



*We Belong  
to Each Other*

On April 14th we will begin a new worship series "*Life Together*". Looking at Acts, we will remember what God really dreamed up with this thing we call church.

- What does it mean to be in meaningful community?
- How do we experience belonging?
- Why do we say- "we belong to each other?"

**It's a great time to belong @ Grove Church!**



**May 12th @ 10am**  
**One Worship Service**

We will culminate part 1 of "We Belong to Each Other" by worshipping TOGETHER! Join us for a convergent worship experience that is sure to be transformational.

## **We Belong to Each Other**

Everyone Belongs! Is it starting to sink in for you yet? We are well into our year of discovering how God is calling us to live out this truth. Before Lent we talked about how “We Belong to God” and now it’s time for us to discover what it means to belong to each other. This is going to be a season of experiencing meaningful connection and authentic community. We are going to look at the early church to get some clues about what it really means to be the church. AND we have a really big goal.

Are you ready?

We want to make sure every person is connected. Yes, you heard me right! We want every single Grover engaged in a meaningful group. Maybe for you it’s a Seekers Group or another small group like choir or youth group. Our hope is that each person attending Grove Church will have a place to call “home” with a group of people who welcome you just as you are.

Maybe you are interested in joining a group that is already in place or maybe you have an idea for a new group you would like to start. Wherever you find yourself, let us help you find your place to belong.

I am so excited to see what God is going to do as we nurture connection and experience what it means to belong to each other!

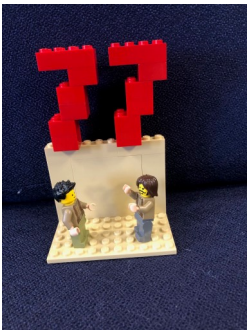
*Pastor Stacy*

## Faith Formation

### Intergenerational Faith Formation

On the second Sunday, April 14, during the 10:10 AM faith formation hour we invite all ages to join Pastor Eva in Fellowship Hall for a Creation Celebration in honor of Earth Day. God calls us to steward the earth and we will explore what that can mean for us and what we can do.

### Bible Adventures with LEGOS and More



During April we will follow along with the Bible lessons from Pastor Stacy's preaching series kick-off of our current theme *We Belong to Each Other: Life Together*. We will explore the formation of the early church and how the disciples gathered to care for one another and share the message of God's love.



Through Lego builds and mixed media options preschool and older children and youth can interpret God's word. We will meet in Rooms 204-206. Parents are invited to meet next door in Room 208 for casual conversations about life and faith.

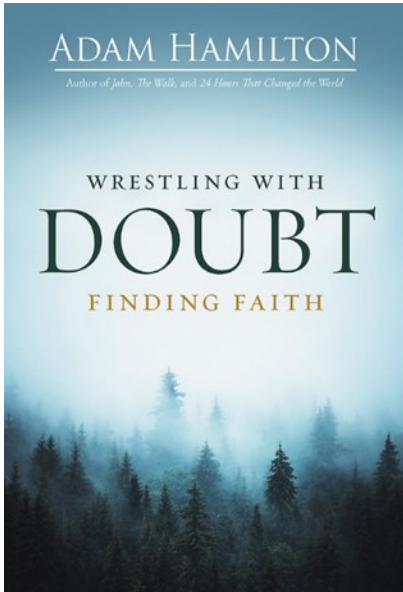
### Grace Space

Have you seen our Grace Space in the main Sanctuary and the Build Your Own Worship Bag station in the Annex hallway?

This purpose designed space helps families and children to worship together in meaningful ways. Children can choose from a variety of activities suitable for the worship space. There are coloring activities, books, and quiet fidget manipulatives. If your child is sound sensitive, we have noise reduction headphones to help make worship more comfortable. Watch for the refinement of this space in the months to come!

## Women's Bible Study Tuesday Evenings

Beginning April 16, Pastor Eva will be leading a new study with the book "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith" by Adam Hamilton.



Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, join best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. You will delve into questions like:

"Does God exist? How can I know?" "Is the Bible true?" "Why do prayers go unanswered?"

Books available Sunday, April 7, at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Eva, [pastoreva@grovechurch.org](mailto:pastoreva@grovechurch.org).

## Easter Fun

Thanks to all who stuffed eggs (3000 total) and to the Paul family for their Egg Hunt assistance making the day success. Thank you all!

We collaborated with Grove Preschool to assemble 60 Easter Baskets for CYWA in Coatesville.





**Save the Dates!**

July 15<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

Grove Church VBS

Registration begins May 1<sup>st</sup>

Watch our website [grovechurch.org](http://grovechurch.org) for forms.



