**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.

5/21/23

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

***VBS Updates! The Clock Is Ticking…***

Soon we will start sharing about our VBS week with the community! Be sure your family is registered so we know what space is still available. Sign up your child(ren) with this QR code or the Church Center app. Classes will fill up and we want to make sure everyone who is planning to attend has a spot!

***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.

***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

***Summer Ladies’ Bible Studies***

Ladies, join us on Wednesday mornings in June and July to study "Promises Kept" by Courtney Reissig. We have chosen this study because we think it will lend itself to easy participation even if group members can only attend part of the time. We will provide childcare. For more details and to sign up, go to cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Urgent Volunteer Needs for CFC Kids***

CFC Kids is in need of additional volunteers throughout May! We are looking for members who do not regularly serve in CFC Kids to help out with these open spots. If you do serve in CFC Kids, you are welcome to take an additional week in May if you are interested. Thank you for considering helping out so we can cover these open spots. Email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org if you are interested.

***Youth Group Takes a Break Until July***

There will be no Sunday night meetings for the youth group from now until July.

***Members' Meeting and Dinner – Sunday, June 4th at 5:00pm***

All members are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and members' meeting on Sunday, June 4th at 5:00pm. We will first gather for dinner, which will be provided by CFC, and then begin the members' meeting afterward. Important items on the agenda include the reception of new members, removal of members, a vote on a staff pastor, vote on deacon/deaconesses, and other important matters. Childcare will be offered after the meal.

**Sunday, May 21st, 2023**

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

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” Boswell, Papa, & Bleecker

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1“Come, let us return to the LORD;*

 *for he has torn us, that he may heal us;*

 *he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*

*2After two days he will revive us;*

 *on the third day he will raise us up,*

 *that we may live before him.*

*3Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;*

 *his going out is sure as the dawn;*

*he will come to us as the showers,*

 *as the spring rains that water the earth.”*

(Hosea 6:1-3)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*8You have kept count of my tossings;*

 *put my tears in your bottle.*

 *Are they not in your book?* (Psalm 56:8)

“To God Be the Glory” Crosby

“This Is My Father’s World” Babcock & Murray

**Public Reading of Scripture** – 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

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

*32If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” 33Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” 34Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.* (1 Corinthians 15:32b-34)

*1Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.* (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

**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]

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Townend

“O Praise the Name” Sampson, Hastings, & Ussher

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “Jesus Gets the Last Word”

John 11:1-44

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” Kauflin, Getty, Boswell, & Merker

**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** Corey Irby

**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**

 *54“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

 *55“O death, where is your victory?*

 *O death, where is your sting?”*

*56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

“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 the next generation being raised up in our church: that our church as a whole and parents in particular would be faithful to lead our children to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength; that the Word of God would continually be upon our lips as we disciple them; and that God would be pleased to save many children at CFC.

***For Our City***

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

***For Our Nation***

For police officers, firefighters, and first responders, that the Lord would help them to look after the good of others as they serve and protect; that they would be consistent in maintaining peace and just order; and that God would protect them as they serve in dangerous situations.

***For Our World***

For the nation of China: that Chinese believers would persevere in the face of persecution; that churches in China would be willing to take the gospel to the unreached parts of the country; that the government would end its abuse of the rights of citizens; and that God would remove leaders to seek to stop the spread of the gospel and bring harm on their people.



