**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.

7/23/23

**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 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.

***Friendship Partners Sign-Up***

If you'd like to get to know an international student in Birmingham, Friendship Partners is a great way to begin! The program is a 9-month commitment to meet up once a month with an international student. Orientations will be held Aug. 2 and Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Briarwood. Contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845 or schauer.dennis@gmail.com if you're interested!

***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 23, 2023**

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

“Yet Not I but through Christ in Me” Robinson, Thompson, & Farren

**Welcome** Jared Jones

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,*

 *and to you shall vows be performed.*

*2O you who hear prayer,*

 *to you shall all flesh come.*

*3When iniquities prevail against me,*

 *you atone for our transgressions.*

*4Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,*

 *to dwell in your courts!*

*We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,*

 *the holiness of your temple!*

*5By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,*

 *O God of our salvation,*

*the hope of all the ends of the earth*

 *and of the farthest seas;*

*6the one who by his strength established the mountains,*

 *being girded with might;*

*7who stills the roaring of the seas,*

 *the roaring of their waves,*

 *the tumult of the peoples,*

*8so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth*

*are in awe at your signs.*

 *You make the going out of the morning and the evening*

 *to shout for joy.* (Psalm 65:1-8)

**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 Behold the Wondrous Mystery” Boswell, Papa, & Bleecker

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Isaiah 55:1-13

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

*6No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.* (1 John 3:6-8)

*13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

(1 John 4:13-15)

**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]

“Jesus, Thank You” Sczebel

“He Will Hold Me Fast” Habershon & Merker

**Prayer for Illumination** Dom Johnson

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “Jesus, the True Vine”

John 15:1-17

**The Lord’s Supper**

“All Glory Be to Christ” Kensrue

**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** Sam Price

**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**

*5I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 15:5)

“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 our church, that we would develop evangelistic friendships with friends, family, and neighbors who do not know the Lord; that we would have discernment and boldness in knowing how to best reach them with the gospel; and that the Lord would be pleased to draw people to himself through our faithful witness.

***For Our City***

For the Church at Brook Hills, pastor Matt Mason, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the many in our country battling with mental health issues: that God would regard with tender compassion those suffering from anxiety, depression, or other mental illnesses; for the close family members of those struggling who are trying to help and to understand; and for counselors and health care providers seeking to provide treatment to the suffering.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Afghanistan: that even as many gospel workers were forced to flee in recent months, God would send more to this country and that he would protect those that go; that God would sustain the faith and strengthen the witness of Afghan believers and churches; and that for the good of the Afghan people, God would put an end to terrorism and violence there.



