



Lent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

*Grounded in God
Growing in Community
Acting in Love*

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an open and affirming, just peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

**Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.
Please ask a greeter for assistance.**

*New to First Church in Cambridge?
Please take the time to fill out one of the pew cards
and place it in the offering basket during the service.
Name tags are available at both the front and back entrances of the sanctuary.*

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door and down the hallway (up four stairs to the door on the right). Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to the Hastings Room, just across the hall from that same door, where the service is broadcast through speakers.

Would you like to give to First Church in Cambridge? Here are easy ways to do it:

*Give by Text:
Text \$ __ to 617-841-8044*



First Church Pledge



First Church Give

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
April 2, 2017
Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

O Gott, du frommer Gott

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 249

Open Now Your Gates of Beauty

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

L: Grace and peace to you in the name of God, our hope and our healing!

C: **And in the name of Jesus, our courage and our strength.**

L: The Spirit leads us into wilderness places and calls us to resist evil.

C: **Jesus opens the way before us, with a love that is stronger than death.**

L: And calls us, even now, into communities of resilience,
resistance and love.

C: **May we be strength for the weary and hope for the world.**

L: In the name of our God, who is able to do far more than we can
either hope or imagine.

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Franz Schubert

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.

All: **In the company of your people,
we confess to you, O God,
that our lives and the life of the world
have been wounded by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We ask pardon for our sins,
patience for our weaknesses,
healing for our wounds,**

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

**and strength to grow in the love we lack.
Forgive us, we pray,
and grant us the comfort of your mercy.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 311

Let Us Break Bread Together

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are invited to leave at this time to make sandwiches for today's Outdoor Church offering. The children will make the sandwiches in Margaret Jewett Hall, and return to the service in time for the sandwiches to be blessed with the weekly offering.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 130

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

L: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

C: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope;

**C: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with God is great power to redeem.

C: It is God who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

READING

John 11:1-45

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 190

When Jesus Wept

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF CONCERN

Claire Cocroft

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lead Gently, Lord

Clif Cason

*Lead gently, Lord, and slow,
For oh, my steps are weak,
And ever as I go,
Some soothing sentence speak;
That I may turn my face
Through doubt's obscurity
Towards thine abiding place,
E'en though I cannot see.
For lo, the way is dark;
Through mist and cloud I grope,
Save for that fitful spark,
The little flame of hope.
Lead gently, Lord, and slow,
For fear that I may fall,
I know not where to go,
Unless I hear Thy call.
My fainting soul doth yearn,
For thy green hills above,
So let Thy mercy burn,
My greater guiding star!*

-Paul Lawrence Dunbar

*DOXOLOGY

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE FEAST

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Karin Case

- L: Now, O God,
we fall silent and remember Jesus,
the one who came because words were not enough.
(Silence)
- L: Setting aside our wisdom, our will, and our words,
emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands,
- C: We come at his invitation,
yearning for the healing,
the holding,
the accepting,
the forgiving,
which Christ alone can offer.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Kate Layzer

- L: We remember that on the night on which he was betrayed,
while he was sitting at supper with his friends.
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it.
- C: He gave it to the disciples, saying,
“This is my body, given for you!”**
- L: Later, after they had eaten, he took the cup.
- C: He said, “This cup is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of me.
Drink this all of you, to remember me!”**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND LORD’S PRAYER

- All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. Today, we will serve communion by intinction, which means that the community will be invited to come to the servers at one of several stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it into the cup. The liquid is grape juice and the bread is gluten free. Beginning with the front rows, please approach the communion stations from the center aisles, and return to your pews via the side aisles. In the North Transept (opposite the choir), please approach via the aisle closest to the door and return via the other aisle. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION *What Wondrous Love is This* First Church Bell Choir

*THANKSGIVING

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God,
for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 317 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Spirit of the Living God* Constance Pyle

VOLUNTARY *O Gott, du frommer Gott* J. S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Liturgist

Beth Spaulding, First Church Deacon

Playing Organ and Directing Choir

Peter Sykes, Director

Assisting with Worship

Karin Case, Minister

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Leading First Church Bell Choir

Susie Longfield

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all who were impacted by the terrorist violence at Parliament in London last week. May God bring solace to those who are mourning, healing to those who are injured, and courage and peace to those who are fearful.
- For civilians in Mosul, Iraq, whose loved ones have been killed in recent US-led air strikes.
- For all who are living under the threat of deportation, and for the Harvard Square Sanctuary Coalition, as we work together to provide safe sanctuary for persons threatened with deportation.
- For all who have fled their home countries as a result of war and terrorism, and for clarity in responding to immigration crises around the world.
- For neighbors facing extreme famine in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nigeria.
- For a spirit of strength and resistance as the president and administration enact policies that contradict our Christian values of care of our creation, hospitality to strangers, and justice for all.

