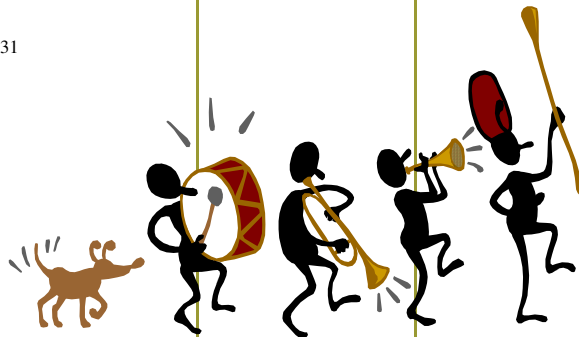


MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
	7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting			9:30 am World Day of Prayer at Our Savior's Lutheran Church	5 pm Worship - Music by Country at Heart	
6 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School , Bible Study Coffee/ Fellowship 5 pm Cowboy Church- Cherry Grove 6:30 pm Pack Meeting	7 7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	8	9	10	11	12
			6:30 pm Soup/ Sandwiches 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Lenten Service at Cherry Grove UMC			10 am Confirmation Class
						5 pm Worship - Music by Karla Hamersma
13 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School , Bible Study Coffee/ Fellowship	14	15	16	17	18	19
			9:30 am Rachel Circle at Hillside 1:30 pm Sarah Circle at church	12:00 pm Ruth Circle at church with Lois, hostess		5pm Worship
5-7 pm Youth Meeting						
6:30 pm Movie Night "The Robe"	7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	6:30 pm Finance 7 pm Church Council	6:30 pm Soup/ Sandwiches 7:00 pm Lenten Service at Faith UMC		Roller skating in Harmony	
6:30 pm Den Meeting - 3 Classrooms						
20 7:45 am Vocal Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School , Bible Study Coffee/Fellowship	21	22	23	24	25	26
						10 am Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Committee Meeting - Classroom	7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal		6:30 pm Soup/ Sandwiches 7:00 pm Lenten Service at Faith UMC			5pm Worship - Music by the Vickmarks
27 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School , Bible Study Coffee/Fellowship	28 No School	29	30	31		
5-7 pm Youth Meeting						
6:30 pm Den Meeting - 3 Classrooms	7 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal		6:30 pm Soup/ Sandwiches 7:00 pm Lenten Service at Faith UMC			



Faith United Methodist Church
617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Web Page: faithsv.net

Saturday evening worship: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday morning worship: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

Coffee & fellowship: 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:

8:00 - 4:00 Tuesday through Friday

Pastor Mark Rader:

Phone: 507-346-2878

E-mail: faithpas@centurytel.net

Pastor Beth Perez

Phone: 507-259-4553

E-mail: bethperez@myclearwave.net

Youth Director Laura Perez

Phone: 919-971-9255

E-mail: lauraeperez3@gmail.com

Secretary Louise Winfield

Phone: 507-346-2830

Fax: 507-346-2877

E-mail: faithunited@centurytel.net

Custodian Paul Eberle

Organist Suzanne Eberle

Bell Choir Director Kathy Casady

Choir Pianist Kristie Shorter



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

The newsletter deadline for April will be Tuesday, March 22nd at noon.

The Service Group handles the Sunday Coffee Hour the first three Sundays of the month. The 4th Sunday will be served by the Sunday School and Youth. The 5th Sunday will be served by Cursillo participants.

MARCH

* Terry & Diane Howard	346-7829
Jim & Kathy Casady	754-5089
Lorin & Janet Hammon	346-2187
Joel & Jennifer Huebner3	46-7199
Leo & Bev Kimball	467-2031
Sandy Merkel	346-2597
Shawn & Megan Merkel	951-5756
Dan & Denise Montgomery	352-4375
Glenn Rassmusson	346-7626
Todd & Vicky Shorter	937-3426
David & Pat Warren	346-7490
Delores Howard	346-2227



SPRING VALLEY FOOD SHELF

(Spring Valley Area Ministerial)

The Spring Valley Food Shelf was created in 2008 to better serve the needs of those in the Spring Valley area. The food shelf is located at the Kasten farm (city property). The food shelf is open each Wednesday from 2:00-5:00 pm and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 - noon.

