



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020, VOLUME 55, NUMBER 12



Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion, 5:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir and Youth Choir
presents
"How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"
Sunday, December 13, 11:00 a.m.



Events At A Glance

December 6 & 20, Sunday School in the fellowship hall,
10:00 a.m., Teachers—12/6 - Mrs. Peggy
Underwood, 12/20 - Rev. Wallyce Todd.

December 9, Drive Through Meal, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

December 14, WMU Meeting in the fellowship hall,
10:00 a.m.

December 15, Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

December 16, Prayer Meeting in the fellowship hall,
6:30 p.m.

December 21, Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion,
5:00 p.m.

December 24-25, Church office closed for Christmas.

December 31, New Year's Eve Drop-in Open Communion
Service in the Sanctuary with Pastor Brown,
4:00-8:00 p.m.

Complete monthly calendar on back.

To add an event to our calendar,
please contact the church office:

(910) 642-2139

PASTOR'S CORNER



As we approach Thanksgiving, 2020, we in America and throughout the world certainly have experienced much more than we ever realized or even thought we would face since last Thanksgiving in 2019, haven't we? Because of COVID-19, we have been separated . . . have worn masks . . . have used more hand sanitizer than perhaps we ever dreamed of using . . . have tried to keep six feet apart in order to follow social distancing regulations . . . have tried to obey the government's protocol in dealing with the Pandemic . . . and we have had more people to die world-wide than we ever could have imagined! We also were privileged, during this very stressful and emotional period of our nation's history, to exercise our "right to vote" as American citizens! We are called in God's Word (I Timothy 2:1-4) to pray for those who are in authority over us. So . . . whether the "party" of your choice, or the candidates you preferred won or not, let's please commit to pray for ALL who were elected that they may KNOW and DO God's will FULLY as they serve our country. THANK YOU for following that mandate!

We, as a church family and as individuals, have sympathized with families who have grieved and we have prayed and communicated with many others through texts, phone calls, or emails who have faced the stark reality of this dreaded "plague" that invaded our nation and our world. Joy and I personally experienced a visit from this "unwelcome guest" named CORONAVIRUS! My case with a low-grade fever, stuffy nose, and congestion was almost like an aggravating common cold with very mild symptoms compared to those Joy experienced. She was hospitalized overnight with pneumonia in both of her lungs and then was released the very next day, because "her numbers looked good and were within the margins." I felt she had been discharged TOO SOON! After I brought Joy home from the hospital, she began showing obvious signs of decline, and then she had to be re-admitted to the hospital for a week. Joy literally walked "through the valley of the shadow of death" and we could not visit her, or talk with her on the telephone. I was quarantined at home, but our daughters, Meri Beth and Molly and I became "masters" at text messaging with each other and with Joy while she was hospitalized. We are VERY THANKFUL to God and to Joy's Medical Team for their help and we are MOST GRATEFUL to say she is home now and IS progressing.

THANK YOU, one and all, for your love, thoughts, prayers, texts, emails, phone calls, cards, notes, and concern expressed for us personally—as well as for ALL others who have experienced this unique illness. I have heard that each person is affected by this sickness in very different ways—and we surely found that to be true with us in our cases! I really am grateful to our church staff (Eddie, Patricia, Teresa, and Dinah) for their commitment and continued faithful dedication to their responsibilities and ministries; for Dr. Fred Senter, who preached so well in my absence; to our deacons and their chair-person, Lauren Cole, who kept in constant communication with us; and to everyone who served in any way at all as they carried on their faithful work and service through the First Baptist Church of Whiteville. I missed you all and I appreciate your understanding, compassion, prayers and patience! I was very grateful to be able to return on Sunday, November 15, as we worshipped together and as we were blessed with the privilege of celebrating in the Ordination Service for our three (3) new deacons: Genie Carter, Peggy Underwood, and Ron Walters. CONGRATULATIONS to you new deacons! May God continue to guide and bless you all as you serve with your fellow deacons . . . and the church membership as a whole!