### **We are hiring a Church Sexton—**

Grove is looking for a part time (20 hours a week) Sexton to oversee cleaning contractors, maintain HVAC systems, make minor repairs to facilities, be present for preschool needs when in session, set up rooms when needed for Sundays and special events, coordinate contacts with vendors, communicate lawn and snow issues and maintain communication with the building and maintenance team on a daily

or weekly basis as needs or issues with the facilities develop. We are looking for a motivated person, with experience in facility maintenance, who is flexible based on the needs of the church and who also enjoys working with people. Criminal background and Child Abuse History are needed. Hourly compensation is \$20.00 per hour. Anyone who is interested please send their resume by U.S. Mail to the church office at 490 W Boot Road, West Chester, Pa. 19380, by E-mail address to [office@grovechurch.org](mailto:office@grovechurch.org) or see Pastor Stacy.

Job Type: Part-time

Pay: \$20.00 per hour

Expected hours: 20 per week

Work Location: In person



## We've Noticed

The Pieces of One praise band plays at the Rooted Worship service every Sunday. They practice weekly and put in many hours to provide the contemporary music that we enjoy at Rooted.

Here is a little bit about the members of this group -

### Vocalists:

- DD Deischer-Eddy - Alto, recent college grad, currently working at Giant in Eagleview.
- Kristy Deischer-Eddy - Soprano, Executive Assistant for Honey Brook Township and the Uniform Manager for Downingtown East High School Marching Band. Kristy is also Grove's resident historian.
- Shannon Solon - Soprano, stylist for Hair Cuttery
- Mike Hardie - Baritone, Director of Youth Ministries, works for PJM.

### Band:

- Blake Nicholson - Piano, retired, proud father and grandfather, pianist for Youth Choir, occasional organist for Grove
- Rob Devitis - Guitar, has a marketing company and is also a Ben Franklin Impersonator.
- Jenny Devitis - Drums, Background Vocals, Office Administrator for the CCIU and plays in the band Faded Genes outside of Grove.
- Chris Yarnall - Bass, Background Vocals (Tenor Harmonies), Director of Contemporary Worship, works for Aetna in Dental/Vision Underwriting

*Thank you!*



**Grove's next workday for Good Works** is Saturday, April 13. We've got plenty of repair projects to complete to make Renee's home warmer, safer, dryer and healthier. Are you handy with tools? Have you got willing hands and an open heart? Come join us for the day.

Contact Betty at [goodworks@grovechurch.org](mailto:goodworks@grovechurch.org) to find out how you can help.

**Hall Monitors are needed during Preschool hours** when we have a Funeral or Special Event at the church. You must have current Safe Sanctuaries clearances.

Please contact the office by email or a phone call. (610) 696-2663 or [Office@GroveChurch.org](mailto:Office@GroveChurch.org)



## Grove's Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up

**Saturday, April 27**

**8:30 am**

**Church parking lot**

**Join us!**

**Bring a friend or two – all are welcome!**



## COMMUNITY DINNER

## COMMUNITY DINNER

Thursday, April 11th from  
4:30-6:30 pm

We will be serving Tacos and  
Sloppy Joes.

Questions—

[CommunityDinner@GroveChurch.org](mailto:CommunityDinner@GroveChurch.org).

### Grove Community Garden Help Needed

Thanks to all who contributed to rebuilding the garden last November. The picture shows the rebuilt beds ready to prepare for Spring planting this year. We will receive the first seedlings in mid-April and continue with crops thru October. Many hands are needed to be able to supply fresh produce to the food insecure people in our community. Help is needed to prepare the beds for planting, actually planting seeds and seedlings, watering, harvesting and delivery of the crops.



If you can contribute some time to help with these tasks, please send an email to [Garden@GroveChurch.org](mailto:Garden@GroveChurch.org) or let the church office know. I will get in touch with all volunteers with scheduling and needs as they arise. Let's continue our history of providing hundreds of pounds of food to our community.





## **Leadership Board met on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Opening Prayer and Spiritual Formation led by Nicole Paul

Keith Boggess led the Leadership Equipping conversation based on Chapter 1 of 5 *Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

Key points included

- reflection and adaptability when getting out into the community
- moving from attractional model
- not just being welcoming hosts but also good guests when we are out in the community
- not doing ministry FOR somebody but doing it WITH somebody

Goal accountability updated provided by Pastor Stacy and Robert Moore

- Current Accountant, working on end of year close to line items
- Cynthia (potential new accountant) will be available to meet and help after April 15<sup>th</sup>
- auditor change discussed as well
- Work on getting Key individuals (common users) together for Churchtrac meeting
- Average 170-180 in person attendance, this led to the question to ponder about how are we connecting with new guests
- Children's Build your own worship bags are up and running

Consent Calendar passed

Formally re-elected Robert Moore as Chair of Trustees for 2024

Strategic Planning led by Robert Moore

- Discussed supporting innovative ways to fundraise for ministry activities such as grants, business sponsorship, etc
- Plan to develop a formal budget process and meeting time with ministry leads to promote pre-planning of budget going forward
- Board voted to approve financial support for Youth and Young Adult ministries including ASP, Youth Choir and Mission Blitz.
- Board voted to approve financial support for Drama Ministry which will be presenting "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"



The Board will start thinking about the Gifts/talents that will be beneficial for new class of 2025 member to present to Nominations and Leadership Development Team to start their work

The Leadership Board will hold a Work Session April 8<sup>th</sup> to continue strategic planning and generative work.

