

The Word



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Ministers Musings

As we talked about youth ministry at Parish Council last week, I listened to how many of us had significant experiences at youth group as teenagers, no matter where we were in church at the time. Many of us were in youth groups that included kids from 'outside' the regular church families of the day. And many of us are clear that our involvement today with church can be traced back to times of fun and fellowship and deep conversations about faith that happened in UMYF/MYF/Epworth League/Confirmation class/Pilgrim Fellowship/Youth Group, or whatever else your young people's gathering was called. If you're under 18, know that we're hoping to pull together a regular group for you to participate in here at United Ministry. If you're over 18, please think and pray about being part of a leadership team to work with youth. Popcorn, pizza, movies, mission trips, games, sharing stories, claiming leadership, and the power of the Holy Spirit – all of these are part of what a youth group here could look like. Let's make it happen.

I just got back from a conference on small church ministry. Here at UMD we worship with fewer than 100 people most Sundays, so we're considered a small church, as is every other Presbyterian and United Methodist church in the area. There are a lot of small churches in the U.S. today, and we're generally doing faithful work, loving neighbors, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, baptizing new Christians, making disciples of Jesus Christ of ourselves and of others. That is to say, we are being church. Bigger churches feed more people and probably baptize more babies, but the love of Jesus is shared among us as well as among them, sincerely and often. The small-church conference opened with the reminder that all New Testament literature was written from and to small churches. There were many who were baptized on the day of Pentecost, but they then dispersed to start church communities in their own towns. There were other good insights shared at the conference. Church after the pandemic, large or small, is not going to ever be precisely what it was before. Some people have moved on, some have been disappointed. Others have joined the work of the church through technological improvements we have made because we had to. We regularly have five to eight households join us for worship via our livestream on Sunday mornings. We love seeing people in person in worship, and we know now that people participate in ministry in more ways than Sunday mornings. So we celebrate involvement in our work wherever and whenever it happens – online, filling boxes

with food for our neighbors, and in worship with sisters and brothers in Christ whether they're there weekly or only every once in a while. We'll be ok, whatever the future holds, if we let the Spirit lead and we follow in love. Amen and Amen.

Reformation Sunday with Friends

We'll share worship on October 29, Reformation Sunday, with nearby neighbors in Christ. Andes Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches, Cabin Hill Presbyterian Church, Bovina Presbyterian Church, and First Presbyterian here in Delhi will gather here for shared worship, with communion, for Sunday morning worship on the 29th. Pastors and lay people from all the churches will be involved in leading the worship, and there will be a joint choir anthem. We'll host a coffee hour after worship. It will be an excellent occasion; plan to be there.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Cathy

Highlights of the September Parish Council Meeting

The September meeting of the Parish Council opened with devotions during which Chelsea shared a reading from Richard Rohr entitled *Creating a Community of Compassion*.

This month's Topic of the Month was Youth Ministry. We currently have 5 children in Kids Club. The United Ministry doesn't have anything to offer children once they age out of Kids Club. We have good relationships with Presbyterians and Methodists in the area, but Pastor Cathy gets the feeling that they don't have many children in that age range either. We discussed some sort of activity/event to let people in the broader community know about an open youth group? In order to make it happen we need someone to lead (Pastor Cathy + someone else?); some sort of structure (when to meet, possibly every other week on Sunday nights) and some sort of outreach to let the community know.

There wasn't a Play School report, as the board tried to meet and didn't have a quorum. They are having a meeting next week. Laura reported they have 8 students and that they were temporarily closed due to COVID.

Laura presented the Treasurer's Report. As of August 31st, our income should be at 66% and we are at 52%, which includes \$80,000 taken from investments. Expenses are at 59% (should be at 66%). An additional \$2,000 was tacked on the August investment draw to go towards the parsonage improvements. Investments are moving in a positive direction although the amount reported in this month's report does not match the actual amount and will be corrected. The August report should reflect a \$1000 donation from the Presbyterian Church in Walton plus two additional donations of \$1000.

Trustees met last week and reported that the contractor finished, under budget, painting the old part of the church. He was also hired to pressure wash the rest of the building. Gideon has been looking into oil options and has a lock-in price with Kiff for \$3.70 a gallon. He will check with Allison Oil as well. Tank was filled in July before prices started going up. Trustees are working on purchasing an AC unit for the parsonage. They will talk with the O'Connor Foundation this fall to see what's available for funding to fix the stone steps in front and painting the bell tower. The parsonage porch still needs painting and the garden out front will need some attention. Barb Jones has been working on a grant that is based on the use of our building as a community resource. The information she has gathered should be helpful with the O'Connor Foundation as well. She has also procured a grant of \$2000 for the good Food pantry.