Last year, in 2019, before I was blessed to meet all of you in Whiteville, Joy and I, our older daughter, Meri Beth, along with two of our grandchildren, Mazi Grace and Bronson Howard, were invited and honored to be involved in a movie filmed in Loris and the Grand Strand area. It is a feature-length movie that is wholesome, family friendly and is appropriate for ALL ages. This film, A CAROLINA CHRISTMAS, was directed and produced by a friend of ours, Jerry Dalton, founder of DALTON PICTURES, based in Myrtle Beach. The movie premiered at the Stone Theatre Grand 14 at THE MARKET COMMON in Myrtle Beach, but you may hear about it in other locations. If you will, PLEASE help us advertise . . . and if you can, please go see the movie! Not only will you be BLESSED, but you also will be supporting decency in the film industry. This movie gives a positive message of hope, love, redemption, and it reminds us to know and to believe that "the best gifts are rarely wrapped!" THANK YOU for your prayerful support of this wonderfully entertaining movie. PLEASE HAVE FUN and "ENJOY THE SHOW!"

With the joyous season of Thanksgiving and the beauty of Christmas approaching, our hearts are filled with gratitude for God's grace, mercy, love and healing through His Son, Jesus Christ. In thinking about the blessings we have received this year . . . and as we anticipate the JOYS of this holy season, I felt led to share with you some of my "favorites"—songs and writings—that God has used through the years to bless my life. Since Joy came home from the hospital, she and I have shared numerous conversations and have shed many tears together about our recent experiences AND God's amazing grace! Our reflections have led both of us to evaluate what really matters . . . to take nothing—including our health and the next breath we are given—for granted . . . to realize how quickly life can change . . . and to express deep gratitude to God and to each other and everyone for ALL of His blessings! I KNOW the following items have always been special to me, but they now have RENEWED meaning in my life—especially THIS holiday season! May we also remember our "love offerings" for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and the Global Missions Offering in December as God leads you to give to either or both! Thank you for caring! Please join us for our Christmas Eve and New Year's Communion services.

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MUSIC NOTES



It is hard to believe that December 2020 is here! Preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons has been challenging and yet, meaningful.

The Hanging of the Greens will have taken place by the time you read this. And we did so with little movement as we remained socially distanced. Much thanks to the Hanging of the Greens Committee for desiring to carry on. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Ron Walters for narrating the service for us. As you enter the sanctuary take a moment to observe and meditate on the many symbols that Advent and Christmas give us. Take a minute and even look at the symbols within our sanctuary windows.

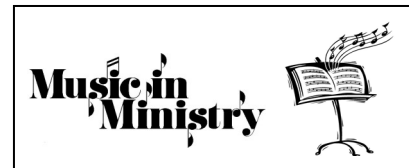
The Chancel Choir and Youth are combining again this year to present a service of Christmas music, "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?", on Sunday, December 13 during the morning worship service. The majority of the songs are familiar and songs that you have heard over the years. Plan now to join us as we worship the coming Messiah through music.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** will be on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

During this Advent/Christmas season:

- May God's Hope guide your path.
- May God's Peace cease all strife and conflict.
- May God's Joy exude through you.
- May God's Love surround you.
- May the Light of Christ shine through you.

Eddie



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, DRIVE THROUGH SUPPER, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Fred and Martha Senter's cooking team is preparing our next drive through meal on **Wednesday, December 9**. The plate will include hot chicken salad, green beans, Christmas fruit, rolls, and pecan pie squares. There is no charge for the meal. Drive through the parking lot, around the office building, and then through the breezeway between the two buildings. If you would like to bring your tithes and offerings, we will take those into the church for you. Thank you.

