

## LISTEN

Have you ever misplaced your phone—which is on vibrate of course—and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in all directions in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a quieting down and high alert all at the same time. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the “still, small voice” of God. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Lenten practice. Together we will engage in a season of contemplation that is sure to deepen our faith in powerful ways. **Come and rest, come and listen.**



# Listen

Hearing That Still, Small Voice  
and Finding Your Own

## **Notes from Leadership Meeting – 2/10/25**

### *Board Member Roles*

This year we have identified some specific roles for Leadership Board Members.

Nicole Paul- Chair

Kylie Shoyer- Lay Leader and Preschool Liaison

Jen Geyer- Finance Liaison

Steve Vincent- Building and Maintenance Liaison

Generosity Team- Jody Romano, Jen Geyer, Dan Wiant

### *Finance*

#### Budget

2025 Budget is about 17k more than 2024

All staff received a 3% increase for 2025

Increase in property and liability insurance

General increase of building and maintenance costs

Last year we didn't spend the whole budget (in 2024) which gave a little breathing room.

Board voted and approved the 2025 Budget

#### Extra Mile Giving

If you are feeling called to give above and beyond your general offering, each month will have a special focus to allow our combined giving to have the most impact

February- Love Fund

March- Rise Against Hunger

April- Youth Ministries

### *Other information:*

Preschool had their Open House and it was very successful with some new families coming through.

## ***Looking Ahead***

Priorities will be:

Completing the Guiding Principles

Reviewing staff job descriptions

Preparing for future building needs

Creating a Generosity (Stewardship) Strategy

Town Hall- Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:10am

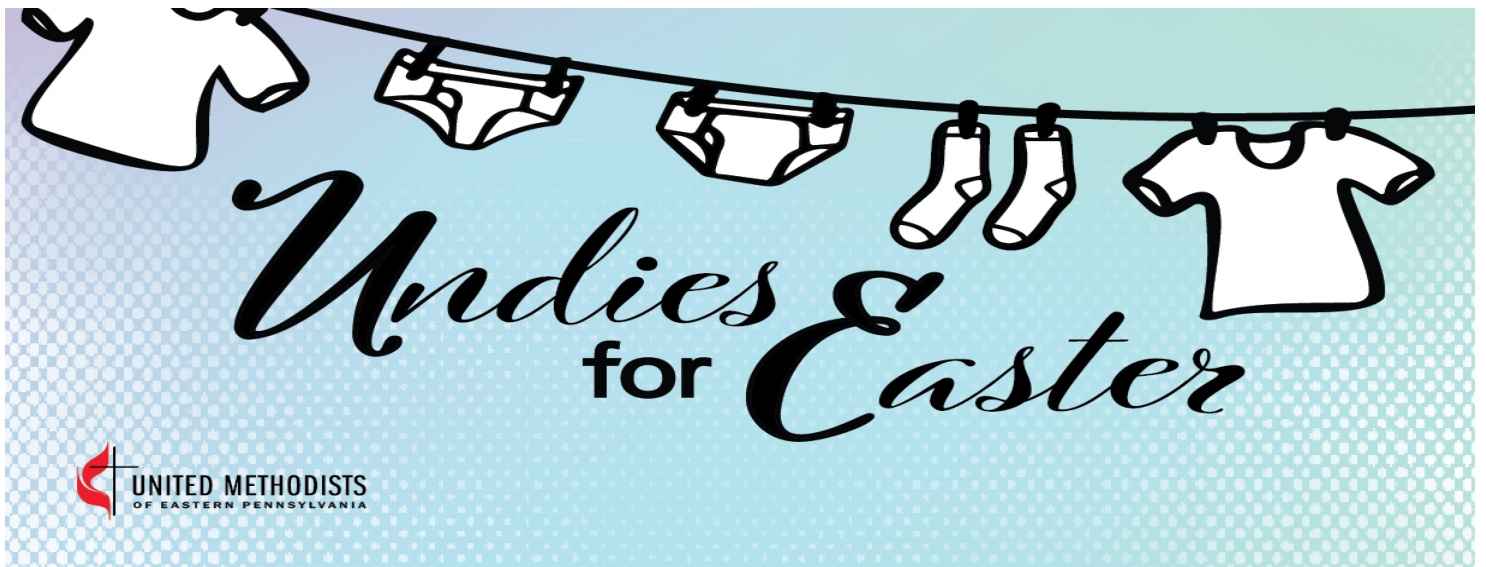
Next Open Board Meeting- Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**On Ash Wednesday the United Methodist Church of West Chester will have a free soup supper at 5:45pm in their Fiesta Center (before the service). All are welcome.**