Stephanie McCann reported that the Finance Committee met at the beginning of September. Giving statements for the first half of the year were sent with a cover letter and will be sent mailed again after the 3rd quarter. Items discussed were fuel oil, painting of the church and which line item to use for food pantry orders from the Amazon. We received a bill from Mike Simmonds for damage when the TVs were installed. At the next meeting on October 3rd, Pastor Cathy will bring template of a narrative budget to help in getting started on the 2024 budget. Laura caught up budget for 10% of loose offering and unpledged contributions being given to benevolence which will be continued monthly going forward. Barb brought up the possibility of a suggested donation for the use of the building. Edie mentioned that she doesn't always see checks/donations coming in for the "use of church" fund. Carol will check with Deb about following up on donations/payment for building use.

Stewardship reported testimonials will begin on the 24th of September with Carol discussing building use and Pam Savage speaking about Playschool on October

1st. This is intended to lead up to mid-November Stewardship Sunday on the 19th. We will decide at the next Finance Committee meeting how to proceed with the rest of the fall testimonials.

Barb Jones was not present, but Pastor Cathy reported that SPR had employee evaluation meetings. 2 committee members are not well now. Next meeting will happen in October.

Pastor Cathy has been doing a lot of visiting with church members who have been ill/hospitalized. As head of a cooperative parish among Methodists she hosted that crew for dinner at the end of August. There will be a charge conference on October 14th at Walton from 9-12. Our charge conference will happen in January when we hold our Annual Meeting. The DS would like someone at the meeting for the first part. Pastor Cathy is looking for someone to attend with her since Carol will be doing the food giveaway and cannot attend, Cathy went to Presbytery last Saturday and is part of a Presbyterian cluster group that gathers periodically. They're doing good work and paying to send pastors to Small Church Conference. Pastor Cathy will go to Pittsburgh next week. They asked if we would be willing to be a "Zoom Watching" site for workshops on Saturday mornings. Deb will set that up. We will be hosting the 5th Sunday worship with the Presbyterians on October 29th. Deb Fleming will be preaching, and we will do a coffee hour afterwards. Plans for Thanksgiving are being discussed at Clergy Association. Currently we don't have any responsibilities. Meal will be organized by St. John's. She is not sure about when the service will be. Kids Club and Book Study has started.

Edie presented some updates on the Food Pantry. Demand remains high and some supplies are low. Potential that there will be 16 families fed out of the pantry this week. Pastor Cathy shared she had written about the Food Pantry in the Pastor's Pen section of the Walton Reporter.

Evelyn will work on coffee hour sign ups.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact me or any member of council.

Carol Greene

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5 is All Saints Sunday, when we remember all those who have died in the past year. Use the form below, or simply send a note or an email to the church office, to list friends, family or heroes whom you would like to include on our All Saints list. Please include the date of death, if known.

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023

Name

Date of death

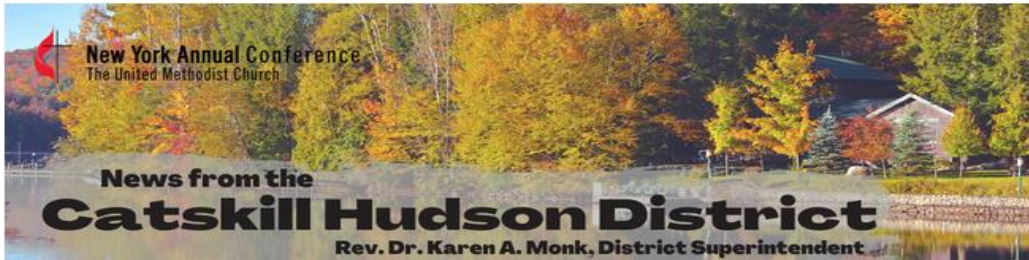
Blessing of the Animals



Dogs, cats, gerbils, fish, parrots, and/or horses – outsiders may refer to them as our pets, but we know they are family, loved and cherished as gifts of God to us for companionship and joy. Bring your favorite animals to the Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday afternoon, October 15, at 1:00 pm. We'll gather on the Square for the service unless the weather is miserable, in which case we'll move to McIntosh Hall. Refreshments for

humans and animals will follow the service. Do come.

Lay Servant Class



Friends,

The Catskill Hudson District Lay Servant Ministries Committee is pleased to offer an in-person Basic Lay Servant class in October.

The Basic Course helps people to discern and employ their spiritual gifts within God's church. Participants will reflect on the areas of leading, caring, communicating, and spreading the love of Christ in the world. This is the first course for anyone who is considering becoming a lay servant within the United Methodist Church.

