

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

11:00 a.m.

**PRELUDE**      *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*      Luther

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**      "Let your light shine"      Matt. 5:16

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**      Leah Fleenor, Liturgist

Leader: People of God:  
The Lord is our rock and refuge,  
a mighty fortress is our God.

**People: The Lord is our hope and our trust.  
We will continually praise the Lord,  
who is a never-failing bulwark.**

### +Prayer of Adoration

God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of—faith, hope, and love—that we may abide in you eternally through Jesus Christ, the Lover of our souls and the one who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**+HYMN OF PRAISE**      No. 366 vs. 1,2,3  
*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, never – more temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

## +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers: God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others but also to ourselves. Confessing our sin in prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, who desires to deliver us and to cast out fear.

**People: God of life, we admit to you and to each other that we have not lived lives of love. We have lost patience and been rude. We have been irritable and insisted on our own way. We have even let love end. Forgive us and heal us, dear God, through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.**

## +ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY

Liturgist

Leader: God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end. Do not fear, but have faith in God's steadfast love, God's healing power, and God's ability to make all things new in Christ.

**People: By the grace of Christ, God forgives us in love and summons us to abide in faith, hope, and love. Thanks be to God.**

## +HYMN OF PARDON

No. 300, vs. 1,2,3

*We Are One in the Spirit  
(They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*Refrain:*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

*Refrain*

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

*Refrain*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Rev. Campbell

**New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13**      NT p. 153

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise be to you O Christ.**

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Rev. Kevin M. Campbell

## "A More Excellent Way"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

#### Offertory

Kaiser

*It Only Takes a Spark  
(Pass It On)*

### +Prayer of Dedication

### +AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, the creator of all life and beauty,  
who blesses our journey.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who lived as a friend and savior to all he met  
as he traveled,  
and who ate and laughed, wept and celebrated  
with them in love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who rides on the gentle breeze,  
who strengthens our bindings, and  
who offers hope eternal.**

**We believe in the church,  
which stands open to all travelers,  
and bears witnesses to the everlasting love of God. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>As quoted from Daily Prayers for All Seasons, (New York, NY: church Publishing Incorporated, 2014), p. 122.

### +HYMN OF SENDING

No. 693

*Though I May Speak  
(The Gift of Love)*

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.**

**Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

### +CHARGE AND BLESSING

### +POSTLUDE

Fawcett

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

+ALL WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS

*Due to rising case counts and wide community spread, breakthrough infections, and positive COVID church exposure, the Session feels reinstating the Church's face covering protocol is a good first-step in keeping the Church open for in-person activities and worship.*

Thank you, **Leah Fleenor**, for serving as liturgist for today's worship service.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who served at Faith in Action this past week!

**GOOD NEWS COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** – will be held at the Food City Support Center on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Chad Roberts. Tickets to the breakfast are free. If you would like to attend, please see Richie Hooker or Angie Haynes.

**HURLEY VA FLOOD ASSISTANCE** – Flood victims need the following items: towels, wash cloths, dish towels, potholders, small kitchen appliances, new socks and underwear of all adult sizes. Please place your donation in the red tub in the church narthex no later than Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**A VACCINATION CLINIC** will be held immediately following worship, Sunday, October 10, 2021. If you are interested in receiving a vaccination, please contact the church office to reserve your spot!

SINKING SPRING will participate in the **HAUNTED HILL TRUNK OR TREAT** on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. We will be giving out treat bags for all the children who participate. We will need **A LOT** of candy. If you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church. If you would like to assist with the event, please contact Richie Hooker or Angie Haynes.

**WANT TO HELP?** Our hearts go out to all the people who have been impacted by the recent wildfires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and the refugee crisis. Please consider donating to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help people around the world affected by these disasters. You may give by noting **PDA** on your check or online contribution.

**ATTENTION YOUTH:** Holston Youth Retreat at Holston Camp in Banner Elk – November 12-14. Contact Judy Wilson to add your name to the “Yes! I am going” list. depending on weather conditions, you will enjoy hiking, Zip Lines and more.

#### 2021 Operation Christmas Child

- Pick up a shoebox from the church or use one of your own
- Choose a boy or girl and the age of the child
- Fill with Gifts (Gift Suggestions available at church or on the website <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>)
- Pray for the child who will receive your gift
- For information about how you can “FOLLOW YOUR BOX” check out: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/label-options> PLEASE DO NOT PUT A CHECK FOR THIS OPTION IN YOUR SHOEBOX ... this is something you must do and print out and get code before turning box in for delivery.

- Other Ways to Help

- You can build a shoebox online - <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>
- Donate and we will shop for you. On your check payable to SSPC, simply note “Operation Christmas Child” on the memo line of your check.
- Donate to cover the cost of shipping boxes. On your check payable to SSPC, please note Operation Christmas Child postage.

Anyone wishing to send **BAJA CONRAD** a card or note please contact the church office.

#### IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

##### TODAY, Sunday, September 19

10:25 a.m. Bell Rehearsal – Music Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship

##### Monday, September 20

6:30 p.m. Session Meeting

##### Tuesday, September 21

6:30 p.m. Fall Bible Study – The Lord’s Prayer – Session 3  
8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall  
8:00 p.m. Al Anon next to Fellowship Hall

##### Wednesday, September 22

10:00 a.m. Fall Bible Study – Zoom- The Lord’s Prayer (Ses. 3)

##### Thursday, September 23

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study – Shoney’s

##### Friday, September 24

7:00 a.m. Good News Community Prayer Breakfast

##### Saturday, September 25

6:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall

##### Sunday, September 26

10:25 a.m. Bell Rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
3:00 p.m. Arts Array Concert – Paramount Chamber Players

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Laura Brown (home), Dee Hopkins (home), Bob Horsch (Commonwealth), August Lageman (Rehab at Bristol – Exit 7), Dr. Darlene Litton (Commonwealth), Sherrye May (home), Eleanor Munsey (English Meadows), Bob & Doris Tolar (English Meadows), George Treadwell (home)

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONCERNS: Winkie Barton, **Friends and Family of John Bundy**, Jim Bunn, Lynda Campbell, Richard Cano, Family and friends of Dr. F. Ellison Conrad, Vickie Cornelius, Belden Evans, Walter Holcomb, Anthony Kitchen, Cian-Leslie Family, Randa McCall, **Stuart Mellichamp (Corann Kitchen’s cousin)**, Bobby Ratcliff, Family and friends of Robb Ratcliff, Janie Snyder, Family and friends of James “Jim” Yates

AND FOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: Walter Holcomb, Jr., Joseph McGraw, Andrew Wing, Travis Womer

\*\*Names remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer\*\*

#### SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Call the Church at 276-628-3361

**Women’s Circle:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 pm \*chg’d date to meet\*

**Men’s Bible Study** 7:00 am Thursday mornings at Shoney’s

**Pastor’s Bible Study:** 6:30 pm Tuesdays in person; 10 am Wednesdays by Zoom

**Youth:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month following worship

**Wonderful Wednesdays:** after school on Wednesdays for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, beginning Oct. 6

**Two-week Study by Dr. Martin Dotterweich:** 9:45-10:30 am on Sundays, Oct. 10 and 17

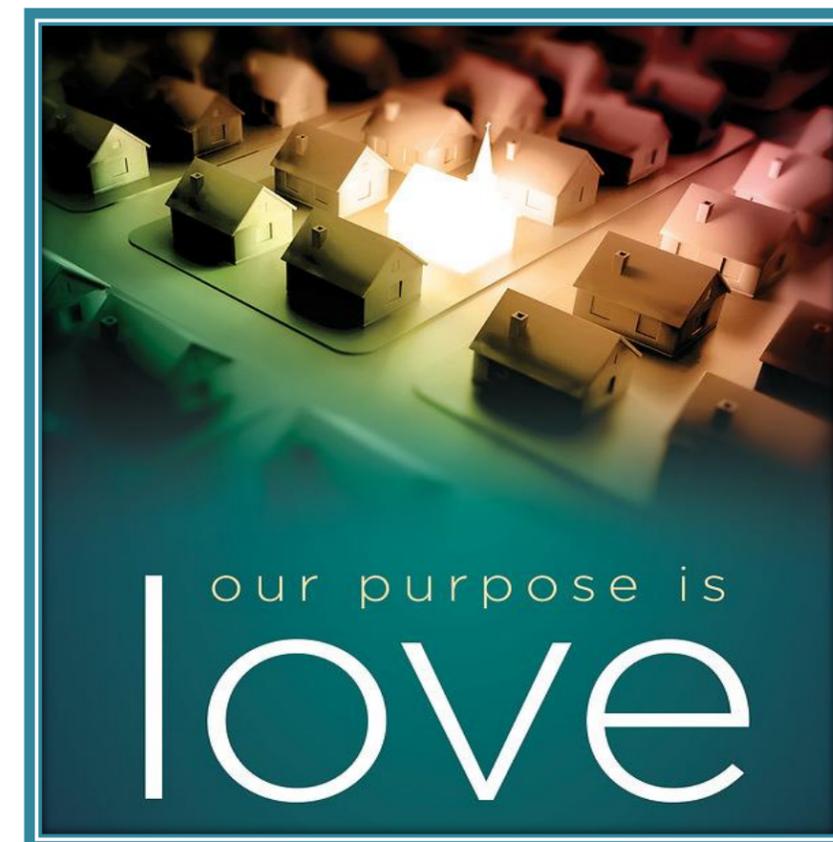
# Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church

Organized 1772

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



**“A More Excellent Way”**



136 E. Main St. + Abingdon, VA 24210

Church Office: 276.628.3361

Email: [office@sinkingspring.org](mailto:office@sinkingspring.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Responding to God’s grace,  
we are called to be a welcoming community,  
following Jesus, serving joyfully,  
and sharing God’s love with each other  
and the world.*

**Ministers:** Members & Friends of the Congregation

**Pastor:** Kevin Campbell [pastor@sinkingspring.org](mailto:pastor@sinkingspring.org)

**Director of Music:** Joseph Trivette [SSPCMusDir@gmail.com](mailto:SSPCMusDir@gmail.com)

**Accompanist:** John Sharpe [SSPCPiano@gmail.com](mailto:SSPCPiano@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Donna Keen-Hale [office@sinkingspring.org](mailto:office@sinkingspring.org)

**Website:** <https://sinkingspring.org>

**Podcast URL:** <https://sinkingspring.org/feed/podcast>