**About Christ Fellowship Church**

**Our Mission:** We exist to make disciples of Christ who love God and love their neighbor.

**Our Vision:** To see the gospel spread into every corner of our lives and every corner of the globe.

**As we gather** each Sunday, our desire is to engage with the living God in authentic worship, giving him the praise he deserves, as we read, sing, pray, preach, and sit under the truth of God’s Word and respond in obedience. We look to give ourselves to bold prayer, to spend ourselves and our resources through joyful giving, and to create a culture of gracious hospitality among a diversely unified people.

**As we scatter** each week, we commit to give ourselves to one another in sanctifying community, to the lost through faithful evangelism in our spheres of influence, and to the suffering around us with Christ-like compassion, all in hopes of multiplying the witness of Christ in our city and around the world.

**CFC Kids:** As a congregation, we are deeply committed to next-generation discipleship. This church wants to come alongside parents as they raise their children in the Lord. To help toward that end on Sundays, we offer CFC Kids for children from birth through fifth grade. We offer CFC Kids throughout the entire length of the service for children pre-school and younger. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will attend the first part of the worship service and then exit for age-appropriate lessons during the sermon. Of course, you may keep your children with you throughout worship, if you like. If you have any questions about CFC Kids, please email Maggie Irby at mirby@cfcbirmingham.org.

1/15/23

**What’s Happening at Christ Fellowship…**

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, January 29th at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00pm. Attending this class is an important part of the process of becoming a member of Christ Fellowship Church. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters, or email Nick Murray at nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org with any questions.

***Registration Deadline Today for Spring Semester Equip Classes***

The Spring semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins on January 22nd. Almost every Sunday evening, we will teach discipleship classes to adults and kids of all ages. This weekly teaching time will be paired with a fellowship meal, the cost of which is covered in your registration. And if you prefer not to purchase dinner, you are welcome to bring your own dinner or simply join us for the discipleship classes. You can find out more about Equip and register with the QR code below or in the church center app.The deadline to register is today.

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***Volunteer Need: International Student Rides to Church***

We are looking for drivers to give rides to international students to and from church on Sunday mornings.  The students live in the downtown Birmingham/5 Points area and are typically a 5-10 minute drive from CFC.  If you are interested in being a driver (even if you can't commit every week), please contact Dennis Schauer (schauer.dennis@gmail.com or 205-527-6845).

***Friendship Partners for Spring 2023***

The Friendship Partners program is a great opportunity to get to know an international student or scholar while they are studying in Birmingham! To sign up, email Caroline Brown at cbrown@briarwood.org. If you have any questions, you can contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845 or schauer.dennis@gmail.com.

***Held Together Dinner – Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00pm***

Ladies, join us at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 7, to hear from our own Rebekah Head as she speaks about sharing the gospel. In addition, we'll enjoy a catered dinner and hear about the work of and a special opportunity coming up with Sav-A-Life! Register at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women) today and invite a friend!

***New Hope Sponsorships and Tanzania Trip***

CFC is hoping to send several members to visit New Hope Girls School and Rachel Hagues in Tanzania this spring. If you are interested in learning more, please email Will Johnston at wdjohnston1014@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list. Additionally, there is still opportunity to support scholarships for New Hope students at either the $50 or $25 per month level. Questions can be directed to Rachel Hagues at rachjoy@gmail.com.

***Youth Capture the Flag Event Tonight***

5:00-7:00pm and dinner will be provided. All students in 6th-12th grades are encouraged to attend and register in the church center app.

**Sunday, January15th, 2023**

**Pre-Service Music** (\*please remain seated)

“God, Your Everlasting Light” Cowper & Smith

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* (1 Peter 1:3-9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*7Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.* (Romans 15:7)

“Nothing But the Blood” Lowry

“What a Beautiful Name” Fielding & Ligertwood

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Numbers 21:4-9

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Nick Murray

*6My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…*(Hosea 4:6a)

*23Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”* (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

**The Apostles’ Creed** Bart Box

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

 **Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic\* church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[\*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

“All I Have Is Christ” Kauflin

“Speak, O Lord” Getty & Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** Bradford Forehand

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 The Gospel According to John: “You Must Be Born Again”

John 3:1-15

**The Lord’s Supper**

“There Is a Fountain” Cowper

**Offering**

***9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

***7Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

**Prayer of Intercession Billy Shepard**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven,***

 ***hallowed be your name.***

***Your kingdom come,***

 ***your will be done,***

 ***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread,***

 ***and forgive us our debts,***

 ***as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***And lead us not into temptation,***

 ***but deliver us from evil.***

***For yours is the kingdom***

 ***and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**Benediction**

*13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

(Romans 15:13)

“Doxology” Bourgeois & Ken

We are pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning.

Visitors and members alike are encouraged to fellowship with one another after the service. If you would like to speak with a pastor about a need in your life or for prayer, one will be available at the front of the room.

**Additional Explanatory Notes of Worship Elements**

***The Lord’s Supper***

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day as part of our worship and witness. The Lord’s Supper is an occasion for believers in Christ to be reminded of Jesus’ death in our place, to be strengthened by the promise of His coming, and to be renewed toward God and one another. All who have identified with Christ in baptism and who are in good standing with a local church that preaches the gospel are welcome at the Table.

If you are not a follower of Jesus, we invite you to spend this time in prayer reflecting on the Word that has been preached and the great offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. If you feel so inclined, we invite you to offer the following prayer to God:

“Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.”

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church, that we would all consider the opportunity before us to advance our gospel witness in this city by partnering with Philadelphia Baptist Church in Cahaba Heights, that God would call some from our midst to go there for the sake of the Kingdom, and that the joy multiplying healthy churches in our city would outweigh the sorrows of leaving or changing a church we love.

***For Our City***

For Covenant Presbyterian Church, pastor Robby Holt, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, that God would heal our country of the sin of racism, that we would work to bring about significant change in areas where there is rampant social injustice, and that local churches around our nation would be diverse pictures of the reconciliation found in the gospel.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Syria, that violence in this country would cease for the safety of all citizens and for the sake of the spread of the gospel, for the safety of refugees and that God would bring them in contact with the gospel, that the government would respect human rights and that evil leaders would be removed.



