**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.

4/20/2025

**Upcoming CFC Events & Ministry Announcements**

***Membership Matters Class DATE CHANGE — Monday, May 5 at 6:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Monday, May 5 at 6:00pm. 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.

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***VBS Registration is Now Open!***

VBS this year will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God’s amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. We will learn together that God made us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. VBS will take place June 23-26 from 9 a.m.-noon. Kids ages 4 (by September 1, 2024) through completed 5th grade are welcome! **VBS registration is currently open for CFC families. We will open registration to the community on May 8.** Register in the Church Center app.

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***Women’s Bible Studies for April & May***

Ladies, join us for one of two Bible studies this Spring:

1. **Day Time Study: Exodus, Part 3, led by Paige Herr**

* Dates: April 16–May 7
* Time: Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am
* Childcare is provided

1. **Nighttime Study: 3D Gospel Ministry, led by Haven Fox**

* Dates: April 14–May 5
* Time: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm

Register for either study on the Church Center app!

***Spring Held Gathering – Thursday, May 1***

Ladies, please join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, May 1 for our Spring Held Gathering! We will enjoy dinner, a time of worship, and hear from Brooke Talley, founder of Songs in the Night, a ministry to widows. She will share her personal testimony of loss and new beginnings. Register on Church Center.

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***Upcoming CFC Global Outreach Trip Opportunities***

* **Germany / July 19-26:**The goal of this trip is to connect with CFC Sent Partners serving in the Middle East for a week of encouragement, learning about ministry in the Arab world, and laboring together in local outreach to Arab tourists. Please reach out to Brian G. if you have questions.
* **Brazil / August 13-21:**The goal is to assist in planting and growing new churches in underprivileged communities by connecting with local people through medical and dental clinics. Medical experience is helpful but not necessary. It is also crucial to have non-medical brothers and sisters to support the work of the clinic and spend time establishing relationships and sharing the gospel. Please reach out to Jess Mann if you have questions.

**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

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

“Because He Lives” Gaither

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*[1] Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. [2] And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. [3] His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. [4] And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. [5] But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. [6] He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. [7] Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” [8] So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. [9] And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.* (Matthew 28:1–9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*[4] Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.* (Revelation 1:4–5)

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

“Man of Sorrows” Kottas & Bliss

**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]

**Baptisms** Benji Davis and Oliver Strout

*[12]...Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. [13] And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, [14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.* (Colossians 2:12–14)

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape, Nifong, & Hall

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

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

Behold: “The Church that Is Lukewarm”

Revelation 3:14-22

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Amazing Grace” Arne & Newton

**Offering**

***[9] For 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)

***[7] Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And 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**

May you remain faithful, persevering in the face of opposition and overcoming by the blood of the Lamb, so that one day, not too distant from today, you may with all the saints behold in the new Jerusalem the face of Him who loves you and gave Himself for you, never to weep again, suffer again, or die again, only to reign forever with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

“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**

***Baptism***

Baptism is a visual of the gospel story and a powerful reminder to the church of their identity with the crucified and risen Christ. The sacrificial death of Jesus and His victorious, bodily resurrection from the dead form the backdrop to baptism as believers are symbolically united to their Redeemer. Baptism in no way saves us, but it does call attention to the One who has saved us. If you know Jesus as Savior but have never been baptized, please speak with an elder after the service. If you are a baptized believer, rejoice today as you are reminded of your salvation in and through Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

***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 our lives would be marked by the resurrection life of Jesus, that we would receive the loving reproof of Jesus in any area of our lives where our faith is lukewarm, and that God’s Spirit would fill us with a zeal to get the gospel into every corner of our lives and every corner of the world.

***For Our City***

For all gospel-preaching churches in our city, that they would clearly proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our only hope in life and death, and that those hearing the gospel proclaimed might trust in Christ and give their lives to follow him.

***For Our Nation***

For an increase in healthy churches in every city across our country: that these churches would be known for their gospel proclamation, their love of neighbor, and their commitment to the truth; that God would supply them with faithful pastors, elders, and church members; and that God would close the doors of churches that confuse the world by editing the truths of the Bible or by maligning the character of God.

***For Our World***

For the persecuted church around the world: that the hope of the resurrection would encourage obedience, endurance, and perseverance during suffering and tragedy; that these believers’ faithful responses to persecution would produce conviction among those who are persecuting believers; and that God would turn those who are enemies of the gospel today into faithful followers of Christ tomorrow.

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