Next open Board meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to join!



## Catching up with Nurture Team

Thank you for everyone's help in signing Easter cards at the end of February when it seemed way too early! We were able to mail those to our homebound members as well as college age folks. In addition, with Pam Humphrey's help, we were able to distribute Easter cards to the 22 staff members of the Grove Preschool.

With lots of participation from Nurture team members, we assembled over 100 Easter goodie bags for the Grove Preschool students which their teachers distributed prior to spring break. The bags contained puzzles, coloring pages, a bit of candy and news of all the Easter events at Grove.

In addition, the team assembled 24 gift bags for the church's homebound members. These held suncatchers with intriguing bird pictures on them, small baskets with a few chocolate eggs, a lovely crocheted sunflower made by Ann McCann and accompanied by a cute verse about the delight of giving to others, and a paper flower bouquet lovingly made and decorated by Pastor Eva's intergenerational faith formation class. Nurture Team members visited with the folks who live locally as they delivered the gift bags, which were very much appreciated.

# GROVE CHURCH'S CLOTHING MINISTRY

GROVE CHURCH INVITES YOU TO SHOP OUR  
SEMI-ANNUAL CLOTHING MINISTRY!

WE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: 6:30PM-8:30PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: 2:00PM-7:30PM



Accepting **donations** of gently used clothing & shoes  
(from babies to grandparents, all shapes and sizes)

**NO HANGERS, PLEASE.**

Sunday, 4/21 - Tuesday, 4/23



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** ~ *Prayerfully consider helping us out for an hour or two Everyone is welcome to help and there are tasks for anyone!*

**Sunday 4/21** ~help is needed to set up tables and racks in Asbury Hall, immediately following the Rooted service

Sunday: 2:15pm - 2pm

**Monday 4/22 & Tuesday 4/23** ~ help is needed to unpack & organize clothes. Bring the kids, they love to help!

Monday: 10am-2pm & 5pm-8pm

Tuesday: 10am-2pm & 5pm-8pm

**Wednesday 4/24 & Thursday 4/25** ~ help is needed to sell & reorganize during the sale. Bring a friend and come shop as well! You cannot beat the bargains!

Wednesday: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Thursday: 2:00pm – 7:30pm

**Friday 4/26** ~ help is need to pack up unsold items for donation & to return tables and racks to their proper locations

Friday: 11am-1pm

Any and all help is greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer, contact Rachel Byerly ~ [ClothingMinistry@GroveChurch.org](mailto:ClothingMinistry@GroveChurch.org)

**REMINDER – Donations accepted AFTER 12:15pm on SUNDAY, 4/21. Thank you.**

# APRIL

## Youth Schedule

Monday, 4/1- Tour Dance Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 pm

Sunday, 4/7

Tour Rehearsal 3:00-4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 4:45-6:00 pm  
Youth Group meets 6:00-8:00 pm

Monday, 4/8-Tour Dance Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 pm

Sunday, 4/14

Youth Choir sings at the Rooted Service  
Choir Rehearsal 12:30-1:30 pm Tour Rehearsal 1:45-3:30 pm  
Youth Group meets 3:30-5:00 pm

Monday, 4/15-Tour Dance Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday, 4/17 Tour Rehearsal 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, 4/21

1st Confirmation Meeting at 10:10 am

Tour Rehearsal 3:00-5:15 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30-6:00 pm  
Youth Group meets 6:00-8:00 pm

Monday, 4/22 & Wednesday, 4/24

Tour Rehearsal 6:30-8:30 pm

Sunday, 4/28

Youth Choir sings at the Rooted Service  
Choir Rehearsal 12:30-1:00 pm Tour Rehearsal 1:15-3:30 pm  
Youth Group meets 3:30-5:00 pm

Monday, 4/29 & Wednesday, 5/1

Tour Rehearsal 6:00-8:30 pm



# March Highlights

In March we continued exploring the youth version of the Wandering Heart Lenten Devotion. We played some new and favorite games, participated in the Rise Against Hunger Event and had a successful Choir Tour Auction. April brings extra rehearsal days as we prepare a tour program to share with Grove on Friday night, June 14th and with host churches during Tour Week.





**A group of 20+ volunteers from Grove will be serving in the central Appalachia area this summer. During the week of July 6th-July 13th they will help with critical home repairs and building to make living conditions safer, warmer and drier for homeowners.**

**The next ASP meeting is May 5th after Rooted. If you would like to join this transformational mission trip please talk to Mike Hardie before April 7th to see if you can be added to the group .**

## **How can you help?**

**You can help us raise funds to cover the additional costs of the ASP Mission Trip by supporting our car wash benefitting both ASP and Mission Blitz on May 19th during services.**



**You can also sponsor participants going on either ASP or Mission Blitz by donating money to cover costs for things like travel, food, supplies, etc. Donations can be made by check or by scanning the Giving QR code on the website (select youth).**

**Please see Mike Hardie or email [youth@grovechurch.org](mailto:youth@grovechurch.org) with questions.**

**Thank you!**