**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 Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirmingham.org.

1/7/24

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

***Prayer Meeting & Fellowship Meal Tonight at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for our monthly fellowship meal and prayer meeting tonight at 5:00pm. There will be no Equip classes for kids or adults (they start on January 21), but we will have childcare for kids. Dinner is free, and we’ll be serving Maya. The best way to RSVP is through the Equip registration link at the QR code below.

***Register Now for Spring Semester Equip Classes***

The Spring semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins on January 21 and will run through March 17. 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 simply join us for the discipleship classes. Kids classes will continue in the same curriculum from last semester. The adult class offered this semester will be taught by local counselor Bill White, and the class will center around equipping Christians to help counsel, encourage, and instruct other people with God’s Word. Our staff and elders are very excited about this, and we hope you’ll plan to attend. You can find out more about Equip and register on this QR code.

***Spring Equip Teachers***

As we get ready to start the next quarter of Equip, we are needing more teachers for our older preschool group and younger elementary kids. If you are interested, please email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org and we can figure out the best fit. For this next quarter of Equip, you would be signing up to lead just four weeks: January 21, January 28, February 4, and February 11.

***CFC Women’s Winter Workshop***

Ladies, make plans to join us on January 26-27 as we gather to experience the Proclaiming Truth workshop "Knowing God's Word." Early bird registration ends January 7! Sign up at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Women’s Winter Bible Study Options***

Ladies, there are two Bible study options available this semester. Paige Herr will lead a study of 2 Kings on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:15am, starting January 10. There is also a Monday night study that will be led by Brittany Mann, the content of which is still being decided. To sign up for either, go to [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Youth Winter Retreat – February 16-18***

This upcoming February our youth will embark on our first ever winter retreat! During the trip we will consider the implications of God making us new from Ephesians 2. The cost is $175 and that includes transportation and all meals. You can register for Winter Retreat on the Church Center app.

***CFC Hosting TIPS Foster Parent Training Class***

CFC is excited to host the foster parent training class in partnership with Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. The class will run on Thursday nights from February 1-April 25, from 5:30-8:00 here at CFC. Please reach out to Billy Shepard at [bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org) to get further information and the registration form.

***Global Strategy Q&A – February 25th***

On Sunday, February 25th from 9:00am-10:00am, Brian G. will host a Q&A session to build upon last Fall’s Equip series. We will continue to unpack specifics regarding the most critical needs in Asia as well as other existing global strategies within the CFC family. The entire hour will be devoted to Q&A so come prepared. The training will take place in the CFC Fellowship Hall and light breakfast and coffee will be provided. Childcare will not be available. Please register in the Church Center app.

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

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

“Thy Mercy, My God” Stocker & McCracken

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—3among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

(Ephesians 2:1-9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* (1 John 1:7)

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

“All Sufficient Merit” Barnard, Fowler, & Barnard

**The Apostles’ Creed** Billy Shepard

**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]

**Baptisms** Lydia Leno & Alyssa Styba

*12Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.* (Colossians 2:12-14)

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape, Hall, & Nifong

“His Mercy Is More” Boswell & Papa

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

Christ Over All: “You’re Gonna Need (and You Have) a Bigger Christ”

Colossians 2:6-15

**The Lord’s Supper**

“All I Have Is Christ” Kauflin

**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** Victor Cheng

**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**

*6Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.* (Colossians 2:6-7)

“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 prayer would become an increasing priority to us individually, communally, and corporately; that we would grow in both our dependence upon God in prayer and our boldness in praying to him; and that we would be mindful of the fact that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

***For Our City***

For Homewood Community Church, pastor Tom Franklin, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For this year’s upcoming presidential election, that God would give us a president who might govern us justly, that He would grant wisdom to our presidential candidates as they prepare to address the issues that we face, and that God would mercifully give us a leader who would bring greater unity to our increasingly polarized nation.

***For Our World***

For C&E, CFC sent partners who are serving in the Middle East, that they would keep Christ their first love and serve out of an overflow of being filled up by Him, for healthy family rhythms, that they would join God in His work as He builds His church in the Middle East, that they would find and invest their time in faithful people, and that they’d be encouraged this week as they are visited by CFC members.

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