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Marching Forward with Anti-Racism

Late this Spring Pastor Karen and I sent a letter home to you. You may have received it in an envelope or possibly in your email, further claiming our role as a people of faith in the work of anti-racism. We shared with you Claremont Presbyterian Church’s historical commitment to ending racism and working towards equity for all God’s children.

Since renewing that commitment and the sending of that important letter, many things have taken place, and many opportunities are still opening for involvement and engagement. We have formed two groups – one that is dedicated to the inner work of learning and growing through our reading group, the other is committed to doing the hands-on work and is appropriately called our working group.

The reading group began in June with the exploration of Layla Saad’s *Me and White Supremacy*. This was a 28-Day reading challenge that called the group members to struggle with new terminology and recalling moments in their own lives where they saw, experienced, or enacted acts of racism. The nearly 25 participants discerned together that having this space to ask questions and share their thoughts was important and so they wanted to continue in August with a second book - Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to be an Antiracist*.

The working group took on more direct actions in the work of antiracism. The eight participants discussed and discerned potential community organizations who are already doing antiracism work as a way to partner with and offer support. Parallel to having conversations with many different organizations around the East Pomona Valley, many members of the group began to explore and learn about the candidates for both City Council seats and School Board seats. Posing tough questions about racial justice within our city, our schools, and our police department is part of the working group’s charge and God’s call in our lives.

Both of these groups are continuing in their respective efforts and engagements. If you feel that you may want to have a conversation about joining either of these groups, please reach out to Pastor Karen or to me so that we can help get you connected. Learning about and sharing that we are all beloved children of God is important and careful work. It is our prayer that the work we do today will create a more just world tomorrow.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Upcoming Worship

(all worship services are accessible through Facebook Live unless otherwise noted)

September 5, 7:00 PM
Evening Prayer on the Lawn

September 6, 10:00 AM
“What the Poets Saw”
Psalms of Praise

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

September 12, 6:00 PM
Evening Prayer on the Lawn

September 13, 10:00 AM
“What the Poets Saw”
Psalms of Lament
Karen Sapio preaching

September 13, 7:00 PM
Service for Healing and
Wholeness
In Angel Courtyard and
streamed on FaceBook Live

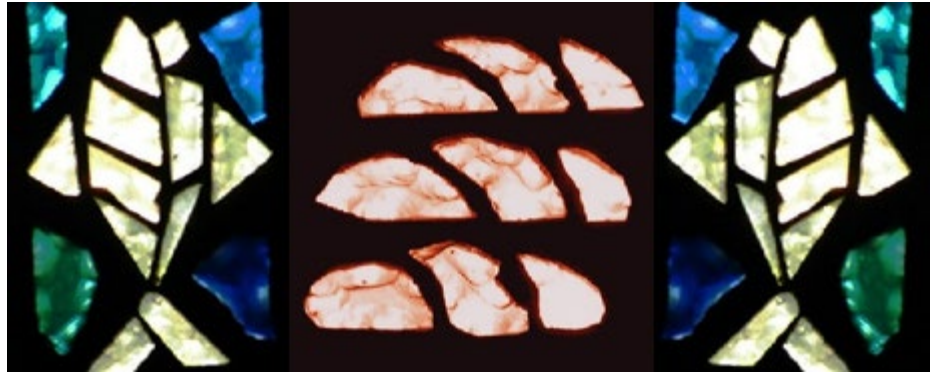
September 19, 6:00 PM
Evening Prayer on the Lawn

September 20, 10:00 AM
“What the Poets Saw”
Psalms of Anger
Karen Sapio preaching

September 26, 6:00 PM
Evening Prayer on the Lawn

September 27, 10:00 AM
“What the Poets Saw”
Psalms of Pilgrimage
Karen Sapio preaching

The Loaves and Fishes Society: an additional way to give back to CPC



*“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.
But what are they among so many?”
John 6:9*

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to “give back” to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

While the annual pledge campaign provides the vital funding to support the daily operating budget of the Church, the bequest program serves long-range needs, as described in the Loaves and Fishes Society brochure. If you would like another copy of the brochure for yourself or a friend, please pick one up in the Church office – we hope it will serve as a ready guide and reference for future use.

