

What Then Shall We Do?
2nd Sunday of the Social Justice Series
February 12, 2023

Gathering

Wind Chimes Call Us to Worship Carter Phillips

Call to Worship Jonathan Spelman

Prelude *Thy Strong Word* arr. K. Hildebrand
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 119

One: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Many: Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek the Lord with their whole heart,

One: who also do no wrong but walk in God's ways.

Many: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

All: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Telling God's Story

Special Music *This Little Light O' Mine* arr. John W. Work
Chancel Choir

Originally a children's song, *This Little Light O' Mine* was adapted by Zilphia Horton during the Civil Rights movement and taught to Pete Seeger. It then became closely tied to the work of Civil Rights Leader Fannie Lou Hamer. The arranger of today's anthem, John W. Work III, was a composer and known for his work collecting, writing about, and publishing recordings of traditional and emerging African American music. His father, John Work Jr., had been the first African American to collect and publish African American spirituals. Both worked at Fisk University and directed the Fisk University Singers.

Conversation with Children

Anne Marie Spelman & Jan Wiebe

Hymn

VT 641 *And I Will Raise You Up*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

There Is a Balm in Gilead
Spiritual

arr. J. Leavitt

Dedication Prayer

Special Music

Wade in the Water
Women's Choir & Everett Collier

VT 454

Scripture

Ephesians 6: 1-9

Jeff Gundy

Message

Racial Justice and the Church

Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 388 *How Can I Say*

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 611 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

*Benediction

*Postlude

We Shall Overcome

African American Traditional

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

First Mennonite Church

February 12, 2023

Lead Pastor	Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624 phil@fmcbluffton.org
Interim Pastor of Christian Education & Administration	Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568 carrie@fmcbluffton.org
Communication Coordinator	Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766 fmc@fmcbluffton.org
Director of Music	Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 sudermanme@bluffton.edu
Technology & Media Coordinator	Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769 rayraeburn@gmail.com
Caretaker	Don Burris, 419-788-6157 caretaker@fmcbluffton.org

First Mennonite Church Office Hours

- Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Phil's day off - Friday
- Carrie's day off - Monday Afternoon & Thursday Afternoon

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Sara Brenner

1/29/23 - 2/5/23

Reported Volunteer hours: 10.5

Attendance: 135

Online views: 55

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corrinne Boehr's memorial service will be Friday, February 17, at 11 a.m. here at First Mennonite Church, with visitation scheduled the hour before beginning at 10 a.m. Prayers for Dick, Jeff & Beth, and Corinne's entire family are welcome.

Ann Shumaker, sister of Joan Diller, died Tuesday, February 7, in Kirkland, OH. Ann was a devoted member of FMC for nearly 20 years. A memorial service will be held at a later date here at FMC. Sam and Joan are grateful for your prayers.

We offer prayerful support of **Darby, Jen, Bodey, & Barrett Benroth** as they gather with family this weekend to remember Darby's grandmother, Sandy Garmatter, who died Tuesday. Services were scheduled at Emmanuel UCC on Saturday.

NOON TODAY: All are invited to the Social Justice potluck lunch to continue the conversation around Racial Justice and the Church introduced during the sermon. Bring your own tableservice. Paper products will be available.

Pastors Phil and Carrie will be attending the Pastors & Leaders Conference at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary **February 13-16**. Pastoral care will be tended by members of the Pastoral Care Team. An updated contact list is in your church mailbox. For emergencies Monday - Wednesday, contact Elizabeth Kelly 419.348.1886.

I am involved in helping **Kenneth, a Bluffton University student from Ghana**. He ran into financial difficulties soon after arriving for his studies. He works all he can on campus and would be happy for odd jobs. The need we have now is financial help **funding the rent** for his apartment. Over the next 10 months we need about \$6,000. If you could contribute toward this effort you can designate checks or give online to the International Student Assistance Fund by adding "Kenneth housing" on the memo or designation line. Contact me or Carrie Mast for particulars.
~ Mitch Kingsley (kingsleym@bluffton.edu)

\$\$\$ Spending Plan Update: We are starting off on solid financial footing for the year. Besides breaking even at the end of 2022, our income for January 2023 was \$37,764, which exceeded our expenses for the month by more than \$6,000. Our 2023 Spending Plan total is \$430,554.

Mark your calendar! The SHY will be holding a fundraiser auction on **March 19** for their upcoming trip to MennoCon23 in Kansas City. Donations are welcome anytime!

US-Japan PAX (Peace Ambassador Exchange) From 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 15-16, in the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center at Bluffton University, there will be a virtual presentation of speakers via Zoom followed by group discussion. World Friendship Center's Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) is an annual sharing of ideas and materials related to peace, reconciliation, and nuclear issues, built on hearing the first-hand accounts of those whose lives have been impacted by war and the tragedies of atomic bombings. This event is sponsored by Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, PEACE Club, the World Friendship Center of Hiroshima, Japan, and the Lima Sister City project.