Portions of the **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

A SPACE BETWEEN

We have introduced a place for healing prayers. A space between is...
A space between us and God, a space between us and each other.
A space between the world as it is and the world as it should be,
a space for silence and centering, a space for prayer and meditation.

A PRAYER FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Spirit of life and love who resides within and among us...we hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance. We hold in love and prayer all the ways that transgender people have survived and thrived in a hostile world. We hold in love and prayer all who recognize the significance of gender justice for all people.

We who believe in freedom will not rest until it comes. We pray for the dawn of a new day when the humanity of trans people is no longer called into question or ignored. We pray that physical, emotional, and spiritual violence will come to an end. We pray that a spirit of compassion and care will fill us to overflowing, that we may have the capacity to listen, learn, and grow, not only in our awareness but also in our willingness to act. We pray for teachers, spiritual leaders, social workers, lawyers, and all people who heed the call to support Trans liberation, Trans leadership, and Trans visibility. May they lean into the light of truth and justice, offering hope to Trans and gender-nonconforming youth and adults...

...We commit to creating a world where people of all genders know peace, love, and justice. We commit to living lives of compassion and care for all of humanity. We commit to the healing work of relationship-building that will help every person know, no matter their gender or sexuality, that they are loved and valued. *Excerpted from Reconciling Words*

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

RESILIENCE, RESISTANCE AND RISING BIBLE STUDY Final Session, Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room At the 10 o'clock hour on Sundays during Lent, we will share in a time of contemplative reflection and study on Bible passages and other readings from our tradition related our Lenten themes, especially resilience. Encounter the word of God anew and find that strength, courage, and solace we need to face the headlines. There will be a "take-away" passage that we hope will help keep you anchored in your faith for the week ahead.

FAMILY CHOIR, PREPARATION FOR EASTER Sundays, Today and April 9, at 10:00 a.m., Choir Room All First Church folks are invited to join the Family Choir to prepare a piece for singing in our Easter Worship. The Family Choir is a less formal singing setting than the First Church Choir—all ages and levels of musical experience are welcome. Contact Sarah Higginbotham if you have questions.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING Today during Morning Worship Since 1949 One Great Hour of Sharing has been an opportunity for Protestant churches in the US to pool together their resources and generosity to fund projects of Christian charity and love. Today, these efforts center on clean water, hunger, disaster relief, and empowerment—from vocational education in Honduras and well-building in Kenya, to material aid and training to help communities rebuild after flooding in Michigan. Please give generously. Think of how God has blessed you with the power to help others, and consider prayerfully what is a right level of giving for you. Questions? Contact Claire Cocroft, Co-chair of Missions and Social Justice, at claire.cocroft@gmail.com. Checks should be made out to First Church Cambridge, with the notation “OGHS.” Thank you so much.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS, TODAY Remember that we have a new food pantry client, The Islamic Society of Boston, serving nearly 300 people in the Greater Boston area. Shop for canned vegetables and vegetable soup, cooking oil, sugar, instant rice, and breakfast foods. NO PORK-derived ingredients. Your generous donations will be collected on the first Sunday of every month.

LENTEN JUSTICE FORUM Today and April 2 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come and learn from First Church leaders and special guests about key topics that are galvanizing people to act together in new ways. After a simple meal of soup and bread, together we can help each other stay informed about changing policies and opportunities to get engaged. This will be a time to deepen our shared resilience in shared community and for nourishing our minds and bodies. It will also help us to focus our resistance efforts, ever rising and rising up with Christian acts of mercy and justice, kindness and humility. This week, Jean Horstman, member of our Missions and Social Justice committee, will share some of her experience working in a reconciling community in Northern Ireland. Discussion will focus on how we can better cross the social, economic, and political divides in our own country, communities, and families.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Harvard Epworth at 1:00 p.m. Speak with the deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in this ongoing mission project.