Just as the loaves and fishes were multiplied to sustain multitudes (John 6:9), our individual bequest gifts, when combined with those of others, will have a far greater impact than any one of us could achieve on our own. Currently, 30 people are members of our Loaves and Fishes Society.

When you too have taken this important step, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Neila Carey in the Church office – we want to offer our hearty thanks to you, as well!

*The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee of
Claremont Presbyterian Church:*

Eric Bernal, Roger House, Dee Kelley, Kent Miller, Karen Sapio,
Stan Springer, Kent Warner, Mike Wigton

Sermon Series for September: What the Poets Saw

In September our 2020 Vision sermon explorations continue. We are considering what we see when we view our lives and our world through the various lenses of scripture. In September we will consider “What the Poets Saw.” There is a lot of poetry in the Bible, and the largest collection of scriptural poetry is found in the Psalms. The 150 Psalms fall into broad categories: praise, lament, anger, and pilgrimage. The Psalms express the full range of human emotions and show us that nothing in our hearts that we cannot bring to God.

Please lift up your prayers for:

For the family of Jennifer Wood on the death of her sister, for the family of Joyce Alexander on the death of her sister, and for the family of Phyllis DeLeo on the death of her cousin Wes. Marge Stoddard, Thom Bleakney, Jim Brashler, Ruth Auld, Kay and Suzanne Brown and their son; Phyllis DeLeo, Phoebe DeVille, Geri Lindell, Jane Glenn, John Najarian, Jean Underwood, Chet & Eileen Jaeger, Lee & Claire McDonald, Mike Layne, Barbara Myers Mary & Ed Hughes, Sandra Deibel, the family of Maxine Ross.

Should you or anyone in your family or anyone of whom you know be in need of prayer, and you have their permission to share their name, please email your requests to: Delight Slotemaker de Bruine delight@claremontpres.org. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed and if you wish to include details, then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.

Evening Prayer on the Lawn

The LA County Department of Public Health continues to ask faith communities not to hold in person, indoor worship services. However, outdoor services with proper distancing and mask-wearing are encouraged as a safer alternative.

In September, we will continue our Saturday Evening Prayer on the Lawn gatherings. After Labor Day, the time will shift to 6:00 PM in order to adapt to the earlier sunsets of Fall. These services include prayer, scripture reflections, instrumental music, as well as other special elements such as communion or liturgical dance on occasion. Participants may bring a lawn chair and sit on the lawn in front of the sanctuary, or listen from their cars parked in the adjacent parking area. We ask everyone to wear a mask and practice safe physical distancing.

Service for Healing and Wholeness

For our September 13 Service for Healing and Wholeness, we will gather outdoors at 7:00 PM in Angel Courtyard. Bring your own lawn chair if possible! We will pray for those known to us in need of God's healing and strength, for our nation, and the tensions around the upcoming election increase. We will also stream the service on Facebook Live for those who prefer to worship with us from home.

