

CONFIDENTLY CALL ON THE LORD



Abiding Grace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
...where families connect

October 15, 2017



Abiding Grace Contact Information:

Newton County Office: 770-385-7691
Henry County Office: 770-707-2144

Pastor Jonathan Scharf (Newton)

Cell Phone: 404-218-7568
Email: pastor@abidinggrace.com

Pastor Benjamin Steenbock (Henry)

Cell Phone: 770-707-2144
Email: pastorben@abidinggrace.com

Vicar Steven Saatkamp

Cell Phone: 414-828-9991
Email: vicar@abidinggrace.com

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 15TH, 2017

Welcome to Worship! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We're glad you are here and pray that God bless our time together in the Word. Today Jesus gives us encouragement for prayer. We'll see that we have every reason to gladly "tell it to the judge!" May God bless our time together here. Here are some things that may help you as we worship:

- **The Bulletin and Hymnal:** This bulletin you're holding has the entire Order of Service printed out for you. You'll need the hymnal only for the singing of the hymns listed in this bulletin. You can also scan the many resources for prayers, songs and other information in the hymnal as you take some time to meditate here in God's house. Specifically, today, the "Prayer" section might be helpful, hymns 407-413.
- **Restrooms:** You'll find them down the hall behind you on your left.
- **Babies and other young ones:** Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." It is important that our children get into the habit of being in church with the family. And as a result, sometimes we get to hear their spontaneous "joyful noises." If, however, you feel that your child is growing overly disruptive, there is a room down the hall on your right where you can watch the service on our closed-circuit TV. Volunteers will stay with your child if you would like to return to the sanctuary for worship.
- **"The Service"** – Today we continue our field test of this new order of service. Please see the feedback form in the entry way on the announcement table and help our new hymnal committee evaluate it.

THE SERVICE

WELCOME

INVOCATION

L(iturgist): In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C(ongregation): Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #478

With the Lord Begin Your Task

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

L: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his holy life and innocent death.

Trusting in him, I pray:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

ABSOLUTION

L: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY - *Kyrie, eleison*

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

The congregation is invited to join in.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y



God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you



thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord



Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord



God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



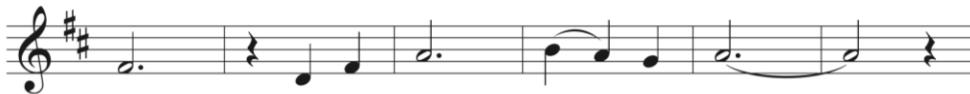
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed



at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our



prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly



One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE WORD

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-30

²²That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.²⁴So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.²⁵When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

²⁸Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

²⁹Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN’S SERMON

The children are invited to come forward for a message directed especially toward them.



PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM #121 *(read responsively)*

L: I lift up my eyes to the mountains

C: where does my help come from?

L: My help comes from the LORD,

C: the Maker of heaven and earth.

L: He will not let your foot slip

C: he who watches over you will not slumber;

L: indeed he who watches over Israel

C: will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The LORD watches over you

C: the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

L: The LORD will keep you from all harm

C: he will watch over your life;

L: The LORD watch over your coming and going

C: both now and forevermore.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning,

Is now, and will be forever. Amen

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:13-15

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

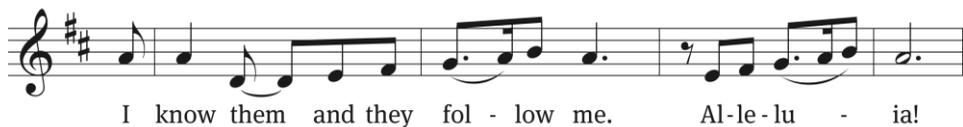
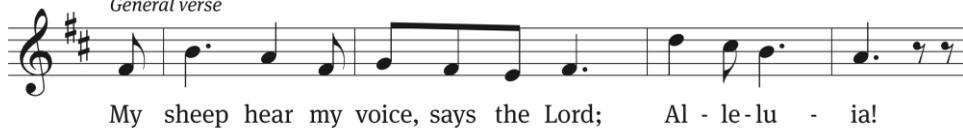
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the alleluias. When the verse appointed for the day is not sung, the congregation may sing the general verse.

First time, cantor or choir; second time, all



General verse



Final refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

⁴“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think,⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #413

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

THE SERMON:

Luke 18:1-8

Tell it to the Judge

1. He chose you
2. He will bring about justice

Stand

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

L: Eternal Lord, you speak to us in words of love and light and power. Fill us with peace today as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Guide our lives today as we see clearly the path you have laid out for us. Work in us today through your Spirit that our thoughts, words, and actions glorify you and serve our neighbor.

C: Fill us with the Word we have heard today and move us to believe it and live it.

L: Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Take away their fear of criticism and contention and make them bold to say what you say. Fill them with a love like yours and lead them to announce the forgiveness of sins as your free gift to us and all people.

