

“EVERYONE BELONGS

I am writing this for our OCTOBER newsletter. We only have three months left in this year. I thought this would be a good time for a check-in. We are almost through our year of “Everyone Belongs.” How are we doing? Have you experienced belonging? Have you helped someone else to experience belonging? Have we moved our church closer to a place where everyone truly belongs? If the answer is yes- we want to hear from you! Tell us how your life has been transformed this year! If the answer is no- let’s work on it. What can we do with the three months we have left in 2024?

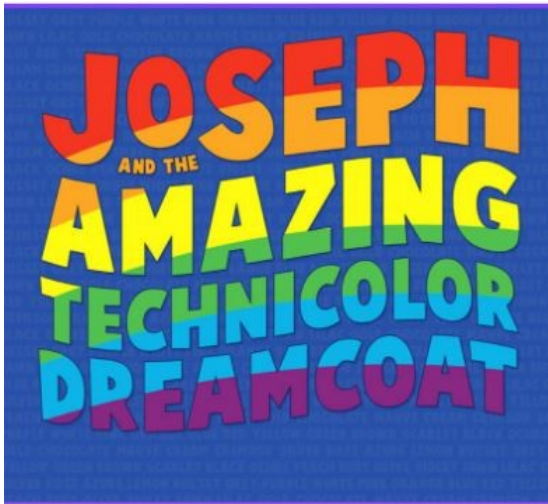
I cannot tell you how many people write in our local Facebook groups asking for recommendations for churches that truly welcome everyone. What if Grove Church becomes the place that people think of first?! What work do we need to do to become that place?

Here’s some encouragement- our season of belonging isn’t ending with a new year. We are just getting started...

Let’s keep going...

Pastor Stacy





The Grove Drama Ministry is hard at work getting their production of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"** ready for the stage.

You probably noticed the staging being used if you've been in Asbury Hall recently. This minimal design allows us to have a theater-in-the-round and allows for the actors to get closer to the audience.

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale now.

Seats can be reserved at <https://our.show/grovedramaministry>.

Performances:

Friday, October 4 at 7 pm

Saturday, October 5 at 7 pm

Sunday, October 6 at 2 pm

FROM THE LEADERSHIP BOARD

A Grove team of one existing board members, two incoming board members, and Pastor Stacy continue to participate in the Financial Leadership Academy program.

Jerry Pyne presented three proposals for upgrading our security system. The leadership board decided to discuss the proposals more fully at the zoom work session scheduled for later this month.

The room transitions are complete except for room 108. Overall the summer room transition project went well.

Preschool is off to a good start.

There was a discussion on replacing the two doors of the sanctuary. Two approaches have been identified. The leadership board decided to discuss and explore the issue in more detail at the zoom session scheduled for next month.

Please join us on October 9th at our next meeting at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Thursday, October 10th

4:30-6:30 pm

We will be serving
Pulled Pork Sandwiches and
Mac and Cheese and all the goodies!



Grove's Adopt-A-Highway
Clean-up

Saturday, October 12th

8:30 am

Church parking lot

Join us!

Bring a friend or two – all are welcome!

Grove Church Invites you to our Fall Clothing Ministry!

490 W Boot Rd. West Chester

Shopping is Open to the Public:

Monday, October 28: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Tuesday, October 29: 2:00pm-7:30pm



Donations Accepted at Grove ~ Asbury Hall

- Saturday 10/19 (1pm-3:30pm)
- Sunday 10/20 (8:30am-12:30pm & 4pm-7pm)
- Monday 10/21, Tuesday 10/22, Thursday 10/23 (6pm-8pm)
- Saturday 10/26 (9am-4pm)
- Sunday 10/27 (8:30am-5:30pm)



Donations of gently used clothing & shoes are appreciated.

(from babies to grandparents, all shapes and sizes)

We are not in need of hangers, thank you.

Questions? Contact: ClothingMinistry@GroveChurch.org

Blessing of the Stuffedies! Sunday, October 6th

Children of all ages, remember to bring your favorite stuffed animal on Sunday, October 6th for our annual "Blessing of the Stuffedies". October 3rd is the birthdate of St. Francis of Assisi, who famously gave up all his wealth, took a vow of poverty, and traveled around preaching about God even to the animals! We will do the blessing during the children's time in worship.

Trunk or Treat Event
October 19th 2:00 PM
Crafts ~ Photo Ops ~ Treats Galore



Participants are invited to bring their gently used clothing to drop off for Grove's Fall Clothing Ministry which benefits the West Chester Community.

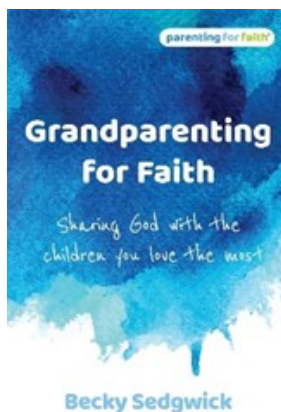
Bible Adventures with Legos and More

Faith Formation for age 5 -12 on Sunday mornings from 10:10 – 11:00 AM in Rooms 204-206. Children listen to scripture related to the day's worship and answer some "wondering" questions.