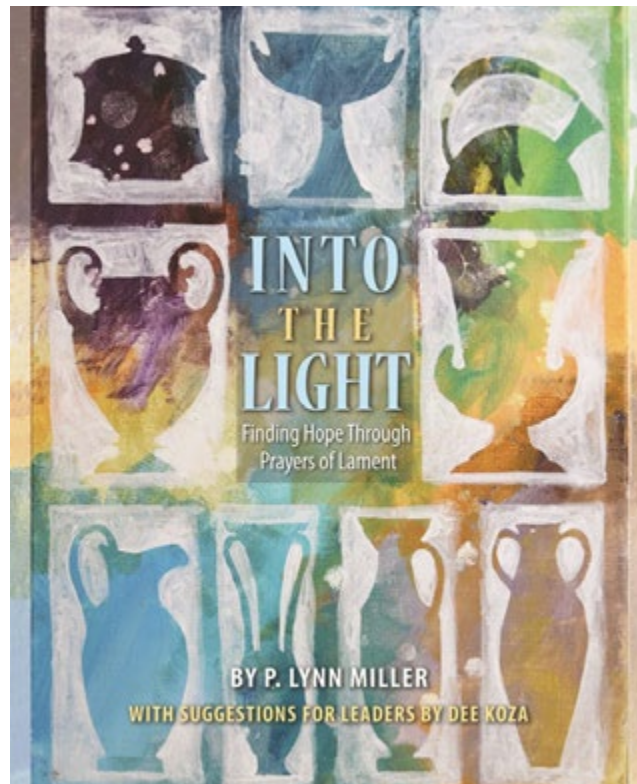
Wednesday Bible Study

Our weekly Wednesday afternoon Bible Study will begin its next study on September 16 at 4:00 PM. Use ZOOM meeting ID 862 1883 9113 to join the gathering.

This group will be using the study guide *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. This guide fo-

cuses on how the practice of lament winds its way through scripture in the Psalms, Prophets, Job, and even the Gospels. The author writes: When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

If you would like to order a study guide, please call the church office or contact Pastor Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org

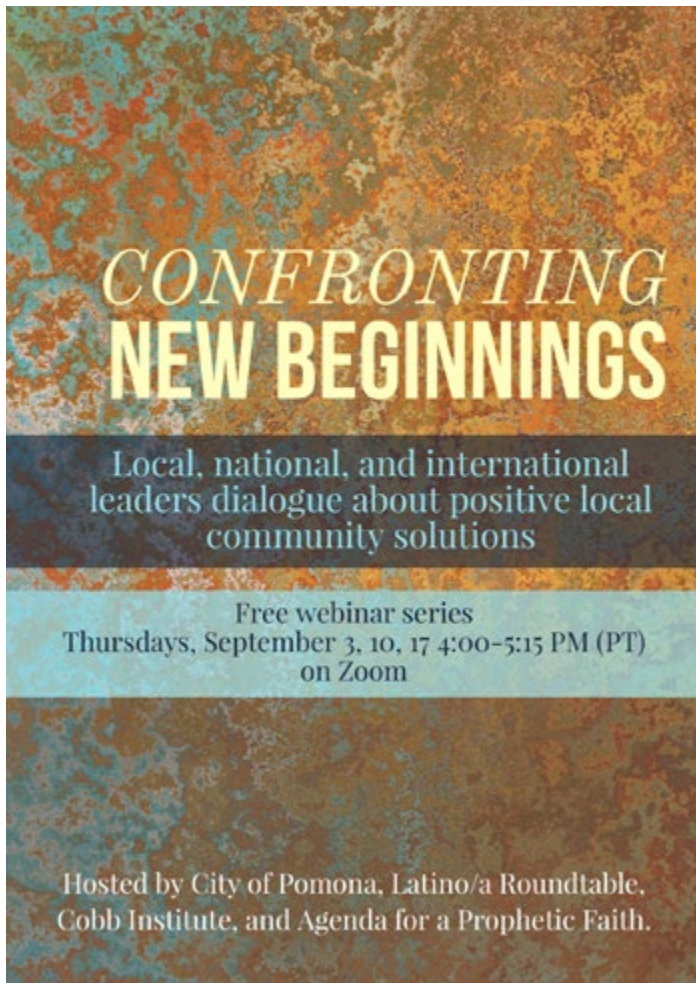


Horizons Bible Study Begins Tuesday, September 8

This Bible Study group sponsored by Presbyterian Women will begin meeting again for 2020-21 on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 AM. Use ZOOM ID 838 4010 2750 to join the gathering. The group meets once each month on the second Tuesday.