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent
Missions Emphasis
Lottie Moon and Global Missions
The Prophets Told Us!
Isaiah 9:6-7; 40:1-5; 60:1-5; 61:1-3

December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent
A Program of Christmas Music:
"How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"

December 20, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Place Was Bethlehem!
Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7
The Shepherds Came to Him!
Luke 2:8-20

December 28, 2020

The First Sunday After Christmas
The Angels Sang for Him!
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-14

December
Sermons



DECEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 6 Chris Blackmon / John Sauls
- 13 Coburn Powell / Brad Johnson
- 20 Ron Walters / Haywood Corbett
- 28 Lauren Cole / Donna Prince

HOSPICE SNACKS

Myrtle Corbett

SOUND & VIDEO

- 6 Mitchell Sauls
- 13 Bryce Kronenwetter
- 20 Kirby Sanderson
- 28 Eric Kronenwetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

- 6 Clint and Carolyn Grainger
- 20 Rose Langston / J. C. Hyatt

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY AT LIBERTY

Visitors not allowed inside the facility

USHERS (Chairman: Charlie Duncan)

- 6 Buster Carter / Glenn Waters /
David Heath / Clint Grainger /
J. C. Hyatt
- 13 Bill Floyd / David Carter / Mitchell
Sauls / Willis Pinnell / Johnny Britt
- 20 Travis Harrison / John Sauls /
Mel Ray / Kenwood Royal /
Chris Blackmon
- 28 Harry Ward / David Tedder /
Haywood Corbett / Kevin
Williamson / Kyle Cook



"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

I Peter 4:10 NLT

STEWARDSHIP

November 1, 2020

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$200.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,010.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$600.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,810.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,861.00
Total Collections This Week	\$6,671.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,624.02
Budget Need to date	\$32,170.10
Budget Rec'd to date	\$23,855.50
Under Budget to date	\$8,314.60

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### November 8, 2020

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1                | \$0.00            |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2                | \$3,785.00        |
| Budget Gifts Operational           | \$1,100.00        |
| <b>Total Budget This Week</b>      | <b>\$4,885.00</b> |
| Designated/Other Funds             | \$733.74          |
| <b>Total Collections This Week</b> | <b>\$5,618.74</b> |
| <b>Under Budget This Week</b>      | <b>\$1,549.02</b> |
| Budget Need to date                | \$38,604.12       |
| Budget Rec'd to date               | \$28,740.50       |
| Under Budget to date               | \$9,863.62        |

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November 15, 2020

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$1,240.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$5,012.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$2,400.00
Total Budget This Week	\$8,785.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$732.15
Total Collections This Week	\$9,517.15
Over Budget This Week	\$2,350.98
Budget Need to date	\$45,038.14
Budget Rec'd to date	\$37,525.50
Under Budget to date	\$7,512.64

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### November 22, 2020

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1                | \$910.00          |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2                | \$6,889.00        |
| Budget Gifts Operational           | \$150.00          |
| <b>Total Budget This Week</b>      | <b>\$7,949.00</b> |
| Designated/Other Funds             | \$767.00          |
| <b>Total Collections This Week</b> | <b>\$8,716.00</b> |
| <b>Over Budget This Week</b>       | <b>\$1,514.98</b> |
| Budget Need to date                | \$51,472.16       |
| Budget Rec'd to date               | \$45,474.50       |
| Under Budget to date               | \$5,997.66        |

### November 29, 2020

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1                | \$900.00          |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2                | \$2,456.00        |
| Budget Gifts Operational           | \$2,475.00        |
| <b>Total Budget This Week</b>      | <b>\$5,831.00</b> |
| Designated/Other Funds             | \$2,370.41        |
| <b>Total Collections This Week</b> | <b>\$8,201.41</b> |
| <b>Under Budget This Week</b>      | <b>\$603.02</b>   |
| Budget Need to date                | \$57,906.18       |
| Budget Rec'd to date               | \$51,305.50       |
| Under Budget to date               | \$6,600.68        |

- 2 Vann Underwood
- Katherine Jordan Scott
- Jillian Young
- 3 Jeannine Sellers
- 4 Hannah Clark
- 6 Lonnie Williams
- 8 Phillip McCulloch
- 12 Joe Hooks
- Laurie A. Batten
- 13 Roger Chestnutt
- 14 Ruth Johnson
- 16 Anna Elkins
- 17 Don Peacock
- Sally Grace Cook
- 21 Lauren Lynn
- 24 Peggy Walters
- 28 Sandi Floyd
- 29 Myrtle Corbett
- Charles Austin
- Jennifer Bowling
- Kate C. Lee



