

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

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COME CELEBRATE ADVENT AT FIRST PRES

Week of November 30, 2014

Issue 521

128 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey Associate Pastor

Dr. Raymond M. Larson Minister of Visitation

> Dr. James G. Manor Parish Associate

Amy L. McKee Director of Christian Education

Dana H. Parrish Student Ministries

Ronda A. Lacy Director of Finance &

Connie J. Shipley Administrative Assistant

> Rose Flynn Office Assistant

☆

Sammy D. Bryant

Ann M. Quessenberry



A dvent is just around the corner, Name: ______ E-mail address: ____



For the Four Sundays of Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21), our Advent season sermons will be based on John 1:1-18 - and the incredible way that "The Word Became Flesh." Join us at 8:50 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. for worship.

The younger disciples of the church will be presenting **The** Christmas Scene Revisited, on Sunday, December 7, at the 8:50 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worships services. Church members Suzanne Brantley (at the piano) and Teresa Negley (choral conductor) will be leading the children of our church in this re-telling of THE STORY of the season. Let your soul soar with the music, pictures, and narration of the story of the birth of Christ featuring the First Pres. children.

Interim Director of We hope you and your friends will **Come to the Stable** (our outdoor living nativity) and to Bethlehem Square (an indoor interactive re-creation of a first century town square) on Saturday night, December 13. Performances will be held at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m.

Administration Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24, for our Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols. The 5:00 p.m. service will include a children's story with a re-enactment of the nativity. The 9:00 p.m. service will feature additional musical selections from our choir.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL INFORMATION

Director of Maintenance Our 2014 Advent Devotional, Reel Christmas Discovering Christ or Religious Themes in Favorite Custodian Holiday Films is now available as a print version you can take home with you.

> You may also view the devotional online daily on our church website blog at http://www.firstpreswh.org/blog/ or our Facebook page starting the first Sunday of Advent, November 30. If you would like to receive the daily devotions via e-mail (the Advent Devotional will take the place of our staff devotionals during Advent), then please be sure to indicate below. Please fill out even if you already receive the current devotional.



An Advent Devotional November 30-December 25, 2014

Church calendar

Sunday, November 30 **1st Sunday of Advent** Communion

8:50 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. OJ Fellowship (MH) 9:45 a.m. Sunday School-Children & Youth 10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. HSYG (SC)

Monday, December 1 8:45 a.m. MOM

Tuesday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR) 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH) 6:00 p.m. SNL Planning (MH) 6:30 p.m. Session-Dinner w/New Officers (MH)

Wednesday, December 3

8:45 a.m. MOM 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids 5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC) 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 4 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells

Friday, December 5 8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, December 6 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen) 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

Please help us visit our hospitalized members!

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to any hospital, please call the church office and let the pastors know.

Thank you for helping us stay in touch with the congregation.



Remember in Prayer members

- Maggie Beeland Win Betrus R. Otis Bice, Jr. **Guy Bostick** Lois Burrell Millie Carrier Bob Carter George & Sylvia Chambers Helen Champlain Norma Conner Don Dinger Jerry Dugger Jana Easterling Jeanne Estes Kathy Girouard Marge Goodman Pete & Jean Harman Frances Heath
- **Doris Hill** Ranell Hillman Ed Houston Camille Howe Dorothy Johnson Toni Krieger Ronda Lacy Dena Lancashire Dot Lenfestey Spike & Jane Lucia Elaine Maltese Rita Marcacci Matt McGaffigan Gladys Meier Heidi Van Allen-Munoz Joan Murphy Nancy Neale Joe Oriani

Dee Palmore Judy Partain Al & Marjorie Porter Barbara Puckett Liz Purnell **Barbara Roberts** Mary Ellen Rowker Dave Ryan Dorothy Ryan Martha Seney Dean Shull Barbara A. Smith Carolyn Thompson Ed Threadgill Shirley Turner Betty von Hahmann Anne Windham

In the hospital: Yolanda Dyer & Pete Harman



Aaron Ashley James E. Baker Ben Clark Deborah Clark Nathan Connor Tim Davis Leah (Doty) Fuscia Eddie Gray Beau Gresham Chris Hagen Daniel Harp Sean Harp Coree Jones Terry Jones, Jr. Jackie Jung David Knowles Timothy Lee John Marotti Kaitlin Marotti Adam McPhail Andrew Stapor Keaton Thompson Jacob van Zandt