The 2020–2021 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss, the wrong still exist—the one who laments is strengthened to face the world and to hope.

If you would like a Bible Study book, please call the church office or contact Pastor Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org.



Confronting New Beginnings presents outstanding local, national and international leaders who will share their wisdom of possibilities for positive local community solutions and actions and respond through the challenging questions: What is wrong with the world and what are we doing about it? This is the moment for great change filled with transformative opportunities. The Webinars on September 3 and 10 are hosted by a stellar group of experienced and committed community leaders and organizations in the Pomona Valley, California, who have the Big View and Big Solutions at the community level. The Webinar on September 17 involves national and international impact leaders who are creating systemic change across the country. We seek to NOT be politically partisan and NOT divide us into old battle lines. We will stretch our framework beyond “Us versus Them” to WE/US.

Session 1 – September 3: “Confronting New Beginnings: Local Big View.” The City of Pomona has made a bold international declaration to be a Compassionate City and is an incredible incubator for new vision and opportunities. Community leaders from the Pomona Valley will share their wisdom through the lens of possibilities, transformation

and local community.

Session 2 – September 10: “Confronting New Beginnings: Local, On the Ground Endeavors.” Experienced, on the ground local perspectives and their work will be spotlighted. Five positive examples of pioneering and visionary projects happening right now to address vital issues in the City of Pomona and the City’s effort to become a City of Compassion will be shared.

Session 3 – September 17: “New Beginnings: National and Global Perspectives.” Confronting New Beginnings means boldness to confront and see a fresh perspective that yields new possibilities. The focus will be on bold solutions to national and global issues of paramount and urgent importance: Economy that serves human beings, justice that repairs relationships, a banking model to optimize investment in community and more.

For a list of speakers and to register for this event, go to www.confrontingnewbeginnings.eventbrite.com

Spiritual Journey

You are invited to take a journey with me exploring your spiritual life and faith. I have been teaching with Stillpoint: Center for Christian Spirituality for several years and would like to bring that work to Claremont Presbyterian Church. This year we will have a limited number of spots (10) so that we can see together if this is something that could become a part of the formational CPC contemplative ministries.

WHAT IS IT? An eight-month exploration of your spiritual life in a small group setting, deeply enriching your relationship with The Divine and helping you recognize the ways that God/Spirit is present and working in your life.

WHO SHOULD COME? This year it is open to a total of 10 persons from Claremont Presbyterian Church who are seeking to go deeper in their spiritual walk.

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT? The program consists of two-hour sessions that meet twice a month, for eight months; September – May (skipping December).

WHEN AND WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN? Classes begin Sundays, September 13 & 27, 2020, with future dates to be scheduled by the group. We may meet on Zoom until safe to gather in person.

WHO TO CONTACT? Contact Pastor Brian at brian@claremontpres.org

I hope you’ll choose to join me on this journey.

-Pastor Brian

Committee/Commission Chairs

With a new class of Elders coming on Session, there have been some changes in Commission/Committee leadership. The list below includes current Chairs.

Worship and Music: Robbin Kelley

Property and Finance: Saba Elyousef

Evangelism and Nurture: Peggy Trindle

Education and Leadership: Barbara Mackenzie

CPCC Board: Jennifer Eazel

Personnel: Tracy Doebler

Mission: Carol Sittig

Stewardship: John Hill/Will Kohlen

Nominating : tbd

Special Gifts and Endowment: Kent Warner

CPC Worship Flowers Are Back!

The opportunity to have our worship services graced with the generosity and beauty of flowers given in honor of or in memory of a loved one is back! If you would like to donate flowers for a worship service, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine, via email delight@claremontpres.org. You can also mail-in the enclosed order form. Sherwood Florist does the flowers and they have done a magnificent job!

For our August 1 Evening Prayer we celebrated Holy Communion. The Communion elements were each in self-contained, individually sealed containers with juice and a wafer. They were individually retrieved, as we came forward, one by one, and, back in our 12' x 12' family unit "pods", we shared in the partaking of the sacraments together.

