THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Phone: (440) 238-6697 Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship 10 a.m. (+online)

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lord, help me to be grateful for what I have, to remember that I don't need most of what I want, and that joy is found in simplicity and generosity. Amen. --Adam Hamilton

Enough.

For me, this year Lent was the usual forty days—but it has sure *seemed* longer in a lot of ways. There's just so much pain and suffering in the world! And my helplessness factor feels off the charts at times. What can *I* possibly do to make any difference?

The first thing we can do is *not to look away*. Pain is part of Life. Loss is part of Life. Death—is part of Life. In his brief ministry, Jesus never looked away. Rather, he embraced those who were hurting or dying or losing hope and offered them healing. And as he often reminded them, *your faith has made you whole*.

It's really hard to watch the news and see the brutality of war day after day in Gaza and Ukraine; closer to home, to see the faces of those whose next meal is in doubt, or who have no home to go to.

We could just look away or make excuses. After all, Jesus reminded Judas and the others: the poor you will always have with you.

But Jesus' words didn't end there. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. We can help the poor any time we choose to.

When Jesus was being beaten and whipped, ridiculed and despised, it was then, *in the suffering*, that he came to realize God's Love was sufficient.

Living into the love of Almighty God allows us to give more freely to those who have less. Even when our resources feel tight, we can offer a smile instead of looking away. Take a moment to listen to someone with our full attention. We live in a beautifully diverse world; yet in our diversity, we share some very common needs: We want to be loved, respected and listened to (and actually heard). Not one of those things cost a single penny.

Truly living within the love of God is *enough*.

Peace, Hope and Love, Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, APRIL 7 – 10 a.m. Second Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Linda Plain
Liturgist: Elaine Coffey
Ushers: Volunteers needed

Music: Music team

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - 10 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Greeter: Jean Bittinger

Liturgist: Mike Willis

Ushers: Volunteers needed Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Roz Fotos Liturgist: Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Ushers: Jean Bittinger Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 - 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Judi Pavisich Liturgist: Sandy O'Shea

Ushers: Volunteers needed Music: Chancel Choir



PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to

strongsvilleucc.com, go to Worship, and click on Service Videos. HERE'S THE LINK TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.



ALL ARE WELCOME AT **GOD'S TABLE!**

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question or

singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

LOOKING AHEAD:



On Sunday, April 7th, our church will celebrate "Holy **Humor**" Sunday with special music and a relaxed worship service.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 14th.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of long-time church member Ruth Milidonis. who died on March 20, 2024 at the age of 96. Ruth was an active member, serving on many boards and committees until she was no

longer able to do so. She had three daughters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The graveside service will be held on April 5, 2024 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg at Noon. Donations in memory of Ruth may be given to our church's Memorial Fund. (Checks to UCC).

THANK YOU NOTES

Our church received many Thank You cards from the staff of the Perciak Hospice Care Center for the Valentine's



Day gift cards we sent them via the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS--PENNY SUNDAY.



Thanks to everyone who donated in March. We collected \$244.11 for Friendship APL in Elvria . Please

save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on April 28, 2024.



FAMILY GATHERING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6th 2 p.m. - ? Couldn't make it to Retreat? Join us for a sample of the fun and games we enjoy at Templed Hills every year.

Bring a snack to share, your own beverage, and your favorite board games, card games, or craft project. We'll have trivia, food, fellowship, and fun for all ages!

Baptism Congratulations

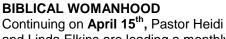
Congratulations to Iris Dianne Eggert, daughter of Sarah & Benjamin Eggert and granddaughter of Austin & Michele Eggert. Iris was welcomed into the family of God on March 3, 2024. Godparents



Mark your calendars now for the Diaconate's **Annual Wing Night!** Friday, May 3rd at

Grindstone Tap House—start thinking of your basket ideas now!

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF





and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held

Evans's wonderful book, A Year of Biblical Womanhood. The group will meet on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m., for one hour. It's not too late to join us!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon



Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldridge, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

h.e.denman@gmail.com

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

If you move or change your phone number, please be so kind as to let the church office know—thanks!

Betty Craig

18800 Westwood Drive #522 Strongsville, OH 44136



Mary & Richard Densmore 2095 Wood Brook Court Loveland, OH 45140



Did you know that **Dale Hawk** was back at it, patching the parking lot? Thanks for keeping our safety in

mind, Dale!

Did you know that **Judy Gaumer** arranged for tuck pointing and repair work on the steps to the main entrance off the parking lot? Thank you to Judy and to the Board of Trustees for getting this important work done!



PHOTO DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE We still have a few extra directories. They may be purchased for \$10 each.



MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to the **Bell Choir**, the **Chancel Choir** (with special

guest Craig Hardy), the Children's Choir, Sarah Keenen, Ken Mehalko, Carol Foley, Ralph Heimburger, Tom Nazelli, and of course, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for their music in March!