## CONTACT INFO

### Ministerial Staff

Dr. Wayne Brown, Interim Pastor  
843-796-0397, [interimpastor@fbcwhiteville.com](mailto:interimpastor@fbcwhiteville.com)

Rev. Eddie Fort, Minister of Music  
[efort@fbcwhiteville.com](mailto:efort@fbcwhiteville.com)

### Ministry Assistant Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass,  
Ministry Assistant  
[office@fbcwhiteville.com](mailto:office@fbcwhiteville.com)

Mrs. Dinah Reaves,  
Financial Ministry Assistant  
[fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com](mailto:fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com)

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Interim Organist

## OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours 8:30 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.,  
Monday—Friday  
Phone: 910-642-2139 Fax: 910-642-5874

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**My Tribute**

Andrae Crouch

How can I say thanks for the things God has done for me—  
Things so undeserved, yet He gives to prove His love for me?  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude—  
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.  
To God be the glory!  
To God be the glory!  
To God be the glory for the things He has done!  
With His blood He has saved me;  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.  
Just let me live my life;  
Let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee.  
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.  
With His blood He has saved me.  
With His power He has raised me!  
To God be the glory for the things He has done!

**Bless This House**

May H. Brahe and Helen Taylor

Bless this house, O Lord, we pray,  
Make it safe by night and day.  
Bless these walls so firm and stout,

Keeping want and trouble out.  
Bless the roof and chimneys tall,  
Let Thy peace lie over all.  
Bless this door that it may prove  
Ever open to joy and love.

Bless these windows shining bright,  
Letting in God's heavenly light.  
Bless the hearth, ablazing there,  
With smoke ascending like a prayer!  
Bless the folk who dwell within,  
Keep them pure and free from sin.  
Bless us all that we may be,  
Fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee.  
Bless us all that one day we  
May dwell, O Lord, with Thee!

**What Can I Give Him?**

Christina Rossetti

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

**One Solitary Life**

James Allen Francis

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.  
He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30.  
Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home.  
He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born.  
He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against Him.  
His friends ran away. One of them denied Him.  
He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.  
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.  
While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth.  
When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.  
All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat,  
all the kings that ever reigned—put together—have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that  
ONE SOLITARY LIFE!

HAPPY (BLESSED) THANKSGIVING! MERRY (BLESSED) CHRISTMAS! HAPPY (BLESSED) NEW YEAR!

Joy and all our family join me . . . gratefully and prayerfully yours . . . in Jesus' name . . . and amazing love, mercy, and grace . . .

*Wayne Brown*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

On **December 6th** and **20th** we will gather in the fellowship hall for Sunday School at **10:00 a.m.** with **Mrs. Peggy Underwood** as our teacher on the **6th** and **Rev. Wallyce Todd** on the **20th**. In **January**, Sunday School will be held on the **3rd** and the **17th** with **Dr. Brown** teaching on the **3rd** and **Rev. Wallyce Todd** on the **17th**.

## MISSIONS SUNDAY



“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Matthew 28:19

**Sunday, December 6,** there will be a missions emphasis in the morning service. We will not be able to have a Missions Breakfast this year. We will have our Lottie Moon and Global Missions offering during the Month of December.

## WMU

**December Meeting:** December 14, 10:00 A.M.  
**Call to Prayer and Program:** Mary Alice Stanley  
**Missions Emphasis:** Global Missions/Lottie Moon Offerings  
**Hospice Snacks:** Myrtle Corbett



I trust that our First Baptist family had a wonderful Thanksgiving - in whatever way you were able to celebrate. Thank you for your response to the November Families First Missions Project; our contributions were very much appreciated. The December emphasis is on our Global Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings. The goal for Global Missions is \$4,500; the goal for Lottie Moon is \$2,000. Giving to missions has always been a priority for First Baptist members, and the need to spread the gospel by supporting our missionaries is greater than ever. Please give as generously as you can!

2020-21

Watchword: But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Hebrews 10:39

### Our Mission

... is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.