The food shelf is possible only because of the monetary generosity of so many and the countless volunteer hours. Volunteer hours to support the food shelf include:

- 2016 hours fulfilling open hours
- 312 hours working in garden
- 288 hours for deliveries
- 104 hours checking facility/emptying garbage
- 86 hours for grant applications/monthly reports/ordering
- 84 hours for meetings
- 2890 hours total

There are 18 people that volunteer on a very regular basis and 20+ that volunteer on a limited basis. This does not include the board members who regularly help.

Over \$36,000 was received in 2010 to provide food, equipment and maintenance. These funds are given from individuals, businesses, churches, organizations and grants.

Board members are: Deb Zimmer, Susan Rader, Jodie Archer, Kathy Baarsch, Pastor Bill Rowen, Rita Hartert, and Pastor Dennis Timmerman.

FROM THE PASTOR

It was Benjamin Franklin who is credited with the (possibly cynical) observation that "The only things certain in life are death and taxes." Whether you agree with old Ben or not, I'm personally convinced that most of us spend a great deal more time preparing for the latter (our taxes) than for the former! While we likely invest several hours each year filing and totaling receipts (or entering them in a spreadsheet on a computer), and at least a few hours plugging numbers into federal and state tax forms (paper or electronic), many of us seem reluctant to even acknowledge that we might possibly be mortal. A life insurance salesman once confirmed this when he noted that, in talking about their insurance needs, most people will begin their conversations with the words, "IF I die..."

As a pastor who is called by virtue of vocation to walk with people through life's milestones; from birth to baptism, confirmations to graduations, weddings to anniversaries, and, finally, to death's door, I've been troubled by the lack of preparation that I've sometimes witnessed. There have simply been too many conversations with either individuals or families who clearly had given no real thought as to what lie before them. That's one reason why I'm so excited about a new, short-term Adult Sunday School class on Death & Dying that retired pastor Burton Hoag will be offering at Faith UMC during most of Lent.

The class, which will begin on Sunday, March 6 and be held during the Church School hour, will have several goals, including:

- Helping us become more comfortable with both the subject of, and the reality of death.
- Giving us a place to share our own experiences, questions, feelings and beliefs about death.
- Helping us set goals for our own deaths (i.e. the degree to which we may or may not wish to have "extraordinary measures" taken to prolong life).
- Teaching us how to engage with family members in the practical matters surrounding death, such as wills, funeral planning, and disposition of the body (burial, cremation, or donation to science).
- Helping us identify the "unfinished business" we have before dying, particularly in terms of our relationships.
- Showing us how to use our journey towards death to draw us closer to God and ultimately make our death more meaningful.

While this class is for everyone, we'd particularly encourage attendance by persons who might be responsible for the care of a loved one as they approach death, as well as by persons who might be recognizing a need to prepare for their own death and who desire to "die well."

In Christ,

Pastor Mark



LENTEN SERVICES

With a late Easter this year, Ash Wednesday doesn't arrive until March 9th. At this writing we're still finalizing our schedule for this year's Lenten Services, but our current plans are to begin with an Ash Wednesday Service at Cherry Grove, hold four services at Faith, and then hold a closing service at the Fountain United Methodist Church.

The theme for this year's services will be "Dimensions of Prayer" and we'll be looking at some prayer practices that we can incorporate to add a new spark in our prayer lives.

The services will begin with a light meal (Soup & Bread or perhaps Soup & Sandwiches) at 6:30 pm, with the Worship Services themselves beginning shortly after 7 pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Ad Council was called to order by Chairperson Jill Douglas at 7:00 pm, February 15, 2011. Those attending were: Pastor Mark Rader, Pastor Beth Perez, Jill Douglas, Jeff Kappers, Kathy Lucas, Carol Langdon, Gloria Blakeslee, Deanna Capelle, Mary Vickmark, Darlene Vrieze, Mary Grems and Carla Ness. Jill opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The January minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to approve them. m/s/c

Financial Report: At this time, FUMC has no Chairman for the Finance Committee. The 01/31/11 balance in general checking was \$9,156.22. One payment of \$1,650 was paid towards 2011 apportionments (total apportionments due in 2011 is \$24,092.76). The roof loan balance is \$8,201.68.