Our instructor is Rev. Estella Abel, Retired Deacon, who has had a rich ministry through the years, including being the director/coordinator of the Metropolitan District Lay Servant School for a number of years.

Here are the specific details for the class:

Dates/Times:

Saturday, October 14, 9:30Am - 4PM

Sunday, October 15, 10AM - 4PM
(includes worship at Clinton Ave.)

Lunch will be provided both days

Location: Clinton Ave. UMC, 122 Clinton Ave., Kingston NY 12401.

Cost: \$5 for Clinton Ave. members; \$25 for all others

Fee covers cost of Participant Book (will be sent to students when registration is received) and food.

Please complete the attached registration form and return it with your payment to Carol Merante (address in form) or bring both to the first class on October 14. Please address any questions to Margaret Howe at MargHoweAlto@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing some new faces!

Catskill Hudson District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries
Rev. Karen Monk, District Superintendent
Margaret Howe and Jeremy Mills, Directors of Lay Servant Ministries

Lay Servant Ministries Classes

Fall 2023 Lay Servant Course Basic Course

Instructor - Rev Estella Abel

Rev. Estella Abel, Deacon, has taught several of the Lay Servant courses as well as being the director/coordinator of the Metropolitan District Lay Servant School for several years. With her background as an educator the course promises to be useful, informative, and exciting.

The Basic Course encourages people to recognize and use their spiritual gifts for work in the Church.

Sessions guide participants through thoughtful reflection on the areas of leading, caring, communicating, and spreading the love of Christ into the world. Those who wish to begin the Lay Servant Ministries journey begin with this Basic Course. This course is also for those seeking to find their calling in local church leadership.

Location - Clinton Ave UMC, 122 Clinton Ave., Kingston NY 12401
IN PERSON

Dates: October 14th from 9:30AM-4pm and October 15th from 10:00AM-4pm
Lunch will be provided both days.
Sunday Worship at Clinton Ave.

Book will be sent to you as soon as you register.

.....
Name: _____ Email _____ Phone _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church: _____ Pastor: _____

___ Basic Course (\$25) ___ Clinton Ave. Members (\$5)

This includes book and food.

Please return this portion and your Registration Fee to:

Carol Merante, 8 Dove Court Unit G, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 (carolmerante@aol.com)

Make checks payable to: Catskill Hudson Lay Servant Committee

(for office use: date received _____ registration fee paid _____)

Small Church Vitality Workshops



Our Presbytery is offering four free online “Small Church Vitality” Workshops:

Zoom link: bit.ly/3Zc9GuG

Please register at susvalpresby.org/small-register

- **Saturday, Sept. 30, 10–11:30am, “How Facebook Can Help Your Church Grow”** presented by Ruling Elder John Fong — on Zoom or come to an in-person watch party*.
- **Saturday, Oct. 14, 10–11:30am, “How the Season of Advent Can Attract Visitors”** presented by Rev. Phillip Blackburn — on Zoom or come to an in-person watch party*.
- **Saturday, Oct. 28, 10am–12pm, “Finding Our Way Through This Year’s Advent Lectionary”** presented by Rev. Allen Presby — in person at Nineveh Presbyterian Church or on Zoom.
- **Thursday, Nov. 16, 7–8:30pm, “Fresh Expressions for Small Rural Congregations”** presented by Rev. Shannon Kiser — on Zoom or come to an in-person watch party*.

**For these 3 workshops, the speaker will join us via Zoom with a 60-minute presentation followed by a Q & A and a small-group discussion period. We have set up some in-person “watch parties”, locations where folks can gather to watch together and then discuss the topic amongst themselves.*

If you prefer, you can attend entirely online and then join in the discussion with others on Zoom.

The United Ministry of Delhi is serving as a watch party location for these events.

→→ **Check Thursday Thoughts on the Presbytery’s website for further details, go to: www.susvalpresby.org/Thursday-Thoughts**

Volunteers Needed

We recently received a request from First Presbyterian Church of Delhi regarding the Kirk Thrift Shoppe. For those of you who have never stopped into the shop or contributed gently used items to them, it was created in 2016 to help their church financially through a difficult time and as a source of help for those members of the community that are in need. What started as a small effort has now grown and taken over many spaces in their church. They have expanded from not only financially helping to support their church, but have grown to now support other organizations, local people in need, victims of fire and abuse, mission aid in several foreign countries and other worthy causes in our community.

They now face the problem of not having enough people to handle the amount of work required to sort donations, price and man their Shoppe on the days it is open. Many people have been helping with this effort but as with many of our churches, they face an aging congregation.