August 1 flowers were given in loving memory of George and Claire Bailey, on the two-year anniversary of their passing, within a week of one another, and on what would have been their 70th wedding anniversary, by their children, Leanne & Chuck Seeger and Todd & Regina Bailey, along with their many grand and great-grand children!

August 1 flowers we given in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Robert Kelley, by Diane Fencel Ntephe.

August 8 flowers were given by Jean Perry, in honor of her daughter, Janice Montgomery's birthday.

September 5 flowers will be given by Jean Perry, in honor of her son Ronald's birthday.

September 26 flowers will be donated by Paula Pitzer, in loving memory of her parents, Ruth and Harlan Goodrich, founding members of Claremont Presbyterian Church, which meant so very much to them.

Open dates in the coming months for flowers: September 12 & 19, and October 3 & 24.

Adult Education this Fall

This year 2020 has been like a roller coaster full of sharp turns, twists, and even moments of flipping upside down. With COVID-19, Racial Justice Movements, and now an historical election season, it seems our ride through 2020 will continue with its jostles.

Through this CPC Adult Education has provided opportunities to read some articles and an intriguing book, and share in conversation about the pandemic. Tangentially the Racial Justice challenges have been poured over by our Anti-Racism groups. And now, as we move closer to November we will be looking at the changing socio-political landscape and how we as people of faith can be part of this very special conversation.

Monday, September 21, 2020 7:00 PM on Zoom

COVID-19 and Education

Facilitated by Dr. Tom Luschei and Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 4250 4763 Passcode: 916227

Tom will begin by sharing what the landscape of education looks like during this COVID-19 pandemic. Brian will then help us explore how a community of faith can partner and accompany our students, educators, and administrators.

October & November 2020

Pre & Post Election Season: What Does it All Mean?

Dates/Times/Facilitator TBD

We are looking forward to coming together in dialogue around an important election season and year. Because this year has been so different and so challenging in different ways, we have decided to offer space to share before and after the November 3 election. Keep your eye out for more details.

If you would like more information or to be added to the Adult Education Forum email list, please contact Elaine Walker at ewconnects@gmail.com. All are welcome and we would be delighted to have you join the conversation.

Sundays for Children

This Fall Children's Ministries at CPC are going online...

Your Education & Leadership Commission (E&LC) has been working really hard at designing meaningful spiritual formation experiences for our preschool, early elementary and upper elementary kids, as well as our youth.

Moving online this summer for Staycation Bible School has truly shown us that there are many gifted people in our



The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

Pastor Karen Sapio
Senior Pastor
karensapio@claremontpres.org

Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds
Associate Pastor for Outreach
brian@claremontpres.org

Sacha Lord
Children's Center Director
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Neila Carey
Administrative Assistant, Finance and Personnel
ncarey@claremontpres.org

Patrick West
Facilities Manager
patrick@claremontpres.org

Delight Slotemaker De Bruine
Parish Care Coordinator
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Geri DeMasi
Director of Music, Organist
geri@claremontpres.org

Lisa Strom
Communications Coordinator
lisa@claremontpres.org

congregation who are ready to embrace creative and fun ways to help our children grow in their faith, even when we can't make it to the church campus.

I'm excited to share the plans for your children this Fall beginning September 13

Nursery Toddlers – Sundays 12 PM on Zoom (30 min)

Brenda Pintado and Marilu Jimenez will be using specially designed children's books together with the Wonders curriculum to share values through contemporary and Bible stories.

Early Elementary (K-3rd Grade) – Sundays 12PM on Zoom (30 min)

Jenna Brooks, Gabby Rodriguez, Shelley Randles, and Jenny Eazel will continue to offer the imaginative and exciting Godly Play stories to explore the Bible stories with our younger children.