Correspondence: March is Minnesota FoodShare month. Area churches will not be having a competition this year. It has been proposed from the Missions Committee that FUMC follow the suggestion from the Minnesota FoodShare website, which is for each Sunday in March, to bring food for a different meal: Week 1-breakfast; Week 2-Dinner(Lunch); Week 3-Supper (Dinner); Week 4-Personal Products. Ad Council approved of this approach.

Membership/Evangelism: Mary G reported that there were no changes in the month of January.

UMW: Darlene reported that the UMW met 2-9-11 for a workday.

The UMW presented a recognition pin to Sonja Hoag. UMW tied two quilts for Emma Norton Residence in St Paul. Some dusting and cleaning was also done. 3-4-11 is World Day of Prayer at Our Savior's Lutheran. The next UMW meeting will be the "Call to Prayer & Self-Denial" program at 9:00 am on Wednesday, 4-13-11.

Missions: Mary V was happy to report that the kids at FUMC stuffed \$215.23 into their socks for "One Great Hour of Sharing". The total for that offering with the worship service offering came to \$540.23. The Missions Committee would like to thank the FUMC community for their generosity. Mary reported that the Easter Breakfast will have a different menu this year, consisting of scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast sticks, fruit and beverages. The Missions Committee will set up for the breakfast on Saturday, 4-24-11, from 2:00 pm until done. Judy Tart and her crew will do the cooking again this year; she will also order the food needs through the school. Mary has requested some donations from Kwik Trip. Volunteer and donation sheets will go up the beginning of March. "Food for Kidz" will have another opportunity for hundreds of Stewartville and area residents to help the world's hungry at the Stewartville Civic Center on Saturday, 4-2-11, beginning at 10:00 am. Volunteers will take part in Stewartville's 8th Annual Food for Kidz (previously known as Kids Against Hunger) which is an event sponsored by the Stewartville, Rochester, Spring Valley and Winona (Region 7) Kiwanis, Builders and Key clubs. Mary also visited with Ad Council

about the fact that March is Minnesota FoodShare month. See more information under **correspondence** above.

Staff/Parish: Deanna reported that SPRC met 1-25-11 and will be meeting again 3-1-11.

Worship: Carol reported that Worship Committee met 1-23-11. The main topic discussed was Lenten Services. Having soup & sandwiches before services is being discussed. Beth Crosby confirmed for the 7-16-11 Outdoor Concert. A sound system will need to be found to use for that service. Barb is organizing the Easter Sunrise worship service. Next Worship Committee meeting is set for 2-27-11.

Lay Representative to Annual Conference: Mark announced that Kathy Lucas is FUMC's lay representative to Annual Conference, and is now a member of Ad Council. The Ad Council thanked Kathy for her willingness to serve. Annual Conference is June 1-3, 2011.

Trustees: Jeff is the new chair of the Trustees. He announced that the Trustees met 1-26-11 and discussed many items. The church building is now 40 years old and is need of repairs and updating: lighting, carpeting, kitchen, leakage in stained glass windows, etc. The trustees will be prioritizing projects that need to be done.

Education: Barb reported that the Sunday School classes went sledding at Good Earth Village (GEV) on 01/30/11. There were 12 children and 5 adults. A good time was had by all. Upcoming events will be: roller skating in Harmony 3-18-11; Celebration Sunday on 5-22-

AD COUNCIL MINUTES (continued - 1)

Mother-Daughter Banquet on 4-9-11; Easter Sunrise Breakfast on 4-24-11; FUMC/Cherry Grove Vacation Bible School at GEV on June 12 & 13, 2011. The Sunday School is also planning on selling plants to the congregation in the spring, as they did last year.