C: Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

L: Forgive us for the times we hear your Word but fail to live it in our lives. Break down the apathy that lurks in us and leads us to ignore eternal realities. Convict us with your law and then fill us so full of your gospel that we overflow with zeal to do your will.

C: Give us thankful hearts to live and love with joy.

L: Guard and guide us as we live in a society that despises what you say about marriage. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Move parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus even when their children grow up.

C: Protect us from the evil that surrounds us; give us pure hearts and minds.

L: Provide your divine compass for those who govern us by making laws and setting policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime and aggression. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

C: Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

L: Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

C: Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in your grace.

L: Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind.
(Pour out your special blessing on...here name the person and the cause of the petition.)
Fill eager minds with wisdom to discover new ways to treat disease and illness. Give patience and compassion to those who care for the sick and dying.

C: Lift the eyes of the dying to your love in Christ.

L: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

L: Eternal Lord, you guide the world with your mighty power and love all people because your Son lived and died and rose again. Hear our prayers, spoken and in silence, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

C: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

*The members of Abiding Grace Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. During the offering please take a moment to fill in the **friendship register** that is being handed down your aisle. After everyone has signed it, you may place it on the floor beneath the chair at the end of the row.*

THE SACRAMENT

Abiding Grace practices member communion. Please contact Pastor Scharf before coming forward for communion so that you can discuss this practice and God's Word and the love that motivates it.

Stand

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS) *Please join in as you feel comfortable with this new music.*



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(Spoken by the Congregation)*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei* (the congregation is invited to join in as they feel comfortable.)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



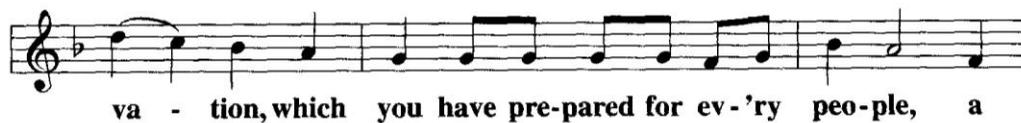
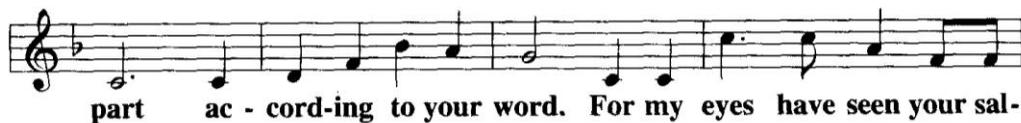
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION: *Please follow the directions of the ushers. During the distribution, in the 10:30 service, we will sing **Hymn 312 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared.** Following the distribution, the congregation joins to sing the Nunc Dimittis.*

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (The Song of Simeon)



L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

L: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

L: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD’S BLESSING *(Spoken by the Pastor)*

L: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #411

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Welcome! *It is wonderful to have all of you here with us today to worship our amazing God. Please stick around after worship to meet and get to know better your brothers and sisters in Christ.*

If the Spirit has worked through His Word today and moved you to want to find out more or to get involved – please speak to Vicar Saatkamp or any of the members after worship. If you have any questions or comments about anything that went on here or what was taught, again - please contact Pastor Scharf. And come again next week as we join together to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. See the announcements following for other Bible Study, fellowship, and service opportunities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presiding Minister:	Vicar Steven Saatkamp
Preacher:	Vicar Steven Saatkamp
Sound:	Greg Deemer
Ushers: 8:00am	Alan Emery & Wayne Mathena
10:30am	Joe Herman, Peter Sahlstrom, Jerry VanVickle, & Mike Kessler
Nursery: 10:30	Bekah Herman
Cleaning Team:	Vickie Fowler & Ann Armstrong

Announcements

Ladies Bible Study

Our next Ladies Bible Study will be TONIGHT, Sunday October 15th at 6pm. We will be covering Chapter 10, from Max Lucado's Traveling Light. You can join this Bible Study any time, even if you do not have a book. We hope to see you there!

Reformation 500 and Trunk-or-Treat – Oct. 29th

Come join us for our morning Reformation Services at **8 & 10:30** with Bible Study in between. Then stick around after the 2nd service for Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot. Just bring some candy or a costume and be a part of the fun. Then at **4pm**, we're hosting our sister churches in the area for a Reformation Festival with Joint choirs (Adult and Youth) and a special guest preacher and communion. Following that service will be a German Feast. Make a day of it. (Note: After Trunk-or-Treat, we'll play a Luther Movie on the Big Screen for those sticking around the whole day, and then choir will practice at 2:15, kids at 3:30.)

NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS (BIC) SIGN UP

Come join us for this class designed to answer your questions. We'll cover the basics of what Christianity is all about and answer your questions about God's Word and all the different teachings out there. BIC serves as our new member class, but everyone is welcome, whether you are considering membership or not. If you are interested in BIC or you know someone else who would like it, sign up for a **new session** on the table in the back by the green sign. It will be starting the first week of November (after Reformation 500). Childcare is available with advanced notice. All materials will be provided. Come grow with us!