**Ash Wednesday Services**  
**March 5th at**  
**Grove Church**  
**at 12:00 pm**

**Service at UMC of West Chester**  
**at 6:30 pm**



***Donate much-needed men's underwear to  
Philadelphia prison inmates for Easter***

Each inmate arriving into the Philadelphia Prison System is given ONE pair of under-pants and no undershirts or socks. Can you imagine living with only one pair of underpants?

Last year, the Undies for Easter campaign was able to deliver over 2000 men's briefs and over 2000 men's undershirts to the Head Chaplain for the Philadelphia prison system. The Chaplain, Carmelo Urena is now again in need of assistance for the over 4000 incarcerated individuals in his care as he aims to provide at least one additional pair of briefs, an undershirt, and socks to each individual entering incarceration.

We have set up a new Undies for Easter Gift Registry on Amazon.com.\*\* Use this link <https://bit.ly/3ESTHLK> to Purchase items, and choose the delivery address for EPAUMC Prison Ministry.

We hope to collect and deliver at least 2,000 pairs of briefs, undershirts, and socks through this campaign to support the chaplain's efforts. This campaign will end on Palm Sunday, April 13; and all purchased underwear will be delivered to the chaplain before Easter Sunday.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting those who are incarcerated!  
The EPA UMC Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team

\*\*All donations must be made online via Amazon.com and delivered to the Eastern PA Conference Office P.O. Box before Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. All men's undergarments must be identical to those specific items on our Amazon gift list.

Contact Deacon Marilyn at [DeaconMarilyn@GroveChurch.org](mailto:DeaconMarilyn@GroveChurch.org) with any questions or concerns.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION LENT 2025

**Sunday Mornings 10:10 am in the Youth Lounge  
Beginning March 9th**

**Also via Zoom on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm**

*Let Your Life Speak* offers no simplistic formulas for finding a meaningful path through life's complexities. Instead, it offers real-life experience, thoughtfully mined for insight and wisdom:

- Learn how to listen to your inner teacher and follow its guidance toward a sense of meaning and purpose
- Reframe your life as a series of “experiments with truth,” learning from those that fail as well as those that work
- Understand that the doors that close behind you can offer as much guidance as those that open up
- Gain inspiration and resolve from the lives of seekers who have walked this path before you

Enjoy the wisdom, compassion, gentle humor and companionship of a master teacher in a beloved book that has helped hundreds of thousands of people find their way toward meaning and purpose.

### **The Four Agreements Monday Evenings beginning March 10th**

Join us Monday evenings as we explore Don Miguel Ruiz' The Four Agreements. They are:

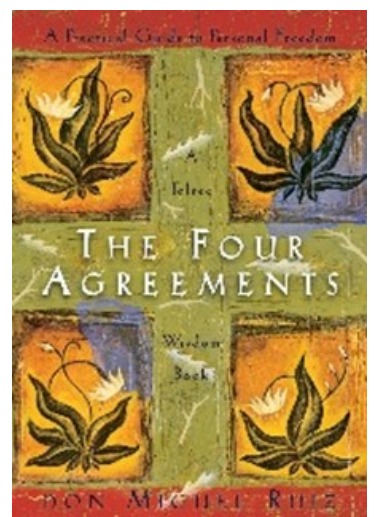
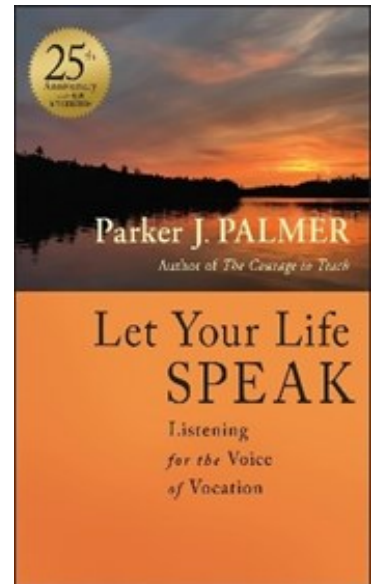
1. Be impeccable with your word.
2. Don't take anything personally
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best

Imagine how any or all of them can benefit you!