Older Elementary/Tween (4th-6th Grade) – Sundays 1 PM on Zoom (45 min)

After listening to the feedback from our older elementary children Barbara MacKenize and Jeanine Robertson are excited to use the Wonders curriculum to provide spiritual formation opportunities that use Bible stories and values to help explore the tough questions about life and faith. This time will help prepare your tweens for Middle School and later opportunities to join the youth in different youth activities.

Go to www.claremontpres.org/children to register.

Report from the Task Force on Refugee Concerns: A Tragic Crisis and a Remarkable Opportunity

The horrific explosion in Beirut added immense destruction and suffering to a nation already struggling with political and economic collapse. Normally secure Lebanese families as well as enormous numbers of Syrian refugees find themselves desperate to find food and shelter. Our CPC Mission Commission has sent \$1000 through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund designated for this crisis as an expression of our deep connection to the people of this region. The Mission Commission also sent the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, one of our long-standing mission partners, \$500 to help with repairs to their campus which was damaged by the explosion. We are hoping to arrange a further opportunity to show our love in conjunction with World Communion Sunday. If one member of the body of Christ suffers, all suffer with it. (I Cor. 12.26)

As a member of the Presbyterian Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network (SLPN), CPC has an ongoing relationship with our partner church, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). CPC was scheduled to host September's annual meeting of the SLPN, but due to the pandemic, the meeting will be held online. We invite you to visit their website and register to attend on September 22. There is no charge. The morning session from 9-11 will feature worship led by members of SLPN and NESSL and presentations by Rev. Joseph Kassab, General Secretary of NESSL, and Rev. Najla Kassab, president of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The afternoon session from 1-3 will bring presentations from Georges Ziadeh, Executive Director of Compassion Protestant Society, the nonprofit organization formed by NESSL to provide social services, Elmarie Parker, PC(USA) regional liaison, and Luciano Kovacs, PC(USA)'s World Mission Area coordinator for the Middle East and Europe.

Anyone who would like to join in the work of the Task Force on Refugee Concerns is invited to contact Pastor Karen for further information.

2020-21 Parish List

If your last name is...	your deacon is...	Parish #
Abusharr - Brashler	Chinny Agwu	Parish 1
Bray - Craig	Rita Watts	Parish 2
Currie - Grant, B	Mark Nelson	Parish 3
Grant, J - Johns	Christine Kolb	Parish 4
Johnson - Leff	Betty Butler	Parish 5
Legg - Master	Irene Atwood	Parish 6
McAllister - Osgood	Leanne Kerchner	Parish 7
Oyemade - Robertson, L	Lynn Miller	Parish 8
Rodriguez - Swarthout	Kathy Leff	Parish 9
Swartz - Worang	Karee Galloway	Parish 10



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Deadline for October *Communicator* - September 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)
10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)



claremontpres.org

Tuesday

9:00 AM - Story Time (YouTube)



[claremontpres](https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres)

Wednesday

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)
5:45 PM - Community Yoga (Zoom)



[claremont_pres](https://www.instagram.com/claremont_pres)

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)
11:30 AM - Quarantine Interlude (Facebook)
5:00 PM - Evening Prayer, Sun - Fri (Facebook)



[giving](#)

For links to all these events, visit
claremontpres.org/covid19-response

Weekly Floral Arrangements for 2020

If you are interested in donating flowers for a Sunday service in 2020, **please call Delight at 909-373-5106 or e-mail her at delight@claremontpres.org to verify that the date you wish to donate flowers is open.** Please complete this form and mail it to the church office or call /e-mail Delight with the information.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date of Flower Contribution: _____

Dedication (for bulletin): _____

Please check one:

- In Honor of (someone living)
- In Memory of (someone deceased)
- Anniversary
- Birthday
- Other

Special Instructions (i.e. color of flowers, etc): _____

(Choose one only)

Family will take arrangement: Yes___ No___

Deacons may deliver arrangement: Yes___ No___

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