



## AND ALL GOD'S CHILDREN SAY...

When we gather together, we fellowship, sing, listen to the Word of God, celebrate Communion, and pray. More than once in our services, the word “Amen” is spoken with great reverence, enthusiasm, and joy. However, have you ever stopped to think about why we say “Amen”? What if I told you that “Amen” pays homage to the roots of the languages of origin of the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament)? Amen is a Hebrew word meaning “Yes, I agree” (White 71) or “So be it” (Stookey 11). When a pastor hears a strong “Amen!” from the congregation, they know that others agree with their understanding of the text. Following our prayers with “Amen” provides an affirmative ending to our praises and requests.

This word has transcended the Jewish faith; it was adopted by the Greeks and officially entered the Greek language during their occupation of Israel (Gurvis, Jacob, et al.).

Over the course of history “Amen” has continued to hold significance in churches and private faith practices, and a version has been developed in virtually every language that Christians speak (Stookey 11). There are 63 instances of the word “Amen” in the Bible (Churchhistory.org). These instances span Old Testament historical writings, Psalms, the Gospels, Paul’s letters, and even Revelation. The uses vary, but the meaning remains consistent, representing a form of affirmation or belief. Many times, it is translated as “verily” or “truly.” For example, John 8:21 states, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.” In Greek, the word “truly” was translated from “Amēn” (Churchhistory.org). Another instance, with a different tone, is found in Romans 1:25: “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.” This example affirms that God is the Creator and should be praised, rather than the wrongdoing Paul is condemning. These Biblical examples help us appreciate the power in affirming truth within our worship services.

In our church, we say Amen when we recite the Lord’s Prayer; many of our hymns include the word; the doxology has a beautifully harmonic version; and our pastors end their sermons with a strong Amen. These statements signal our belief in our faith. Throughout the history of Christianity, this word has remained an integral part of the language of prayer and worship. Let us follow the example of those who have come before us in affirming our belief and expressing our agreement with one another.

*Rev. Alyssa Burton*



**LONG TERM  
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not listed online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of the individuals you put on the list.

**REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS**  
New Hope, Letohatchee, AL  
Azalea Hills, Mobile, AL

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month. The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, September 12.** Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

**ATTENDANCE**  
**Aug. 25:** Worship Service: 97  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 75  
**Sept. 1:** Worship Service: 87  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 58

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
September 22nd is ***Love Thy Neighbor Sunday!*** The Evangelism committee hopes that you will invite your neighbors (friends, family, and community) to worship with us and join us for a pot luck lunch.



Potluck

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**  
The Bible tells us that after the Creation “God looked over everything God had made; it was so good, so very good” (Genesis 1:31). **Just as God takes delight in the work of Creation, so are we called to take delight in our stewardship of what has been entrusted to us.**

As we look over our beloved church building in 2024, we can see there are areas we need to maintain and improve to ensure a welcoming, comfortable, and accessible environment for all who come to worship and participate in our ministries. To this end, we are launching a three-year capital campaign with a goal of raising \$300,000. This campaign will fund crucial upgrades and repairs to our church facilities, including:

- 1. Upgrading our HVAC System, Most is Beyond its Life Expectancy,(\$122,000 +)**
- 2. Paying of our Roof Repair Loan(\$78,000)**
- 3. Upgrading Restroom Facilities in the Basement and Across from the Church Office (\$90,000)**
- 4. ADA-Compliant Hearing Aid System for the Sanctuary (\$10,000)**

**We invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to this capital campaign, above your commitment to the annual budget. Your contribution, no matter the size, will make an impact. Our congregation has a history of generous giving, and we are confident that with your support and prayers, we can achieve our goal of ensuring that First Christian Church continues to be a place of welcome that inspires delight for years to come.**

To participate, return your Pledge Card to the Church Office marked Attn: Matt.



## Food Pantry

### SEPTEMBER NEEDS: Shelf Stable

Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Ramen Noodles, Canned Soup, Toilet Paper, Jelly, Fruit, Cereal, and

Crackers. Please leave your donations on the Food Pantry cart inside the Sanctuary Lobby.



The 2024 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may email the office at [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call 256-881-0150 to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give)

In Huntsville and other communities, feminine hygiene products deserts exist. Girls and sometimes their mothers cannot attend school because the family cannot afford feminine hygiene products, and so the girls stay home from school or their mothers from work. Our emphasis will be on the girls' needs.

The Outreach Committee would like to support Title One schools with needs for girls without monies to buy these products. We would like to have regular donations of hygiene products and sanitary pads are preferred. There is a collection box in the Sanctuary Lobby and we will deliver the donations the Huntsville City Schools' Health Officer who will distribute the donations as needed at the schools.

Please consider providing ongoing support with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann, Outreach Committee