Pastor's Report-Beth: Beth reported that she and Mark have been busy discussing Lenten services. She reported that she will be attending seminary courses on March 4-6, 2011 and also on April 8-10, 2011. In March she will need to find a pastor to cover worship services because of Communion; Barb Paul will conduct the worship service in April.

Pastor's Report-Mark: Mark reported that the worship computer is now assembled and is being used. It appears that the system is much more stable than the laptop was. Media Shout seems to be working better and faster. There is still some work to be done with Audacity - - but it is progressing. Mark reported that he and Pastor Beth would like to address the low "Spiritual Vitality" scores at FUMC in last year's NCD survey, by having Lenten services focus on different aspects of prayer, & conducting the bulk of the services at FUMC. For example, the first week's service would be in Cherry Grove, 2nd week in Fountain, and the last 4 weeks would be held at FUMC. Also, there will be an upcoming "group prayer study" consisting of 6 sessions

- - possibly in conjunction with Lent. This study is based on Maxie Dunnam's Workbook on Living Prayer.

Pastor Mark brought up the fact that bulk mailing rates require a *minimum* of 200 mail pieces going out to addresses with zip codes beginning with 559. FUMC's mailing list is getting close to that 200 figure. Pastor Mark asked the Ad Council how they felt about the idea of a "Parish Newsletter" which would have a **combined** newsletter with FUMC/Cherry Grove/Fountain. The Ad Council discussed this option and liked the idea because of the "inclusiveness" of the idea, and bringing all three churches of the Maple Leaf Parish into better communication with each other.

Contemporary Worship is something Pastor Mark is still pursuing. He has visited with the high school band instructor as to a couple of drummers who may be interested in being part of the band. FUMC may have to consider purchasing a drum set. Pastor Mark is looking into setting up a time when the various musicians could get together and do some brainstorming as to how best to proceed. Pastor Mark asked for the Ad Council's thoughts on offering any type of travel reimbursement for out-of-town musicians. After discussion, a motion was made to authorize Pastor Mark to offer \$10-\$20 to musicians to defray some of their travel expenses. m/s/c Laura Perez is conducting youth meetings twice/month and things are going well in that area. Some of the youth did special music for the 2-12-11 Saturday evening service.

Retired Pastor Burton Hoag will

be offering a study on "Dying Well" starting the first Sunday in March. The study will take place on Sundays after worship service. This study will be introduced with an article in the newsletter as well as with a sermon on the topic the first Sunday in March.

Attendance at Saturday night services was discussed. Pastor Mark felt it is allowing some people to worship that may not otherwise be able to on Sunday mornings. The attendance level is not quite where he'd like to see it, but he recognized that it is hard to gauge that during winter months and it will take some time to build the worship service.

Pastor Mark brought up the idea of having combined church council meetings within the Parish occasionally during the year. The purpose would be two-fold: First, to use the opening portion as a "Board training" time and Secondly, to be able to act together if we have cooperative parish business to approve. The Boards would then disperse to separate rooms to hold their regular meetings. Ad Council had no objections to that - - in fact, it was mentioned that this was a suggestion from Dist Supt Clay Oglesbee to do exactly this, when Pastors Mark and Beth were hired and Maple Leaf Parish was formed.

New Business: FUMC was approached by Boy Scout Troop #55 to again re-charter them. Also, two Boy Scouts are close to making Eagle. A motion was made to make a payment of \$110 as follows: \$20 for the charter fee; \$30.00 for the Scout fee for the two Scouts getting close to their Eagle; \$60 for the Adult Leadership Fee. m/s/c

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(continued - 2)

A letter from the Chamber of Commerce was received requesting that FUMC become a member for a fee. Ad Council decided to decline this request.