The closing reception of the "**Voices Together**" art exhibit will be from 1-3 p.m. **Sunday, Feb. 19** with an artist talk at 1:20 p.m. from Gwen M. Stamm, whose artwork is featured. The reception will be at the **Grace Albrecht Gallery in the Sauder Visual Art Center**. The exhibit features original works of art from the recently published "Voices Together" hymnal embracing the diversity of the Mennonite Church in North America and around the world, along with the breadth of scripture and the Christian tradition. Gallery hours in the Sauder Visual Art Center are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. This event is free and open to the public.

Help Needed: Don Burris will be off for surgery beginning March 7. We are looking for volunteers or a paid substitute to assist with general cleaning, setup, and teardown in the church.

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counseling. In a country already vulnerable from years of conflict, this was a devastating blow. You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbors by providing a gift online at mcc.org/earthquake, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Syria and Türkiye earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

DIScovery Teams: DIScovery stands for **D**-Discernment; **I**-Insight; **S**-Support; **C**-Caring. The purpose of a DIScovery Team is to walk with anyone at First Mennonite Church and help with discussing and discovering issues involved in making a decision or coming to a workable response to a personal crisis issue. Examples could include a change in employment, family conflict, grief, terminal illness, or any other issue that is a concern to the person involved. If you are interested in utilizing a DIScovery Team, reach out to Phil or Carrie, or any of the Deacons.

Happy Anniversary

February 16 - Rich & Gloria Bucher 10 years

Happy Birthday

February 16 - Mona Reichenbach

February 17 - Rich Bucher

Megan Coffman

February 18 - Kendyl Shadbolt

Anne Marie Spelman

In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

follow us



Today, Sunday, February 12, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall

This Week

Monday, February 13

Pastors & Leaders Week at AMBS begins

Tuesday, February 14

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, February 15

Jubilate 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Assembly Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Peace Ambassador Exchange, 7-9 p.m. Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center

Thursday, February 16

Leadership Circle, 7 p.m. Assembly Room

Peace Ambassador Exchange, 7-9 p.m. Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center

Friday, February 17

Visitation, 10 a.m. & Memorial Service, 11 a.m. for Corinne Boehr FMC

Next Sunday, February 19, 2023

Worship - Adam Phillips preaching

Voices Together Closing Reception, 1-3 p.m.

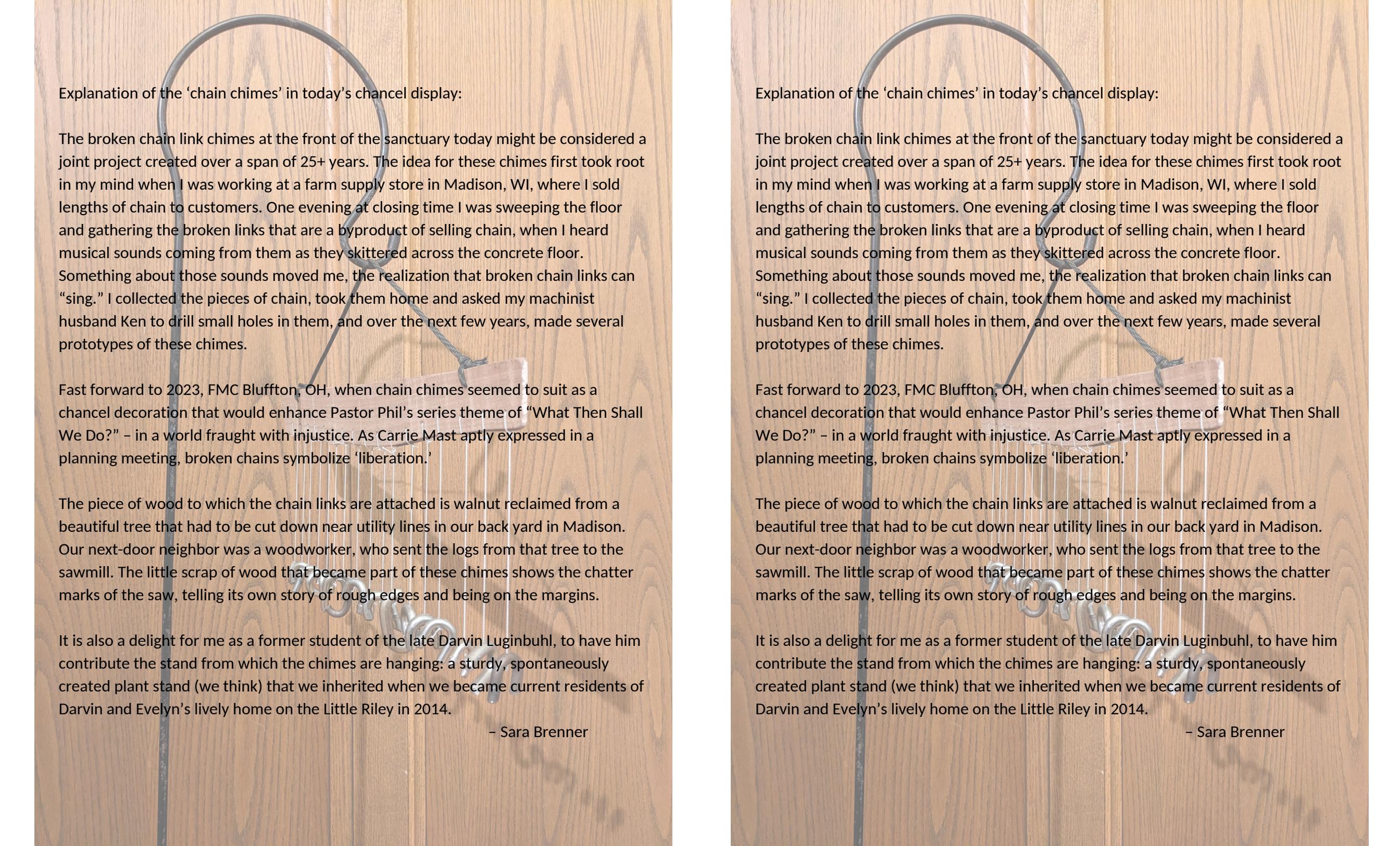
Lectionary: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-8