They have decided to reach out to the five Presbyterian churches in the local consortium, which includes United Ministry. Their plan is to ask people from these congregations to volunteer their time at the Kirk Thrift Shoppe. These hours will be recorded, and each volunteer will earn money that will be sent to their home church. They are asking that each church use this money to support a mission of their church. They have not decided on an hourly amount (some of this depends on the profits of the Shoppe) but Renee indicated

somewhere around \$3-\$4 an hour. I am putting it out there to anyone who might be interested in helping this very worthwhile mission that serves our community. For more information, please call Renee Maxwell (607-747-6128 (H) or 607-287-0401 (C)).



Carol Greene

Play School News - October 2023

Play School is underway in its 55th school year. Play School is in full swing with 7 students and we are off to a great start! We started the year with a Birthday Celebration! This group, even though they have been limited in spending time with other peers due to COVID, has started to blend very well together. The children are excited to come to school, excited to learn new things, and having lots of fun!! We have been making projects with paint, learning new songs, learning the letters in our name and name recognition and have begun the letter of the week with some great topics. We made applesauce with Mrs. K at the end of September and the kids enjoyed every bit of it from washing the apples, cutting the apples, wondering where Mrs. K. took the pot of apple pieces, grinding it through the food mill, to eating it! Delicious!! We had a used book donation from Joanne Leddy (a former Play School Director)! We have a lot of fun events planned for October with Delhi Fire trucks during Ff week, Delhi Pizza Co. for pizza during letter Pp week, Open House, Fun with Science with Miss. Marne, Benson and Sylvan (2 of our alumni students), Chief Mills for Halloween Safety, Halloween Costume Parade around the church, and community guests, to name a few.

Play School received a wonderful donation from the Kazmierski Family and Friends in Memory of Joel Kazmierski. These funds will be used for new equipment and toys for the children of the program and replace some of the damaged and broken items. To date, between donations given to Ruth and the United Ministry in Joel's name, we have \$1,340.00 to dedicate in Memory of Joel. Thank you everyone!!

Play School is hosting a Bottle and Can Drive with Dutch Redemption at the Bagels and Cream on the corner of Main and Elm Street in Delhi on October 28th from 1:00-4:30 pm. If anyone is interested in donating Bottles and Cans you can bring them by on Saturday during our drive, drop them by Play School or let Pam Savage know at 607-746-6869 or email her at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can make arrangements. Please help us to fill the truck! Thank you in advance for any monetary or bottle donations given during this event for the Play School program. We appreciate your support!!

Play School is still collecting school supplies and monetary donations for the 2023-24 school year. Thank you for all the wonderful donations of supplies thus far for the children in the Play School Program! We have received a variety of items from the U.M. Congregation, Play School Families and the Community! We appreciate everything we have received for the Play School class and couldn't have done it without your help and support!! THANK YOU!!!

Happy Fall Everyone!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Savage, Play School Director