Monday evenings 6:15-7

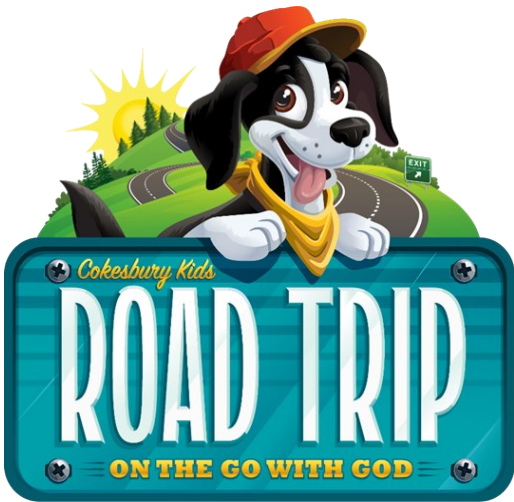
March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 14

Questions? Contact Becky at [faithformation@grovechurch.org](mailto:faithformation@grovechurch.org)



## CONTEMPLATIVE GATHERING

You are invited to practice a deeper listening each Wednesday during Lent. Beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup> we will gather in the sanctuary at 7pm to experience the power of contemplative prayer. No preparation needed, simply come as you are. **Come and rest, come and listen.**



**This July Grove Church is going on a road trip. Children in grades K- 5 are invited to join us July 21-25**

**There will be Bible Stories, Music, Arts and Crafts, Games and Snacks along the way.**

**Registration begins on March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

*Spring Forward on March 9th*



## Podcasts on the LISTEN Lent series

The Darkwood Brew podcasts will correspond to the LISTEN worship series we are doing this Lent. If you are interested in the podcast series, contact Pastor Eva at [pastoreva@grovechurch.org](mailto:pastoreva@grovechurch.org) for the login credentials.

## Children's Faith Formation

Sunday Mornings in Room 204-206 at 10:10 AM

Children gather for a bible story, wondering questions and a depiction of the story with a variety of materials to share with the congregation on the slide show Sunday mornings.

## Family Activities for Lent

Families with children are invited to grab a LENTEN TAKE OUT bag each week of Lent for activities families can do together at home. Bags will be available each Sunday morning in the Grace Space area.

## Time to Stuff the Eggs!!



Come one and all to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to stuff Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Begins at 10:10 AM stay for as long as you wish.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**LEADERSHIP BOARD**  
**TOWN HALL**

March 2nd at 10:10 in  
the Sanctuary



You can join the Town Hall at this link -  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81951943835>

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Thursday, March 13th**  
**4:30-6:30 pm**

**We will be serving Shepherds Pie,  
Salad, Mac & Cheese for the kiddos  
and all the goodies!**



## Decluttering Giveaway

The Community Engagement team has decided to have a Decluttering Giveaway at Grove, which is an opportunity to get that clutter out of your house and find a place where it is needed. This is a new event, and more details will be coming. Here is a description of what is planned so that you can start to collect items to give away. **The Decluttering Giveaway will be in the Grove parking lot on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>.**



The plan - the "givers" will come to Grove with their items in their trunk and set up in a parking space. The use of card tables or other ways to display items is encouraged, but the space is limited to the area around the car in one parking space. "Takers" will be invited to come and shop that day. This event will be held rain or shine. Each car is responsible for taking all items away at the end of the event.

For large items such as furniture, pictures can be posted on a poster with contact information, so that "takers" can arrange for pickup.

This event will be open to Grove congregation, neighbors in our community, and Grove Preschool families. It will be advertised in ways similar to advertising a garage sale, but will be called a giveaway, with signs along the road, postings on social media, and in Grove newsletters and emails.

Because everything is free, we will take the opportunity to collect donations for a yet-to-be-determined cause..

"Givers" will be required to register in advance. Givers will bring a car filled with the items available to give away and will commit to take back all items left over. We need to have at least 20 cars signed up to make the event a success.

We all have items in our homes that we don't really need or use. It feels so good to put those items to good use and to free up space in our homes! We think this will be a fun event for our congregation and for our community.