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. Please mark on your check or online contribution "Deacons' Fund."

OUR WHOLE LIVES Today at First Church Somerville, 1:00–2:30 p.m. 7th and 8th graders continue with OWL today.

BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION Today at 7 p.m., Harvard Hillel Dr. Sheila Katz will discuss her new book, *Connecting with the Enemy: A Century of Palestinian-Israeli Joint Nonviolence*. Professor Katz teaches Middle East History and Contemplative Studies in the Liberal Arts Department at Berklee College of Music in Boston. She holds a doctorate in Middle East History from Harvard University, where she specialized in Palestinian-Israeli relations, organized programs on Middle Eastern women, and taught for eight years. This event is sponsored by the Worship and Study Congregation at Harvard Hillel, 52 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge. More information is at sheilahannahkatz.com.

NIGHT SONG Solemn Mystical Compline Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Spend some time at the end of the day to nourish your soul at Night Song. Vox Equalis (treble voices) and Daryl Bichel offer ancient and contemporary chant and improvisation by candlelight, providing space for contemplation and prayer.

FIRST CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Be sure to check out the purple insert for information about our weekly Lenten Programs and Holy Week Worship.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS Palm Sunday Brunch and Celebration, Sunday, April 9 Each year we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a branch-waving procession from the lawn into the Sanctuary, complete with a brass band! This year following Morning Worship we will also be celebrating the incredible generosity of our congregation. On Palm Sunday, 2016, we committed to support our capital campaign vision through our financial pledges. We've come a long way since, and want to celebrate this project and the gifts, faith, and hard work that have gone into it. Our Friends of Fellowship will have a delicious meal for this wonderful fellowship time. Come and join the celebration!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST CHURCH MUSICALE AND SILENT AUCTION, May 6, 2017, 5:30-8:30pm, Margaret Jewett Hall Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Back by popular demand, a tradition for all ages... The First Church Musicale—with a new

twist! This year for the first time, the Musicale will be paired with a Silent Auction to raise money for First Church programs. Mark your calendars for an evening of music, food, fellowship, bidding and fun! Got talent? Contact Laurie Williams (lalaw@rcn.com) to about becoming part of the Musicale. If you have an item to donate to the Silent Auction or are willing to help us put this together, please contact Moana Bentin moana.bentin@gmail.com

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Kirsten Manville in the First Church office by April 9, at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Flower Fund category) or can be included in the offering plate (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge), with a memo line of Easter Flowers. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS COMING THIS SPRING Are you looking for dynamic conversation and meaningful connections? Would you enjoy getting to know some new people at First Church? Would you like an opportunity to reflect on all that's going on the world and how it impacts what we do as people of faith, or how faith intersects with "the rest of life?" We'll be offering a new series of Faith and Life Groups in April and May, to begin after Easter. These are short-term, small groups convened around a shared interest and led by an experienced facilitator. Sign-ups begin next week! Watch your Sunday bulletin, or register online on the church website www.firstchurchcambridge.org, or in Margaret Jewett Hall today, following service. Questions? Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org.

CENTERING MEDITATION Every Monday night, 6:00–7:00 p.m. in The Well (Room 22) Are you looking for a place to settle in for some quiet reflection in the midst of a hectic week? Interested in exploring a variety of meditation practices or deepening your current practice? Whether you're experienced or simply curious, all are welcome. For more information, contact Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org or Hilary Hopkins, hopskinsjh@verizon.net.

PLEASE HELP WITH MOVERS AND A VEHICLE! Ann Barns will move on April 5. She will be moving a short distance in Roxbury, and needs help with several movers and a small truck and driver. Please contact Marian Smith, msmith829@gmail.com, if you're able to help.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN A RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK FOR THE SANCTUARY MOVEMENT First Church is collecting names of people willing and able to respond quickly in the moment when a deportation raid occurs. If you would like to learn more about this low-risk opportunity for

witness and action and/or sign up to participate, contact Sarah Higginbotham shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org, or Bappu Antony, balummelbappu@yahoo.com.