Play School and Dutch Redemption Proudly Present



✓
All donations benefit Play
School students directly

✓
5¢ recyclables accepted

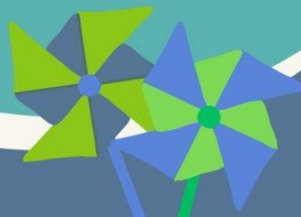
✓
3rd annual bottle
drive event

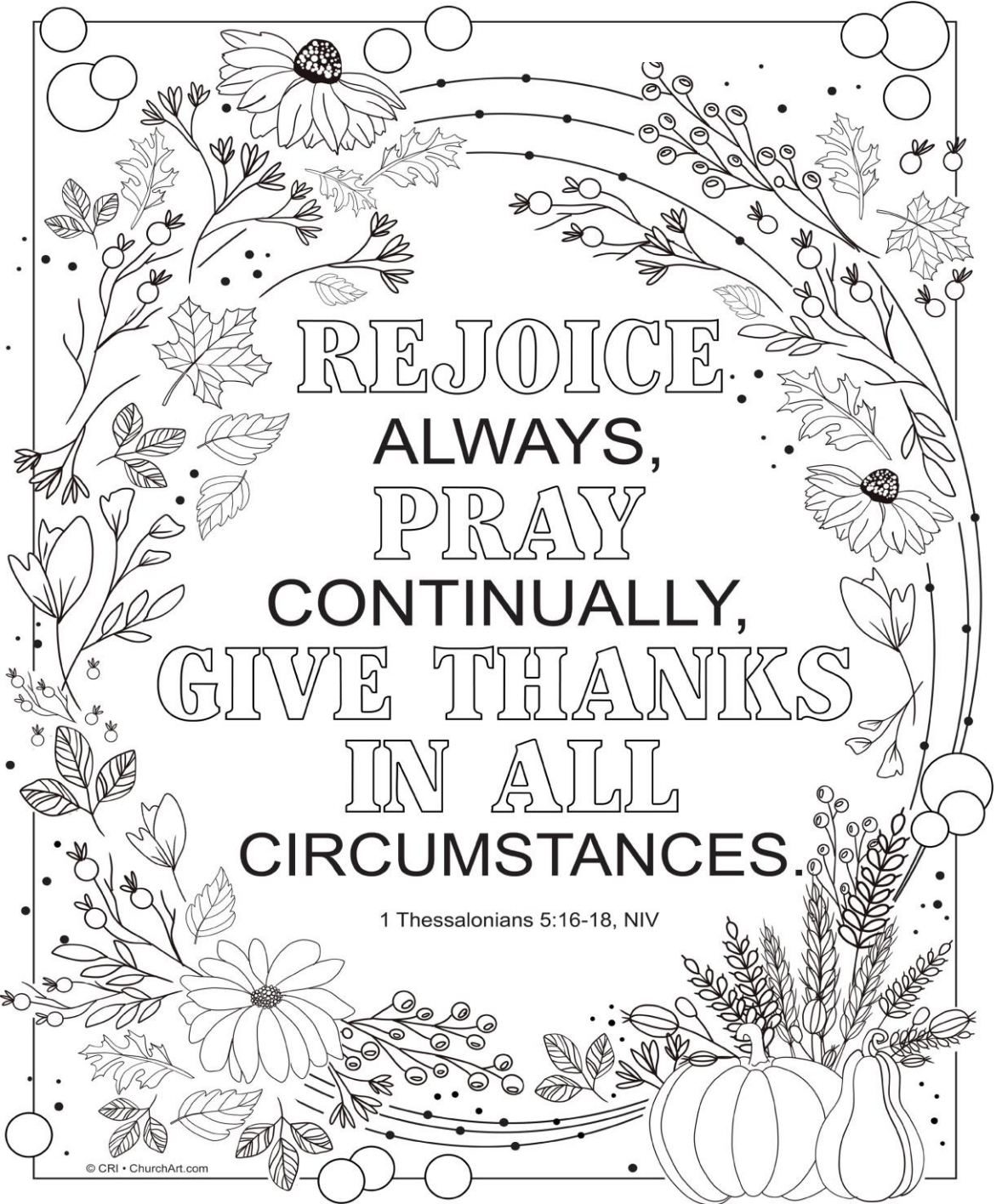


Join us on Saturday, October 28
from 1-4:30pm at Bagels n Cream
located at 2 Elm Street in Delhi

For more information, click or call:
playschool.umod@gmail.com
607.746.2191 ext. 206

 hands
little BIG
IMPACT
BOTTLE DRIVE EVENT







Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Coffee Hour

- Oct 1 Baby Shower
- Oct 8 _____
- Oct 15 Laura Mills & Pat Nabinger
- Oct 22 _____
- Oct 29 Joint Worship/Reception
for guests

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

Flowers

- Oct 1 Carol Greene
- Oct 8 _____
- Oct 15 _____
- Oct 22 _____
- Oct 29 _____

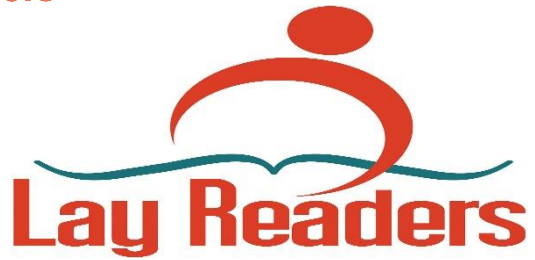
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.



Will Frisbee	10/2	Tristan McCann	10/19
Maggie Reinmann	10/4	Cameron Mills	10/19
Marcie Hamilton	10/5	Carol Greene	10/22
Cheryl Greenfield	10/10	Charlotte Vetter	10/23
Autumn Unger	10/12	Peg Baldwin	10/25
John Bramley	10/13	Eloise Henault	10/29
Donna Briggs	10/14	Marisa Miller	10/30
Kathy Whittaker	10/15	Bryan Hillis	10/30
Porter Frisbee	10/18		

Lectors

Oct 1 *Evelyn Jacksto* .
Oct 8 *Fred Onasch* .
Oct 15 *Liz Frisbee* .
Oct 22 *Edie Campbell* .
Oct 29 *John Gaffney*



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