## You can never have too much JOY!

Our JOY comes from sharing the love of Christ. Our JOY comes from creating fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities by sharing our gifts, talents and skills. Our JOY comes from helping others and in doing so, helping them connect with God and the Grove community.

Want more JOY?

There are lots and lots of opportunities at Grove to reach out and help others. You've probably participated in some of them: Rise Against Hunger, CYWA Food Pantry, Good Works, Community Garden, Salvation Army Dinners, Nurture, Community Dinners, Youth Ministries, and the Prison Ministry. The list goes on and on.

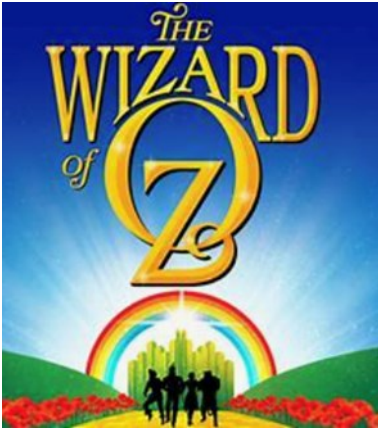
If you haven't done something lately, you're missing out on more JOY. Each of us has gifts we can share. What are you waiting for?

Grove's Community Engagement Team has a couple of events coming up including a new one, the Decluttering Giveaway in June, and a crowd favorite, Trunk or Treat, in October. The team is considering ways to expand existing activities and exploring new ways to connect with people in our congregation and community to serve their needs and engage them both outside and inside the walls of our church.

We're reaching out to local organizations to find out more about our community needs. Some of the big needs are obvious: food insecurity, home insecurity, homelessness, disaster recovery, isolation and loneliness. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we're going to listen and learn and figure out where we might do more to help. If you have an idea or know of an upcoming event where Grove should have a presence, please let us know by emailing [CommunityEngagement@grovechurch.org](mailto:CommunityEngagement@grovechurch.org).

Have a joyful day!





🎭 Make your plans now to audition for “The Wizard of Oz”! 🎭

To register and sign up - <https://bit.ly/3XhEY3m>

**14** Audition Dates & Times:

- Saturday, May 17 (9:00am – 3:00pm)
- Sunday, May 18 (1:00pm – 5:00pm)

**14** Callbacks (if necessary):

- Tuesday, May 20 (by invitation)

🎭 **What We’re Looking For:**

- Passionate, committed performers of all experience levels!
- Singing and Non-Singing Roles Available!
- Bring your enthusiasm!

🌟 **Why Audition?**

- Be part of a show that challenges and inspires
- Make lifelong friendships in a supportive and fun community
- Bring this classic story to life for our audiences

📅 **Rehearsals Begin on June 21** (Saturdays - 9:00am – 3:00pm, Mondays & Wednesdays – 6:00pm – 9:00pm)

**14** **Performances**

- Friday Performance: September 19 – 7pm
- Saturday Performance: September 20 – 2pm
- Sunday Performance: September 21 – 2pm

For all of the details, check out our Audition Packet - <https://bit.ly/4h3DHDY>

💖 Have questions? We’ve got answers: email [GroveDramaMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:GroveDramaMinistry@gmail.com)

Step out of your comfort zone, share your talent, and create something unforgettable. We can’t wait to see YOU at auditions! 🌟



2025 Youth Mission Auction Baskets 2025  
Auction: March 29<sup>th</sup> !!



Auction time is coming up again! We're starting to think auction baskets to support Youth Missions. This is an opportunity for individuals, families, groups of families, church groups and anyone and everyone to put together their own basket for donation. It's a great opportunity to spend time together coming up with a theme, planning, shopping or making items for the basket and putting together a fun and unique expression of your time. The baskets will be donated and put up as an item for auction on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Your name and/or group will be displayed on the description sign (or not if you wish to remain anonymous).

It's important to note that the word basket is only a generic term for the container for your theme. Feel free to use your imagination....use a tub, box, bucket, tote, wheel barrow, whatever you want to hold your stuff!

There are several ways a 'basket' can be put together. A group can put everything together from start to finish, supplying the container and all items, or you can provide the items and we'll take care of putting the finishing touches on the final presentation and finding a container. If you want help figuring out a theme, we've had several over the years.....baking, cooking, Italian, reading, movies, music, baby, household fix-it items, bar-b-que, college, chocolate, beauty, exercise, crafts, pampering, scrapbook, coffee, tools, family fun, games, emergency, cleaning, gardening, sports, teacher, cleaning, and socks! Whatever you come up with, we're happy to have it.



