**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.

7/16/23

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

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, August 13th at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, August 13th 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.

***Hospitality Volunteers Needed***

We are in need of more volunteers for the hospitality team. Ways to serve include greeting, handing out worship guides, making coffee and more. Please email Mandy Hewitt at [mandyrhewitt@gmail.com](mailto:mandyrhewitt@gmail.com) to get involved.

***Youth Group Meets Tonight***

Youth will meet from 5:00-6:30 every remaining Sunday in July. All students entering 6th-12th grade are welcome to attend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please direct any questions to Billy Shepard at [bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org).

***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.

***Two Summer Men’s Bible Study Options***

Later this summer, CFC will be hosting two different 4-week men's Bible studies. One option is a 7:00am Tuesday study led by Dennis Schauer on the life of David. It will run from July 11-August 1. The other option will be noon on Thursdays, July 6-27, led by Billy Shepard. We will be studying the prayers of Paul. Register in the Church Center app. Men who participate are encouraged to bring food and enjoy growing in God's Word together. If you have any questions, please reach out to Billy Shepard at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

***Sign Up Now for Women’s Discipleship***

Registration is open now for CFC's mentorship program, “Growing Together.” To find out more, and to sign up to be a mentor or find a mentor, go to cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Still Spots to fill in CFC Kids for 2023-2024***

Thank you to those who have already signed up to volunteer in CFC Kids! We are still in need of teachers and assistants for CFC Kids. Be sure you have filled out your form (find it in your midweek email) even if you are currently teaching and plan to continue. If you recently had a baby or are expecting soon, you can still complete the form and let us know in the comments what months you would be unavailable to serve. Having the information now is helpful so we know where to save a spot for you!

**CFC Kids Volunteer Training**

There are two CFC Kids Volunteer training opportunities scheduled: **July 23 directly after church (lunch included) and July 30 at 4:00pm**. Please let us know which one you plan via the link in the Midweek Announcements. (There is also a place to indicate if neither date works for you.) Attending one CFC Kids Volunteer training session is required to ensure that all volunteers are updated on current CFC Kids practices to keep our classrooms a safe and fun environment. (\*If you are serving with a spouse, only one person per household is required to attend as there is no childcare provided during these meetings.)

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

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

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” Myrin & Redman

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*8The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

*slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*9He will not always chide,*

*nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*10He does not deal with us according to our sins,*

*nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*11For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

*so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

*12as far as the east is from the west,*

*so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

*13As a father shows compassion to his children,*

*so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

*14For he knows our frame;*

*he remembers that we are dust.* (Psalm 103:8-14)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 1:2)

“Revive Us Again” Adler, Husband, & MacKay

“Thy Mercy, My God” Stocker & McCracken

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 119:33-48 Veleka Finch

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Bart Box

*2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.* (1 John 5:2-3)

O Lover of the loveless,

It is thy will that I should love thee with heart, soul, mind, strength,  
    and my neighbor as myself.  
But I am not sufficient for these things.  
There is by nature no pure love in my soul;  
Every affection in me is turned from thee;  
I am bound, as slave to lust,  
I cannot love thee, lovely as thou art, until thou dost set me free.  
By grace I am thy freeman and would serve thee,  
  for I believe thou art my God in Jesus,  
  and that through him I am redeemed, and my sins are forgiven.  
With this freedom I would always obey thee,  
  but I cannot walk in liberty,  
  any more than I could first attain it, of myself.  
May thy Spirit draw me nearer to thee and thy ways.  
Thou art the end of all means,  
  for if they lead me not to thee, I go away empty.  
Order all my ways by thy holy Word  
  and make thy commandments the joy of my heart,  
  that by them I may have happy communion with thee.  
May I grow in thy love and manifest it to mankind.

Spirit of love, make me like the loving Jesus;  
  give me his benevolent temper, his beneficent actions,  
  that I may shine before men to thy glory.  
The more thou produces in love in me and by me,  
  humble me the more; keep me meek, lowly,  
  and always ready to give thee honor. Amen.

(From the Valley of Vision, “Christian Love”)

*13In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.* (Ephesians 1:13-14)

**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]

“All I Have Is Christ” Kauflin

“Speak, O Lord” Getty & Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Daniel Barriault

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** Abby Kirk

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

“The Gospel According to John: “A Love-Love Relationship”

John 14:15-31

**The Lord’s Supper**

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

**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** Nick Murray

**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**

*24The LORD bless you and keep you;*

*25the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

*26the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

(Numbers 6:24-26)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For those in our church who are married, that husbands and wives would love and serve one another with sacrificial joy and patience, that the faithfulness of Christ would mark the marriages of Christ Fellowship Church, and that the marriages of CFC members would display the beauty of Christ’s love to a world that is skeptical of God’s good design and intentions in marriage.

***For Our City***

For Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, pastor David Eldridge, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the abolition of human trafficking in our country, that God would intervene and break the power of the wicked perpetrators of these actions, that the full measure of justice would be brought upon those guilty of these crimes, and that victims would be rescued and rehabilitated to the dignity they deserve as God’s image bearers.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Libya, that followers of Christ would count it worth to suffer for Christ rather than deny him, for peace and stability in the country for the sake of the spread of the gospel and for the good of all citizens, and that religious persecution would end and that the government would enact fair and just laws.

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