**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.

3/26/23

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

***No Equip Classes Tonight***

We will have no Equip Classes tonight!

***Prayer Meeting & Kids Equip Classes – Sunday, April 2nd at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for a prayer meeting and fellowship meal next Sunday, April 2nd at 5:00pm. No adult Equip classes will meet, as all adults will attend the prayer meeting. But we will teach all of our kids Equip classes. Dinner is free.

***Preschool Equip Classes Singing in April 2nd Prayer Meeting***

During a portion of our prayer meeting, the preschool kids Equip choir classes will sing some of the songs they have been learning this semester. These are all 3–4 year-olds in the Terrific Turtles, Happy Hippos, Gentle Giraffes, and Little Lions classes.

***Good Friday Service – Friday, April 7 at 6:30pm***

We would love for you to make plans to attend! The service will last about an hour. Pray about someone you could invite.

***Good Friday Childcare Registration***

CFC Kids will be offered during our Good Friday service for preschool children. We do ask that any children registered for this service be sitting unassisted and crawling. Registration will close on Tuesday, April 4 so we can arrange the correct number of childcare workers. We will open as many classes as necessary to accommodate everyone who registers by this deadline. Register in the Church Center app or at the link in your midweek email.

***Medical Church Planting Trip to Brazil in September 2023***

CFC is planning to send a team to Rio de Janeiro from August 30-September 7 to assist pastors planting new churches in "favelas." The goal is to connect with and evangelize people in underprivileged communities through short term medical and dental clinics. Medical experience is helpful but in no way necessary. In fact, it is just as crucial to have non-medical Christian brothers and sisters to support the work of the clinic and to spend focused time establishing relationships with local Brazilians and sharing with them the love of Christ. Please pray and consider joining the team. If interested, visit cfcbirmingham.org/brazil23 or contact Michael Dumas at dumasms@gmail.com

***Beat the Clock and Sign Up to Volunteer for VBS!***

Whether it's crafts, Bible study, rec time, or missions there's a place for you to serve this year at Vacation Bible School! VBS will take place June 26-29 from 9 a.m.-noon. Please visit [cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer](http://cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer) to sign up to volunteer. Volunteer children can sign up now with a link that comes to your email after you sign up. Child registration for everyone else will begin in April. If you have any questions you can email Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirminhgam.org.

***Ladies Spring Bible Studies***

Ladies, join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am for one of two six-week studies: one of Psalms: Real Help for Real Life by Ray Ortlund, and the other a study of Jesus Through the Eyes of Women by Rebecca McLaughlin, starting on April 12, and ending on May 17. Childcare is available by reservation only, so please be sure to sign up both yourself and your little one/s! Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***College Game Night – Monday, March 27th at 7:00pm***

All college age men and women are invited to the Shepard’s home (1525 Glenwood Rd., Hoover, AL 35226) on Monday, March 27th at 7pm for games and pizza. Reach out to Rebecca Osteen (rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com) or Jonathan Shepard (shepo.shepard@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Sunday, March 26th, 2023**

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

“His Mercy Is More” Boswell & Papa

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.* (Ephesians 1:3-10)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*8Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!*

 *Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!* (Psalm 34:8)

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

“Only a Holy God” Farren, Robinson, Smith, & Thompson

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Matthew 16:13-20

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** James Finch

*5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* (Romans 8:5-8)

*9You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.* (Romans 8:9-11)

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**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]

“Rock of Ages” Hastings & Toplady

“I’d Rather Have Jesus” Miller & Shea

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Nick Murray

The Gospel According to John: “Who Can Listen to It?”

John 6:60-71

**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**

**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**

*14The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

“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***

Pray for those in our congregation who are currently contemplating serving long-term in the mission field, that the Lord would grant them wisdom and strength to follow his call upon their life wherever it may be, and that the Lord would raise up more missionaries from our own congregation to take the gospel to all nations.

***For Our City***

For Urban Hope Community Church, pastor Alton Hardy, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation's judicial system, that judges from the Supreme Court to traffic court would give right judgments, and that that those looking for justice would look to God as the final and never-failing Judge.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Bhutan, for boldness among believers as they face opposition and discrimination for their faith, that believers would have easier access to Bhutan and that God would open the hearts of many people in Bhutan to repent of their sins and believe the gospel, that God would provide the people of Bhutan with enough food and water, and that the humanitarian efforts of believers would point people to the gospel.



