**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.

8/13/23

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

***International Student Furniture Giveaway – Saturday, August 26***

With the start of the semester, many international students are relocating to Birmingham. One very tangible way to serve them is by providing furniture to help furnish their apartments. The Schauers have helped to organize a day to distribute furniture to students. We need 20-25 volunteers on Saturday, Aug. 26 starting at 8am in the CFC parking lot. Work will include loading furniture into vehicles in the parking lot, and driving vehicles to apartments to help them move in their furniture. Trucks, trailers or SUVs are a huge help for any that have them. The entire giveaway should last from 8am-2pm. If you’d like to donate furniture, contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845. Most needed items for students are: desks, chairs, tables, beds, small apartment furniture.

* There is a *great need* for any sort of volunteers!

***Fall EQUIP Registration Is Coming***

EQUIP will return this fall on September 17. Registration will start this week! Like last year, we will eat dinner at 5:00pm, and all kids and youth classes will function in the same way. But there will be some changes to the adult classes that are offered.

* One of the big changes is that all the adults will go to the same class.
* For the first part of the semester, that class will be called “Teach Us to Pray,” and it will primarily be an emphasis on corporate prayer. Think of the class as a month of prayer meetings, where each class will essentially be a worship service of corporate prayer and song. Our hope is that these prayer gatherings will serve our body in reshaping how we pray together in our monthly prayer meetings in the future. This will last about 4 weeks.
* For the second part of the semester, our newest staff pastor, Brian G., will teach all the adults together in a class called “God’s Heart for the Nations.” We’ll trace this theme throughout Scripture and think about what it means for our church as a whole and our lives in particular.
* We believe both of these classes are so important that we want every adult in our church to be able to attend without having to choose between these or another great class.

***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.

***Fall Women’s Bible Study***

Ladies, please join us for a study of the rich theology and history of the Book of 1 Kings. Paige Herr will lead us in an inductive Bible study on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Childcare is available. Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Newly Restocked Bookstall!***

We’ve refreshed and restocked the bookstall in the Commons with helpful titles on a range of topics and interests. You can use Venmo or pay cash. See the signage on the bookstall for instructions.

***Directory Updates***

For all members of CFC, if you have recently moved, added children to your family, or would like to update your email address or picture in the church directory, please email those updates to Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org.

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**

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

“Come Ye Sinners” Hart & Owen

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*6Blessed be the LORD!*

 *For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.*

*7The LORD is my strength and my shield;*

 *in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;*

*my heart exults,*

 *and with my song I give thanks to him.*

*8The LORD is the strength of his people;*

 *he is the saving refuge of his anointed.*

*9Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!*

 *Be their shepherd and carry them forever.* (Psalm 28:6-9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*1Behold, how good and pleasant it is*

 *when brothers dwell in unity!* (Psalm 133:1)

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Luther

“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer” Stiff

**Public Reading of Scripture** – 1 Corinthians 13

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

*1I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

*19Blessed be the Lord,*

 *who daily bears us up;*

 *God is our salvation.* (Psalm 68:19)

**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]

“Before the Throne of God Above” Bancroft & Cook

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

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “The Prayer of Jesus”

John 17:1-26

**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** Brian G.

**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**

*34A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

“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 our church, that we would maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3), that any cause for division amongst brothers and sisters in Christ would be addressed quickly and humbly, and that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8).

***For Our City***

For Faith Presbyterian Church, pastor Jason Sterling, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For president Joe Biden and all other elected officials, that they would use authority for the benefit of others; that they would act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly; and that they would exercise discernment and wisdom in governing our cities, states, and nation.

***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.