We may have empty baskets for you so please feel free to check with me first before you purchase a container if you do not have one.

Tips: Please no alcohol. **Do not cellophane baskets.**

And of course, come out to Auction Night and see the baskets and bid on them! Have fun with this while helping to support Youth Missions as they go outside of Grove walls to perform mission work. All donations must be turned in by **March 21<sup>st</sup>**. We can arrange for pick up and other help you require. If you are interested in contributing or have any questions, please contact Denny Scheffler or the church office.

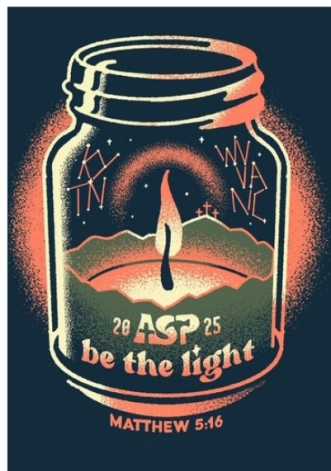


## ASP 2025

The theme is “be the light”.

Grove will be volunteering the week of  
July 5th-12th.

If interested in joining us see Mike Hardie  
or email [youth@grovechurch.org](mailto:youth@grovechurch.org)



**ASP meeting March 9th  
at 12:30 pm**



**The Missions Auction will be Saturday, March 29th at 6:30 pm**

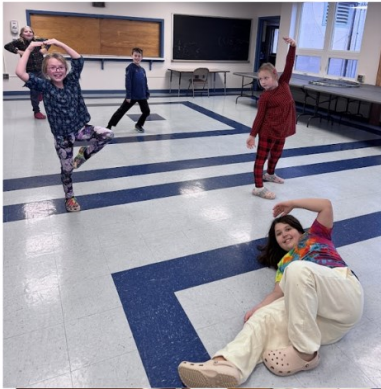
**We would like to ask for donations of gift cards or new/almost new items to be available for people to bid on that evening.**

**Please put donations in the coat room.**

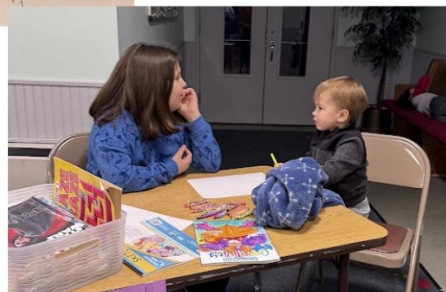
**We appreciate your help and support!  
See Mike or Jen Hardie with questions.**

**We will also be looking for help for set up and Auction night.  
Look for a sign up in the coming weeks!**

# Youth Group and Kid Connection Groups



# Parent Night Out=Kids' Fun





## *Grove Youth Choir & Ministry* Schedule

### Sunday, March 2nd

Youth Choir shares anthem at the Rooted Service  
12:45-2:15 pm Youth Choir rehearsal  
2:15-4:00 pm Youth Group

### Sunday, March 9th

ASP meeting after Rooted  
1:30-3:00 pm Youth Choir rehearsal  
3:00-4:00 pm Youth Group

### Sunday, March 16th

Youth Choir shares anthem at the Rooted Service  
12:45-2:15 pm Youth Choir rehearsal  
2:15-4:00 pm Youth Group (combines with KCC)

### Sunday, March 23rd

4:30-6:00 pm Youth Choir rehearsal  
6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group w/ dinner

### Friday & Saturday, March 28th & 29th

Missions Auction Weekend

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## *Kids Connection Choir & Crew* Schedule

### Sunday, March 2nd

2:15-3:00 pm Kid Connection Choir rehearsal  
3:00-4:00 pm Kid Connection Crew meets

### Sunday, March 9th

KC Choir shares song at the 9:00 am service

### Sunday, March 16th

2:15-3:00 pm Kid Connection Choir rehearsal  
3:00-4:00 pm K.C. Crew & Youth Combine

This ministry is for first through fifth graders! Kids Connection Choir and Crew meet twice a month for rehearsal, fellowship, & games. One of those weeks this group connects with our youth group as they join together for games. All are welcome to attend choir or a crew meeting or both!