Old Business: As Jan Hammon was unable to attend the meeting, she submitted an email informing the Ad Council on the activities of the "Daycare Committee" regarding Anna Krahn's daycare proposal. She mentioned that there has been good discussion on the pros and cons. The committee feels that it needs to obtain more information before they can make a recommendation. After much discussion, *a motion was made to request a recommendation & proposal from the Daycare Committee by no later than the March Ad Council Meeting (March 15, 2011), so that the Ad Council can make a timely decision for all involved, based on the information provided.* m/s/c

Barb made mention that Movie Night will start up again in March with the showing of *The Robe*. April will be *The Passion of the Christ*. There may be matinees shown also.

Jan Hammon will be asked to provide devotions for the March Ad Council Meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:20 pm. m/s/c

Respectfully submitted, Carla Ness Co-Ad Council Secretary



YOUTH NEWS

February has been a "fast" month! Flying by so quickly.....

Our focus this past month has been about taking the time to notice God around you. Taking time to put God back in your life and let him guide you. Taking the time to breathe. Every breath we take we are breathing in the Holy Spirit but we rarely let ourselves notice. When we are faced with problems in our lives we often forget to put God first and let our faith and relationship with God work for our benefit to help lead us and direct us.

Our lives are all so full. Busy with activities, school, work, friends, kids, etc. Often times we forget that God is in there too. He is with us with every activity we do, everyday at school/work, every basket we make, every "A" we make, every tear we shed.... God is there.... holding our hands. Our faith helps us through the busy, stressful, anxiety provoking times. Often times I feel life is flying by and I am just along for the ride..... but I have to remember.... God is the pilot on this adventure called life. So our reminders this month....

Take time to Breathe, NOTICE God in your daily life, ALLOW God to be part of your daily life, most importantly ENJOY THE RIDE.

A very special "Shout Out" goes to Hannah Ramaker, Brandon Hamersma, and Gene Ramaker for helping provide the music at the Feb 12; Saturday night service. Your church family thanks you for using your gifts to provide a ministry to your congregation!!!

March Calendar:

Youth Meetings
March 13th 5:00pm- 7:00pm
March 27th 5:00pm- 7:00pm

Please look out for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to help provide meals for youth!!! Thank you to all our volunteers!!!

--
Laura E. Perez

If you have any questions feel free to contact me

at lauraeperez3@gmail.com

or 919-971-9255.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Darlene Vrieze, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. following the 9 a. m. coffee hour. There were 8 members present.

Secretary's Report - The Secretary's Report of Wednesday, December 1, 2010 was read, Norma Merkel moved to approve the minutes as typed, Mary Grems seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Lois Beving moved to approve the Treasurer's Report of December 2010. Diane TerMaat seconded, motion carried.

Diane TerMaat reported the Food Shelf of Spring Valley appreciated deeply the money donated by the United Methodist Women.

Correspondence - 'Thank You' letters were read from the Norris Johnson family, Maple Leaf Services, Inc., Louise Winfield, St. Peter Regional Treatment Center Volunteer Services, the D.A.R.E. program of Fillmore County and Fillmore County Family Resources, Inc.

Sympathy letters were sent to Leonard Leutink, Waldo & Suzanne Hagen, and Ruth Kaster. Get Well letters were sent to Kathy Lucas, Dale Wille, Marjorie Hamlin, Dorothy Vrieze and Hope Briggs.

Darlene Vrieze, chairperson, presented a Mission Recognition pin to Sonja Hoag.

Coming Events - March 4 - World Day of Prayer - Our Savior's Lutheran Church

March 28-April 1st - Meals-on-Wheels - Sarah Circle

Next UMW Meeting - April 13th - Program - "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" - Sarah Circle, Hostess - Ruth Circle

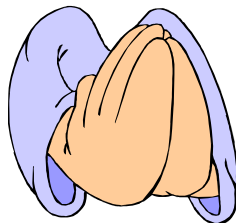
Vivian Drinkall moved the meeting adjourn, Sonja Hoag seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Members tied quilts and cleaned the kitchen.

At 12 noon members had lunch together at Homestyle Pizza.

Shirley Hyland,
Secretary

* * * *

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



World Day of Prayer will be held March 4th at 9:30 a.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran.

This is open to everyone including men.