Register for Preschool NOW!

Preschool is going and is running with the Newton County School Calendar. Abiding Grace Preschool provides a wonderful, safe environment for your kids to grow spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. Preschool for 3 and 4 year old classes will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday (9am-Noon). Register now, since there are limited spaces available. All sorts of information can be found on the table in the gathering area, and you can talk to the teachers, Mrs. Paulina Lightsey or Mrs. Joanna Saatkamp, or the director Mrs. Tina Jenkins.

Survey on "The Service"

If you haven't had a chance to fill out a survey, take one from the far table in the entry way. Please give your feedback on "The Service" so we can share with the committee that is designing the Order of Service for our new hymnal.

The Giving Tree

If you haven't noticed, please look at the tree with apples on it on the wall in the narthex. This is **The Giving Tree**. Its purpose is to help the Preschool with equipment, materials, and supplies needed. The way it works is to pick an apple, purchase the item listed on it, and place the item in the Preschool basket. If you don't want to go shopping, you can put the cost of the item in an envelope with the apple and we will go shopping for you. You may want to go in with someone else to purchase an item. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Financial Peace University

What if you could be debt-free? What if you could be in control of your finances, with an emergency fund on hand, retirement savings in place, and a solid plan for your family's future? Sound impossible? It doesn't have to be. Abiding Grace is now offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Wednesdays at 7 pm. Sign up now at <https://fpu.com/1050222>

Alternate Wednesday Night Option for Bible study – Oct. 4th-Nov. 8th

If you're not doing Financial Peace University and would still like an opportunity for Bible study, we'll join in at 7pm on our Synod's "Interactive Faith" Bible Study by one of our Seminary's Church History professors, Joel Otto. Come check it out this Wednesday!

Outreach Opportunities – Help us Invite our Community!!

- **Canvassing** – Every Wednesday night at 5:30, meet at church and we'll go out into a nearby neighborhood to knock on some doors and let them know about us. No talking necessary. Just come and team up with someone for moral support! Think of how thankful you are that someone let you know about Abiding Grace!
- **Follow-up Visits** – Talk to Vicar or Pastor to get set up to go on some visits of people who have expressed interest in Abiding Grace and let them know what we are all about.
- **Taste of Newton** – On Thursday October 19th, Abiding Grace is manning a table at our local Taste of Newton festival. We'll be getting set up before 4:30 and staying till about 8:30. If you would like to help out and taste some great foods, please speak with Vicar Saatkamp.
- **REFORMATION 500 OCTOBER 29TH** – Reformation 500 is coming up soon! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 29th. This free event is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to discover Abiding Grace. There are small cards on the table in back to help you invite your friends. Get the word out and mark your calendars!

I WAITED PATIENTLY
FOR THE LORD



HE TURNED TO ME AND
HEARD MY CRY

Unless otherwise noted, all music printed in this bulletin comes from Divine Service I in Christian Worship Supplement ©2008 by Northwestern Publishing House or Christian Worship Hymnal ©2003 by Northwestern Publishing House. These items are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A714318 and Christian Copyright Licensing # 11469598

Coming Events at Abiding Grace:

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Sundays at 8am	Worship
Sundays at 9:15am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Sundays at 10:30am	Worship
Sundays at 12:00 noon	Choir Practice
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-12am	Preschool (when Newton County Schools are in session)
Mondays at 6:30pm	Bible Information Class
Wednesdays at 5:30pm	Canvassing
Wednesdays at 7pm	Kids Club (0-10 year olds)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Youth Group (Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Adult Bible Study (Financial Peace U until Thanksgiving)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Interactive Faith Bible Study (Until Nov. 8)
Fridays at 9am	Building on the Rock (for developmentally disabled)

Upcoming Special Events

Oct. 19 th , 4:30-8pm	Taste of Newton Booth
Oct. 21 st , 8 - 3	Lutheran Women's Rally Memphis, TN
Sun. Oct. 29 th , 8&10:30am	Reformation Festival Worship
Sun. Oct. 29 th , 11:45am	Trunk or Treat
Sun. Oct. 29 th , 2:15pm	Reformation 500 Choir Practice
Sun. Oct. 29 th , 4:00pm	Reformation 500 Celebration (with area churches)
Sun. Nov. 12 th	Veteran's Recognition Service
Sat. Nov. 18 th	Family Thanksgiving Feast
Wed. Nov. 22 nd , 7pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sat. Dec. 2 nd	Abiding Grace Float in Covington & McDonough Christmas Parades
Sat. Dec. 9 th , 10am-2pm	Christmas4Kids
Sun. Dec. 24 th , 10:30am	Sunday School Christmas Program – Unity Sunday (No 8am service)
Sun. Dec. 24 th , 5 & 7pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sun. Dec. 25 th , 10:30am	Christmas Day Worship
Sun. Dec. 31 st	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols – Unity Sunday (No 8am service)