Scuttiwest Community Cherus

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS

SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "When I Hear Music," on Sunday, April 28th at 3 p.m.

at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). The Chorus is under the direction of Tom Foley, accompanied by Carol Konet and Jarred Sorauf; some of the singers this season include Craig Hardy, Sharon Maresco, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, and Sarah Keenen and a few other familiar faces and voices. Tickets will be available at the door or from our own choir members who sing with the chorus.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Mission Outreach will be collecting **OLD SPICE** and **DOVE** deodorant for **Snow School in Berea**. The students who attend that school are in foster care, transitional care, or wards of the county and while Ohio Guidestone provides hospital grade deodorant, having a name brand product makes a big difference to these young people.



In honor of Mother's Day, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with

"166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."

We will be collecting the following items from April 14th through May 12th. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church. *All items must be new and unopened.*

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant (Old Spice or Dove)
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE FOOD BANK:

The Strongsville Emergency Food

Bank has always been supported by our congregation. Please remember, we do not accept expired goods. The needs for the food bank in April would be Peanut Butter & Jelly and Cereal.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM. You may

place orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited** stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.



BE MORE IN 2024!



New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

PANERA PALS



Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile

ministry. Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters: Teri Barbish, Colette Emerson, Carole Kapcar, Roz Fotos, Maria Graeff, Linda Elkins, Pam Heimburger, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue! Special thanks to Pastor Heidi, Cathy Hawk, and Irene Joyce who transport the bread and pastries downtown when needed.

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.) PRO TIP: The bin is usually emptied on Mondays.





PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A

SCAM! Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent

located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.



NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN



Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc.,

supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Our church received a \$3,000 grant from the Deaconess Foundation for our Free Lunch Program!

Please note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.

meeting

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 9**th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, April 16th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, April 23rd at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP-



Thank you to everyone who donated pies and/or helped serving them in celebration of Pi Day last month: **Karen**

Bates, Elaine Coffey, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, Diana Creecy, Mary Densmore, Ingrid Dickson, Roz Fotos, Cathy Hawk, Pam Heimburger, Sharon Heinrich, Irene Joyce, Judi Pavisich, Linda Plain, Linda Ponstingle, Cherie Teagno, Barbara Toth, Barbara White, Marty Winch, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Members of the Women's Fellowship group made 108 bags of People Chow for this year's sale. The profit from the sale was \$291.29. Thanks to all the members who helped make and prepare the People Chow and to all that purchased bags of this tasty treat! Thank you to **Sally Herzog** for heading up this project!

On **Monday, April 1**, at **7pm** at church, the Evening Group will trace and cut out fleece circles for Snuffleballs (treat holders) for dogs and cats at the Columbia Station animal shelter.

On **Wednesday, April 3**, at **1pm** with Elaine Coffey, the Daytime Group will meet at church and then go to Kemper House for a sing-along with residents.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN STRONGSVILLE: Their Youth Group
is putting on a breakfast at the Strongsville
Applebee's to fund the youths' trip to the Annual
National Youth Gathering. The fundraiser is on
April 20th from 8 a.m. -10 a.m., serving pancakes,

eggs, bacon and coffee, tea or soft drinks. **Please** call Tammy Widdows at 216-548-2761. Cost is \$10 a ticket—what a deal!





IN OUR COMMUNITY

Girl Scout Troop #71363 is stocking and maintaining a "Hygiene Library," which is located on the lawn near the parking lot

facing Royalton Road.



GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, you can set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website or on our church's

website: www.strongsvilleucc.com. You may also mail a check to Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Gary Zielinski

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from March 3 through March 24, 2024. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received \$13,434.00
-(\$1,032.04)

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED: 50

Due to a bank change,

all checks to the church should be made out to



United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational). Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given— March 3rd

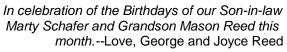


Happy Birthday to Elena I. Joyce The Dickson & Joyce Families

March 10th

In honor of the dedicated ringers in our Bell Choir

March 17th



March 24th

In honor of those who have been called by God as we honor the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Serena Abruzzino

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 IS NOW POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$36 for two vases; \$18 for one.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 3rd

Congratulations to the Strongsville Special Olympians for their silver medal in basketball at the State Tournament!

Week of March 10th

In loving memory of Edith Graves
Roberta Carpenter

Week of March 17th

Happy Birthday today to Natalia & Mia Hill! With love, Grammy

Week of March 24th

With get-well wishes to and in appreciation of Cathy Hawk With love from your Church Family

Week of March 31st

Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st! With love, Grammy

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week.

Please email strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM

If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry

Team and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate

part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise

at amazing prices. We had a great Saturday Sale in March! We are planning to have periodic Saturdays throughout the year, so be on the lookout!

Donations are accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.

MANY THANKS, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND TO SALLY HERZOG, WHO IS OVERSEEING THE SHOP WHILE CATHY HAWK RECUPERATES FROM HER SURGERY!