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle met at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room with 4 members present.

The minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting were read and approved as read. Marian Lingenfelter, chairperson, read from the book "Grace" by Max Lucado, "The Heart of Jesus".

Sunshine Report - Betty Bernard reported the balance in the Sunshine Fund for October, Thanksgiving cards were sent in November as well as two cards for shut-ins, Christmas cards were sent to 3 shut-ins, and the fund balance was reported.

Upcoming Events - March 4th - World Day of Prayer - at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
--March 28-April 1st - Meals-on-Wheels - Sarah Circle
--April 13 - 9 a.m. UMW - Program - Sarah Circle - "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial"
--June 8 - 9 a.m. UMW Meeting - Hostess - Sarah Circle
--June 20-24 - Meals-on-Wheels - Sarah Circle

Discussion was held on Graduation Reception and this was added to our Program booklet.

Program- Betty Bernard read from the book by Max Lucado, "If God Wrote You A Letter".

Meeting adjourned with members praying "The Lord's Prayer", and having lunch furnished by Marian Lingenfelter, in the Fellowship Room.

Shirley Hyland, Secretary

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle met at Hillside on January 19. Barbra was the hostess

Huberta read two e-mails instead of a magazine report. They were titled "Slow Dance" and "The Telephone." Darlene gave the book report from John 3:16. The chapter was "The Heart He Offers."

The Secretary's Report and the Sunshine Report were given. We once again talked about what to do with our Sunshine money. We don't have enough for a table so we will wait for now. We will meet at Hillside on the 16th of February. Vivian will be the hostess.

Respectfully Huberta

* * * *

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle met on February 16 at Hillside. Vivian was the hostess. The cinnamon rolls were delicious.

I gave the book report, the chapter was titled "Heaven's Whoever Policy." Darlene gave the magazine report from **Response**. The title of the article was "Light in the Valley." It was about the McCurdy school in New Mexico. This school is supported by the Methodist Church, however two-thirds of the students are Catholic. They have forty buildings on forty-four acre- and three maintenance persons. Volunteers go once a year to help keep the buildings in repair. After our reports were given, Darlene reported on the U.M.W. meeting and work day. Darlene will be the hostess for March.

Respectfully Huberta

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle met at the church on Thursday, January 20, 2011, with eight members present. Jean Barnhart served a delicious dessert consisting of angel food cake with a pineapple topping, coffee and tea, and snacks. We had three visitors that joined us for dessert.

The meeting was opened by Jean with a reading and prayer from the Daily Guideposts.

Marie read the minutes for the October meeting. The minutes were approved as read. The Sunshine Fund report was not available.

New Business—the 2011 Program book was distributed, and Jean went through highlighting for us the various responsibilities for Ruth Circle this year. We then picked which month for this year that we would like to be hostess. The money collected today will again be given to the Spring Valley Food Shelf. Marie volunteered to make purchases with the money.

The meeting was adjourned.

We read our spiritual and humorous readings, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by,
Marie Tart



SATURDAY WORSHIP MUSIC FOR MARCH

March 5	Country at Heart
March 12	Karla Hamersma
March 19	To be determined
March 26th	The Vickmarks



Life is huge in so many ways! I cannot begin to tell you the appreciation & gratitude that the Mission Committee and myself have for the generous "One Great Day of Sharing" offering we collected last week. The children collected \$215.23 in their socks; total offering was \$540.23. Thank you Faith family for making this UMCOR offering successful in so many ways & rejoice in yourselves.

Mary Vickmark,
Mission Chairperson

BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER

We're planning to offer a six week "experiential" study on prayer built around Maxie Dunnam's work entitled The Workbook Of Living Prayer. Cost for the workbooks will be \$11.00 and scholarships will be available upon request if needed. Depending upon interest we may offer the study at multiple times during the week to accommodate different schedules. If you'd be interested in participating please let Pastors Mark or Beth know a.s.a.p. or contact Louise in the office.



Faith United Methodist Church
617 Maple Lane
Spring Valley, MN 55975

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