Myrtle Corbett

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC



Please join us **Sunday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m.** as the Choir presents Christmas Music: “How Far Is It To Bethlehem?” to celebrate the coming of our Savior.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### TABOR CITY NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS EXPO

First Baptist Church of Whiteville has received a personal and special invitation from Mr. Rodney Gore to visit the **TABOR CITY NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS EXPO!** The display is located at 104 EAST 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Tabor City, North Carolina. Please call 910-640-8701 or 910-653-2653 to set up a time and to make arrangements to go and see this fantastic display. **Free! No Charge! Donations will be accepted!**

Sponsored by **GORE'S FLORIST AND GIFT SHOP OF TABOR CITY**

For 45 years, Mr. Rodney Gore, owner, has collected **2700 Nativity sets** of all shapes, sizes, and materials **from all over the world!** Some individuals have described their visit as a worship experience and that they felt the presence of Jesus while viewing the display! "There is nothing like this display in the United States. Please come and see. You will be blessed!"



The office will be closed on **Thursday, December 24**, for **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 25**, for **Christmas and Friday, January 1**, for **New Year's Day**. Happy Holidays!

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion will begin at **5:00 p.m.** This is a special observance that focuses our attention on the fact that Christ was born so that He could die to pay the price for our redemption.



## NEW YEAR'S COMMUNION

New Year's Eve "Drop In" Communion Service—**4:00-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary with Dr. Brown. You can come to the sanctuary at anytime, stay as long as you would like, and leave when you feel led. Personal devotional sheets will be provided. This is a special time for personal reflection, prayer, and receiving of the bread and the cup, as we prepare for 2021 — A NEW YEAR OF Faith, Hope, Love, and Blessings! Happy, (Blessed) New Year!

## THANK YOU

The Flower Committee would like to thank Michael Memory for the placing the beautiful harvest arrangements in the sanctuary for the month of November.



## CHRIST'S COMING

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;" I Timothy 1:15a KJV

"The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." II Peter 3:9 NLT

| December 2020                                                                                                                                                         |                                          |                        |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                  |                        |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                      | Tue                    | Wed                                                                                                  | Thu                                                                                              | Fri                    | Sat |
|                                                                                                                                                                       |                                          | 1                      | 2<br>4:30 Chancel Choir & Youth                                                                      | 3                                                                                                | 4                      | 5   |
| <b>6 Missions Emphasis</b><br>10:00 Combined Sunday School in the fellowship hall<br>11:00 Morning Worship (masks and social distancing req'd) reservations not req'd | 7<br>1:30 Staff Mtg                      | 8                      | 9<br>4:30 Chancel Choir & Youth<br>5:30-6:30 Drive through Supper—Prepared by the Senter's WNS Group | 10                                                                                               | 11                     | 12  |
| <b>13 Christmas Program</b><br>"How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"<br>11:00 Morning Worship (masks and social distancing req'd) reservations not req'd                      | 14<br>10:00 WMU Mtg<br>1:30 Staff Mtg    | 15<br>7:00 Deacons Mtg | 16<br>TBA Youth Music<br>11:00 Chancel Choir<br>6:30 Prayer Meeting                                  | 17                                                                                               | 18                     | 19  |
| <b>20</b><br>10:00 Combined Sunday School in the fellowship hall<br>11:00 Morning Worship (masks and social distancing req'd) reservations not req'd                  | 21<br>9:30 Finance Mtg<br>1:30 Staff Mtg | 22                     | 23                                                                                                   | 24<br>Office Closed<br>5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service                          | 25<br>Office Closed    | 26  |
| <b>27</b><br>11:00 Morning Worship (masks and social distancing req'd) reservations not req'd                                                                         | 28<br>1:30 Staff Mtg                     | 29                     | 30                                                                                                   | 31<br>Office Closed<br>4:00—8:00 New Year's Eve Drop-in Open Communion Service in the Sanctuary. | Jan 1<br>Office Closed |     |

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

FBC contact Information: Phone - 910-642-2139, Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com, Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com  
 Sunday Morning Worship Live on WTXY AM 1540, FM 103.9, kool1039radio.com—"Listen Live",  
 and First Baptist Church Whiteville YouTube Channel

**First Baptist Church**  
**412 North Madison Street**  
**Whiteville, NC 28472-3298**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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