**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.

4/23/23

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

***Tanzania Team Wish List Items Due Today***

A CFC team has just returned from Tumaini Jipya school in Tanzania where Rachel Hagues and her family are living for the semester, and a second team is departing 4/25 and will be bringing supplies with them. If you bought any items from the Amazon wish list and have them with you today, please leave them on the table in the commons.

***Membership Matters Class – Next Sunday, April 30th at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, April 30 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.

***Equip Classes Continue Tonight***

The Spring Semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes continue tonight! Dinner is served starting at 4:45pm. We’ll dismiss to classes around 5:30pm. The meal tonight is Taziki’s signature pasta for adults and pizza for kids.

***VBS Registration Now Open! (June 26-29)***

******We are so excited about VBS this summer! Participant registration is now open for children ages 4 (by September 1, 2023) through 5th grade completed. Children at Twists and Turns will play their way through VBS in fun locations such as the Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multiplayer Missions, and Skip Ahead Snacks. But more importantly, they’ll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely! Sign up today with this QR code or the Church Center app.

***VBS Volunteers Still Needed***

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 9:00am-noon. Please visit [cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer](http://cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer) to sign up to volunteer. The number of volunteers we have signed up directly affects the number of children we can have register for VBS. If you have any questions you can email Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirminhgam.org.

***Spring Held Gathering – Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00pm***

Ladies, join us on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:00pm for an evening of fellowship and encouragement as we discuss discipleship and godly friendship between women! For more details go to [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***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

**Sunday, April 23rd, 2023**

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

“The Solid Rock” Mote

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Behold my servant, whom I uphold,*

 *my chosen, in whom my soul delights;*

*I have put my Spirit upon him;*

 *he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

*2He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,*

 *or make it heard in the street;*

*3a bruised reed he will not break,*

 *and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;*

 *he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

*4He will not grow faint or be discouraged*

 *till he has established justice in the earth;*

 *and the coastlands wait for his law.*

*5Thus says God, the LORD,*

 *who created the heavens and stretched them out,*

 *who spread out the earth and what comes from it,*

*who gives breath to the people on it*

 *and spirit to those who walk in it:*

*6“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;*

 *I will take you by the hand and keep you;*

*I will give you as a covenant for the people,*

 *a light for the nations,*

*7 to open the eyes that are blind,*

*to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,*

 *from the prison those who sit in darkness.*

*8I am the LORD; that is my name;*

 *my glory I give to no other,*

 *nor my praise to carved idols.*

*9Behold, the former things have come to pass,*

 *and new things I now declare;*

*before they spring forth*

 *I tell you of them.”* (Isaiah 42:1-9)

**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)

“O Love that Will Not Let Me Go” Matheson & Miner

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Romans 4:1-12

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

*12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.* (Romans 6:12-14)

*22But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 6:22-23)

**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]

“Glorify Thy Name” Adkins

“What a Beautiful Name” Fielding & Ligertwood

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “Truth, Freedom, and Jesus”

John 8:31-59

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Before the Throne of God Above” Bancroft & Cook

**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** Bart Box

**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**

*20The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.* (Romans 16:20)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For members of our church who are currently enduring trials and suffering of various kinds: that God would draw near to them, hold them fast, and strengthen their faith during this time; that their fellow church members would join in sharing their burdens; that they would grow in their faith in God’s promises; and that God would providentially work these trials for the good of those that suffer and for God’s glory.

***For Our City***

For Philadelphia Baptist Church, pastor Ryan Adams, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, in light of the overturning of Roe v. Wade: that this ruling would allow more innocent children to live; that more states would limit or prohibit abortions; that churches would lead the way in creating a culture of life that cares for moms, dads, and babies, especially those who face difficult and desperate situations; and that legislators would wisely create laws and practices that will allow human flourishing for all.

***For Our World***

For CFC members Greg and Rachel Hagues who have been serving in Tanzania this semester, and for the team that will visit them this week, that God would continue to bless their efforts to serve vulnerable girls at the New Hope Secondary School, and that God would continue to supply for all the school’s ongoing needs.