If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will be closed on that day.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE! 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L E.

- M- Making and moving
- A- Accepting and Acknowledging
- P- People
- L- Learning and Loving
- E- Encompassing

United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

Name
Address
I plan to give \$ each
week month other to be used for
Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations \$
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) \$
☐ I would like to talk with someone from the Endowment Committee about including the church or church-related institution in my Will.
$\hfill \square$ I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking/savings account.
Signed Date//

NEWS IN GOD'S WORLD

A total solar eclipse will take place at the Moon's ascending node on Monday, April 8, 2024, visible across North America and dubbed the Great North American Eclipse.



CHURCH OFFICERS 2024

*Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator**: Jen Barry* **Treasurer**: Sally Herzog* **Clerk**: Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins*
Les Fox* Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk
Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozelski* Cheryl Sobek
Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis Judy Fox*
Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch* Cherie Teagno*
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins* Colette Emerson* Sarah Hayes** Amanda Marshall* Lora Rung

Music Committee

Karen Bates* Ingrid Dickson* Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko Mike Willis ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman



To the Glory of God Easter flowers were given:

In honor of all the lost souls in the world and those who are alone without families. Our hearts and God are with you all.

Serena Abruzzino & Familia

In Honor and Remembrance of Seal Team #3 member Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Chris Chambers

In Honor and Remembrance of Seal Team #3 member Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Cass Nathan Gage

Diana Creecy

Happy Easter around the World! In Loving Memory of My Grandparents-Peter and Edna Lansell, LeRoy and Rusha Ritchie

Gina Cathcart

In Memory of Gordon Cockrell, Harry and Kathryn Johnson, and Harold and Wava Cockrell Kathryn Cockrell and Family

In Loving Memory of Michael E. & Deborah M. Dickson Ingrid and Greg Dickson and Family

In Honor of Sarah Toth, Sally Herzog, & Brandi Garsteck In Memory of Steve Herzog Mary Fargo

> In Honor of The Foley Family In Loving Memory of William J. Foley Carol Foley

> > In honor of Maureen Harrah Roz Fotos

In Loving Memory of Bill Fraunfelder Barb Fraunfelder

In Loving Memory of Betty and Don Bushea and Anita and Bill McKenna

Barb Fraunfelder and Dennis Smith

In Loving Memory of Joyce and Beck Summers Judy Fox

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents, Belly and Don Babics

The Gigliotti & Kubancik Families

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents, JoAnn & Louis Gigliotti

The Gigliotti Family

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents, Don and Lois Winch and Bill and Ruth Giuliano In Loving Memory of Mark Giuliano

Bill and Beth Giuliano, Nicole and Brett Wade, and Luke Giuliano

In Loving Memory of Lois Anne Hampson Herb Hampson

In Memory of our Parents, Verna Vardiman and John Hattery, Sr. John and Martha Hattery

In Loving Memory of Charles and Thelma Hawk In Loving Memory of Richard and Sally Mack

Dale and Cathy Hawk For the Love of our Grandchildren:

Riley, Jack, Lacey, Ella, and Henry Cathy and Dale Hawk

Happy Easter, Everyone—with Love! Corinne Jackson

In Loving Memory of our Parents Frank and Beatrice Jefferis and Paul and Dorothy Jackson In Loving Memory of all our loved ones Frank and Pat Jefferis

> In Loving Memory of Erik O. Jannsohn, James J. Joyce Sr. and Mary Joyce-Smith Eric R. Jannsohn, Aimee J. Jannsohn, and Brooke M. Akins

Irene A. Jannsohn, Ingrid and Greg Dickson, Irene and Jim Joyce

In Memory of the Pastor's wife In Memory of the Pastor's mother In Honor of the Pastor's children & grandchildren Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall

Easter Blessings to our Family and Friends! Judi Pavisich

In Loving Memory of Family Members No longer with us. Miss them immensely! George and Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson In Loving Memory of Our Aunt Rhea Clements Becky and Bill Robinson

In Loving Memory of our parents and grandparents, Jean and Joe Rung and Willie Mae and Jimmy Lee Cuyler In Loving Memory of Ruby Jean and Jimmy Lee Cuyler, Jr.

Sam, Lora, Samuel, and Braxden

Happy Easter!

Bill and Deborah Schneider

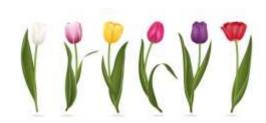
For our loved ones, church family and friends—a very Happy Easter to all of you-Peace and God Bless Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, Devin and Leo Thorn

Easter Blessings to our Children and Grandchildren John and Barbara Toth

> Love to our Children and Grandchildren Bev Wehr and Ken Mehalko

For our Grandchildren: Isaac, Jonah, Luke, Leila, and Hannah Mike and Mary Willis

In Loving Memory of Bob Zimmerman Mary Ellen Zimmerman





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