They then are invited to make a build with Legos, use available art supplies or kinetic sand to represent the story. Their creativity can run wild. Photos of the builds or projects are taken for display on the weekly slide loop before worship.

Parents are invited to gather for conversation and mutual support in another close by space.

Grandparenting for Faith



This book study meets on the second Sunday of the month in Z Lounge.

Grandparenting brings new life and joy, and also the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren. In this book, Becky Sedgwick explores how grandparents can actively encourage and equip their grandchildren to meet and know God, offering tools and skills for the journey. Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them. – Amazon

The study is facilitated by Joan Cross and Penny Arndt. Call the church office, 610.696.2663 to obtain a copy of the book.

Seeker Groups at Grove Church

Based on “The Class Meeting” book by Kevin M. Watson, a seeker group meeting is a place to develop spiritual friends as you seek to witness God’s showing up in your life by answering the question “How is it with your soul”.

It is based on John Wesley’s system for transforming lives of Christian disciples, the Class Meeting. Weekly meetings helped believers more effectively practice their faith. *Class meetings were the most important and most basic practice of the early Methodists. – Kevin Watson*

Sound interesting? Speak to or email Pastor Stacy (pastorstacy@grovechurch.org) or Pastor Eva (pastoreva@grovechurch.org) for more information.

Women’s Bible Study

Meetings on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM on Zoom. New study begins on October 22. Contact Pastor Eva pastoreva@grovechurch.org for information.



Our Journey of Hope (OJOH) wants to thank the Grove community for its support of our Relay for Life team this fall. We were able to contribute \$1900 to the American Cancer Society of Chester County to support local cancer research and individuals impacted by cancer. **THANK YOU!!"**

Contact OurJourneyOfHope@grovechurch.org with questions.

Nurture Team News

We trust you enjoyed the Nurture Team Coffee Hour on September 29. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the team's purpose. We urge anyone interested in either learning more or actively participating to attend our meeting on Sunday, October 13 at 12:15 pm in Asbury Hall.

The Shawl Ministry, one of our sub-groups, is presently inactive due to dwindling interest in getting together to knit or crochet. Although the group is no longer meeting on a regular basis, those of you who are knitting or crocheting at home are encouraged to drop off your contributions in the wicker bins in Asbury Hall. Future donations will be blessed, packaged and tagged. The shawls presently there are available for anyone to take to loved ones, friends or neighbors who could benefit. We are hopeful that the Shawl Ministry is only on hiatus and can be re-activated when more people are able to participate.



churchtrac

To access ChurchTrac and setup your account please scan.





Save the date

Pocono

Family Weekend

January 17th -

January 19th, 2025

Please save the date to join Grove at the Pocono Winter Retreat from January 17-19 at Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center. This is the perfect weekend for couples, singles, and families with kids of **all** ages. Activities include sledding, hiking, worship, board games, s'mores around the fire, and more! Ask any past attendees about the wonderful fellowship - it is a weekend not to be missed! Please see Glen Lewis (pocono@grovechurch.org) with any questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Grove is serving coffee and snacks for our neighbors on Election Day. This is an opportunity to welcome our neighbors to our building and show our hospitality. 2-hour shifts are available that day, Tuesday, November 5th, between 7 AM and 8 PM. This is also an opportunity to expose your child/grandchild to the election process and work together on a service project. Sponsored by Grove's Community Engagement Team. Any questions see Betty Traver or Kathy Parker.

Scan to Volunteer

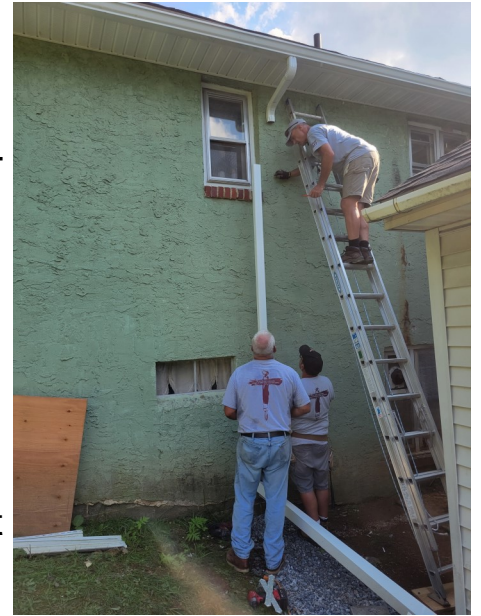




repairing homes and restoring hope

Grove's Good Works volunteers couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day than our September workday. Sunshine and blue skies offered a splendid opportunity to continue installing gutters on Mickie's house and to complete other outdoor projects. There was also time for our folks to sit and talk with Mickie, sharing stories that help us get to know each other. That was really nice for all of us.