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

Welcome to our worship service today.

Visitors are invited to sign one of our guest sheets located at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Wireless hearing aids are available. **Worship bags** for children can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance. **Child care is available** during Sunday School and worship for young children in the nursery located in the basement.



Explanation of the 'chain chimes' in today's chancel display:

The broken chain link chimes at the front of the sanctuary today might be considered a joint project created over a span of 25+ years. The idea for these chimes first took root in my mind when I was working at a farm supply store in Madison, WI, where I sold lengths of chain to customers. One evening at closing time I was sweeping the floor and gathering the broken links that are a byproduct of selling chain, when I heard musical sounds coming from them as they skittered across the concrete floor. Something about those sounds moved me, the realization that broken chain links can "sing." I collected the pieces of chain, took them home and asked my machinist husband Ken to drill small holes in them, and over the next few years, made several prototypes of these chimes.

Fast forward to 2023, FMC Bluffton, OH, when chain chimes seemed to suit as a chancel decoration that would enhance Pastor Phil's series theme of "What Then Shall We Do?" – in a world fraught with injustice. As Carrie Mast aptly expressed in a planning meeting, broken chains symbolize 'liberation.'

The piece of wood to which the chain links are attached is walnut reclaimed from a beautiful tree that had to be cut down near utility lines in our back yard in Madison. Our next-door neighbor was a woodworker, who sent the logs from that tree to the sawmill. The little scrap of wood that became part of these chimes shows the chatter marks of the saw, telling its own story of rough edges and being on the margins.

It is also a delight for me as a former student of the late Darvin Luginbuhl, to have him contribute the stand from which the chimes are hanging: a sturdy, spontaneously created plant stand (we think) that we inherited when we became current residents of Darvin and Evelyn's lively home on the Little Riley in 2014.

– Sara Brenner

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– Sara Brenner

"I remember the wade-ins because the bump hasn't gone off my jaw yet. We had taken a lot of kids down to the beach, not really realizing it was going to be so bad. As I approached the water I could see it was tense-- all those policemen congregating there, and five or six feet away a group of hoodlums. They started yelling obscenities at us, but we went on -- myself and a group of teenage girls. We were afraid but we felt we just had to go on.

We stood at the edge of the water for a while and it was quiet-- an awful kind of quiet. Then two or three of the fellows would run and charge the group. The girls would just step aside. I thought they would leave us alone, so I encouraged the girls to go ahead and swim. Some fellows who were working with the movement, larger fellows, were out there, but somehow they picked on the group of girls.

Finally they really charged. It was obvious they felt they just couldn't take it any more-- our being there. They knocked those little girls like they were men. One girl got a broken nose, and there were messed up eyes and faces.

There was a white fellow back on the beach saying to the policemen, "you're supposed to protect them! Why don't you protect them?" And it was so obvious that they weren't there to protect us, but that they were friends of the hoodlums. After the beating we went away. We sang, "Wade in the Water," and decided to go back the next day."

-Dorothy Cotton, SCLC



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