GBIO LEGISLATIVE ACTION, Tuesday April 4th, 7-9pm, Roxbury Presbyterian Church, GBIO is holding its semi-annual Delegates Assembly, and hopes that some of FCC members will join them. GBIO feels blessed this Lent that a number of FCC members have stepped forward to take on different pieces of their work, particularly around criminal justice reform. The meeting April 4th is not one of those big fill-the-church and impress the politicians (and ourselves) actions, but rather an opportunity to get up to date on where things stand on GBIO's issues and to prepare for a large action in mid-May. This event will be particularly interesting to those who are interested in finding out more about how GBIO works. There will be a couple hundred people there, and GBIO hopes for around ten or so from First Church.

ANNUAL IMMIGRANTS' DAY, Wednesday April 5, 9am-2pm, at the State House, Hall of Flags Join us to tell our legislators: we value immigrants and we support #SafeCommunities! Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone will speak from 10-11a.m. There will be a rally outside 12-1p.m. with elected officials and community members.

GBIO LEGISLATIVE ACTION Thursday, April 6, 7 – 9PM, Temple Isaiah in Lexington Arlington, Lexington, Waltham, Carlisle, and Woburn residents—we need you to join us! GBIO is having a Legislative Action with your MA Senators Mike Barrett, Ken Donnelly and their fellow MA Representatives. The goal is to convince our Legislators that their constituents want Criminal Justice Reform in 2017.

SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS CRISIS Monday, April 10, 4:00 p.m., Sperry Room, Harvard Divinity School What are the spiritual dimensions of our current crisis? What kind of moral, religious and spiritual leadership does this moment require? Come join a conversation with Ruby Sales, icon of the Civil Rights movement and public theologian, on Monday, April 10, 4:00 p.m. in the Sperry Room of Harvard Divinity School. First Church members Karlene Griffiths Sekou and Stephanie Paulsell will moderate.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH April 29, Washington, DC Time to hit the streets and pray with our feet! On April 29, people from all over the country will come together for a powerful mobilization to fight back against Trump and Congress' attacks on our climate, our communities, and our jobs. A local coalition of labor unions, environmental justice groups, faith organizations, youth groups, and climate activism groups is coming together to send more than 1,000 people from the Boston area to the People's Climate Mobilization on April 29 in Washington, DC. Together, we can build a powerful, justice-centered movement that lifts up the voices and leadership of those most affected by climate change. Buy your bus tickets online to the People's Climate March in D.C.. now, as prices are likely to go up. Bus tickets at www.350Mass.org.



Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

GBIO Spring Delegates Assembly
April 4th, 2017

Arrive 6:30pm, Sharp start 7-9pm
Roxbury Presbyterian Church
328 Warren St, Roxbury MA

Delegates Assembly

This assembly is a time for leaders of each GBIO member congregation to come together and prepare for the big action on May 18th.

- Get up to date on the fast moving political picture on our issues, Criminal Justice Reform, Health Care and Affordable Housing.
- Build relationships with other GBIO delegates and ratify any proposals our leadership teams may make for the 5/18 agenda
- Your team will also announce a quota for the number of people you plan to bring to the May 18th large action.

The purpose is to continue building power relationships to keep GBIO's recent work and platforms in the forefront and moving towards winning on our issues.

RSVP today with your GBIO liaison/leader to reserve a seat!

Follow GBIO:

www.GBIO.org



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www.facebook.com/GBinterfaithorganization

The Week Ahead

Sunday April 2, Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
10:00 a.m. "Resilience, Resistance and Rising" Lenten Series
10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion, Dan Smith, preaching
(a time for healing prayer offered immediately following service)
11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church sandwich-making
12:30 p.m. Lenten Justice Forum on Crossing the Political Divide, Hastings Room
12:30 p.m. First Church Youth Group Kids 4 Peace Interfaith Learning Day, Dedham
1:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, First Church Somerville
4:00 p.m. First Open Mosque Day, Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, April 3

- 6:00 p.m. Centering Meditation, The Well

Tuesday, April 4

- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Family Night, Sage Hall and The Well
7:00 p.m. GBIO Delegates Assembly, Roxbury Presbyterian Church (Music at 6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 5

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's Office

Thursday, April 6

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room Friday, March 31

Friday, April 7

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. No Christian Formation for Adults
10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:55 a.m. Processional from the lawn
11:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Bell Choir, Joining Sunday, Karin Case
Preaching
12:30 p.m. "For Such a Time as This" Palm Sunday Brunch, Margaret Jewett Hall
1:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, First Church Somerville
7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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