This was also a day that we spent assessing the work we'll be doing in the coming months. We examined windows throughout the house and determined that while there are some we can repair, there are also many that we'll need to replace. We checked all the outlets and switches throughout the house and noted electrical issues that need further attention. Making our way room by room with Mickie, we consulted the list of projects that Good Works had prepared for us. This was our first opportunity to go through the list with Mickie to make sure we understand her needs and expectations.



We're going to be serving at Mickie's for quite a few months and will be working on some interesting and challenging projects. Among other things, we'll be tearing down a wall to widen an existing bathroom. We'll be finishing another bathroom that's nothing but studs and rough plumbing. We'll rebuild the stairway leading to the basement and move the washer and dryer to the main floor. There are also all those windows to replace, the gutters to finish and a bunch of other projects.

There are going to be lots of different kinds of work for all different skill levels along with opportunities to learn new skills from our Technical Advisor and other experienced volunteers.



We're always happy to have new volunteers. Youth and adults are welcome, and it doesn't matter if you've got experience doing this kind of work or not. Please consider joining us for a future workday. Our next workday is October 12th.

Contact Betty at goodworks@grovechurch.org for more information. We hope to see you soon.



Don't forget! **Grove's 2024 Good Works Ministry Fall Fundraiser** is going on from now until the end of October. Thank you to everyone who's contributed to this effort so far. We're making good progress and need to keep the momentum going.

Help us raise \$12,500 to buy materials we'll use to repair a home. Your gift will be matched by generous Grove donors. You can donate online, just be sure to indicate that it's for the

Good Works Fund, or write a check to place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Make your check payable to Grove UMC and mark it for the Good Works Fund. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PEOPLE IN PRISON

Once again our conference Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team is asking congregants and community members around eastern PA to share God's love with those who are incarcerated this year at Christmas.

It's easy to do - just write a brief encouraging message on cards that are supplied, and sign your first name. Cards will be available at Grove Church on Sunday mornings, and packets of cards can be obtained from the labeled tote outside the front door of the church. Completed cards need to be returned to the "completed cards" bag in the tote before Monday, November 4.

Your participation can mean a lot to those who receive the cards, who are otherwise feeling very isolated and alone. Thank you for your ministry to those who are incarcerated!

Questions? Contact Deacon Marilyn at DeaconMarilyn@GroveChurch.org

Community Engagement Happenings

Grove's Community Engagement Team got off to a good start with its first meeting back in August.

Our first event took place in September as we welcomed students and parents on the first days of preschool. Words of welcome and support were offered along with coffee and tea to all the parents, some of whom were obvious veterans bringing their little ones back for their second year of preschool, and others going through this for the very first time and experiencing the wide range of emotions that go along with that.

We have another event coming up on Election Day, November 5, when we'll be welcoming members of the local community for whom Grove Church is their assigned polling place. We'll offer coffee, other beverages, and snacks throughout the day and engage with folks as they make their way through the lines to vote. In this way and with information about Grove services and events being displayed on the monitors we hope to give them a brief glimpse of Grove as an active, inviting church that cares about its community.



We're still collecting ideas for new and different ways to meet and connect with people in our community. If you have an idea to share or know of a need in the community that isn't being met, please let us know.

Just reach out to us at missionandoutreach@grovechurch.org.

Please join the Community Engagement meeting Sunday, October 13th at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to attend.



Thank you notes were received from Home of the Sparrow and Safe Harbor of Chester County for our donations.

OCTOBER

Grove Youth Choir & Ministry

Schedule

Sunday October 6th

All choirs combine for an anthem during both services

No rehearsal or youth group

Sunday October 13th

Youth Choir presents an anthem at the 11:15 am service

12:30-2:30 pm--Confirmation Class

2:30-3:00pm--Youth Fellowship

3:00-4:00 pm Youth Choir rehearsal

4:00-5:15 Youth Group

October 20th

3:30-4:30 pm Youth Choir

4:30-5:45 pm Youth Group

Sunday October 27th

Youth Choir presents an anthem at the 11:15 am service

1:00-2:00 pm--Youth Choir rehearsal

2:00-3:00 pm--Youth Fellowship

3:00-4:00 pm -Youth & Kid Connection

Crew join together for games

Kids Connection Choir & Crew

This new ministry is for first through fifth graders!

Kids Connection Choir and Crew will meet twice a month for rehearsal, fellowship, & games. One of those weeks this group will connect with our youth group as they join together for games.



Schedule

Sunday, October 13th

2:15-3:00 pm Kid Connection Choir rehearsal

3:00-4:00 pm Kid Connection Crew meets

Sunday, October 27th

Kids Connection Choir presents their anthem at the 9:00 am service

2:15-2:45 pm Kid Connection Choir rehearsal

3:00-4:00 pm Kid Connection Crew and the Youth join together for games

Youth Group and Kid Connection Groups

