to be a confessional church that stands on Scripture, engages unbelief with truth and love, relies on the ordinary means of grace, and seeks God’s comforting Word and Spirit in every circumstance of life. We

are excited to see what God has in store for us in the coming months and years. And we are especially thankful for the prayers and support we have received from the United Reformed Churches.

Rev. J. Brandon Burks
christreformednky@gmail.com
christreformednky.org





MADISON, IN

Rev. Collin Welch

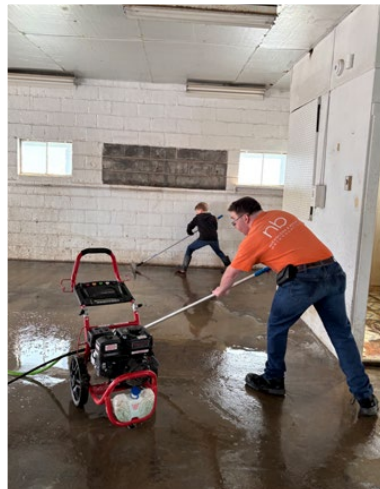
Greetings in the Name of Our Savior!

It's an honor to give an update on the progress of Madison Reformed Church, a church plant of Ascension Reformed Church in Cincinnati (Classis Eastern U.S.). Madison, Indiana is in southern Indiana, resting on the Ohio River about an hour from Louisville, KY.

Our area is cleaning up from the recent flooding here in the Ohio River Valley. One of our regular attendees (and hopefully a future member) is the director of a local park on the riverfront. He has generously opened this park to us for fellowship meals and other events. But the property was significantly flooded. We have focused our congregation's flood response to helping this park recover. Please pray for the weeks ahead.

We find ourselves in a season of recalibrating as a church plant. Our membership consists mostly of people who did not grow up Reformed. Their time in the church has been marked by significant worldview shifts and the need for pastoral care. But we also desire to be a church seriously rooted in this community and outward

facing, confident that our Reformed heritage *helps* us to share Christ clearly and powerfully. Like any small town, Madison has an underbelly. If you walk into the woods on the hillside, you'll find a surprising number of homeless encampments for a community our size.



Addiction touches too many families. As a church plant, our ability to meet their material needs is very limited. I have been interacting with local ministries that work with these groups. Please pray for these interactions. The ministries do some good, but their Pentecostal influences too often teach the addicted to trade one high (drugs) for another (wild worship experiences).

Finally, June 2025 will mark the fifth year since our core group first formed with three families. The Lord has faithfully and steadily grown us since then. As we have looked toward organization in the future, we reached out to Chicagoland area churches to consider forming a joint venture committee (JVC) with us and our overseeing church. Although these congregations are in a different classis from ours, four agreed to form the committee to support us financially, and through prayer and occasional visits. We praise God for these churches: Oak Glen, Lynwood, Community, and Redeemer URCs. Their willingness to try out a JVC across classical lines is a great encouragement and an example to our federation of looking for creative ways to support church plants. May the Spirit give the growth!

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Collin Welch

Location address: 309 E. 5th St., Madison, IN 47250

Mailing address: 509 West St., Madison, IN 47250

Email: collin.welch@madisonreformed.com