Kerbi Blake Stephanie Blanchard Bob Cameron Katheryn Christie & family **David Curtiss Debbie Donley** Al Ellis Raymond Fenstermaker Debbie Greenarch Wayne Harrison Military service Harper Hassett Pam Heath Jean Hehn Abigail Ising Linda Johnson Pete Kent Geoff Lewis Virginia Lynch Nan Mason JJ Miller Horacio & Maria Mottola Lettie Lane North Andrew Porter Cal Quessenberry **Bob Sammaro** Peggy Seigler David Smith & family Blain & Cynthia Thompson-McCaleb Miss Tiffany Gary Webb

Family and friends

Al & Mariorie Porter's daughter John & Barbara Puckett's friend Larry & Candy Marshall's friend Penn Tucker's friends Meredith Curtiss' stepson Marty Bentley's friend Jim Threlkel's friend Gale & Gwen Waters' friend Polly Wilson's friend Penn Tucker's friend Marty & Bob Bentley's granddaughter Jan & Keith Ray's friend Ellie Threlkel's friend Rick &Pat Reass' greatniece Gale & Gwen Waters' friend Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew David & Erin Emry's friend Lynn Oakley's friend Harvey & Mary Ann Snivley's daughter Rick & Pat Reass' friend Margaret Braun's friends Jean Strang's sister Al & Marjorie Porter's grandson Ann Quessenberry's husband Marcia Keplinger's friend Ellie Threlkel's friend Penn Tucker's friends Carolyn Thompson's daughter The Swangos' friend Matthew Gray's father



Congratulations to Amy & Joe McKee in the birth of their son, Jonathan Joseph McKee born November 24, 2014.

The proud grandparents are Marcia & Dale Smith.

COMING IN 2015: OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB



Plans are underway for an Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday Book Discussion Club to meet for the first time on Monday, January 19 in the Upper Room. We will have some light refreshments and we will discuss Jan Karon's new book, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*.

On March 16 we will discuss Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's book, Killing Jesus.

On **May 18** we will discuss Sharon Peters' book, *Trusting Calvin: How a Dog Healed a Holocaust Survivor's Heart.*

On **July 20** we will discuss Deborah Salomon's book, *American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell*.

If these events attract enough interest, we will offer an afternoon session at **3 p.m.** and an evening session at **7 p.m.** A minimum of eight persons will be needed to warrant offering both times. Please contact Alan at the church (294-3121) to express your interest and to indicate your time preference to attend. Plans are underway to get at least two copies of the titles to have available for checkout in the library and you may contact Jonathan Owen about ordering a personal copy. If we have good attendance and interest for these sessions, then titles for September and November will be added to the list above.

PRIME TIMERS DECEMBER LUNCHEON Calling all Prime Timers (our friends and members age 55+)

Come and join us for food and fellowship at our December gathering. We will meet at **11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8**, in McLeod Hall.

We will then head to Ruby Tuesday for fellowship and lunch. All it will cost is the price of your own meal.



Call Carol Switalski at 845-5416 or the church office at 294-3121 to reserve your space at the table!

CALLING ALL VETERANS!



Veterans Day 2014 has come and gone. The names submitted to us were included in the Prayers of the People on Sunday, November 9. We realize that our list of veterans was incomplete and so we still want to solicit this information from those who have served our country. We are still compiling a record of all of our church members/ friends who are veterans or currently serving in our armed forces. Please help us by e-mailing to office@firstpreswh.org, calling the church office at 294-3121, or completing the form below and putting it in the offering plate. **Thank you!**

Name: _

_____ Branch of Service: _____

Rank: ____

___ Dates of Service or War (e.g. Korean, Desert Storm, etc.): _____



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT!!!

Our All Church Retreat, *God Speaks Your Love Language*, will be held February 7 & 8 at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to join us for both days or just one day of Bible study, fellowship, enjoying the great outdoors, and a relaxing time away. Registration forms are located around the church or you may e-mail Amy McKee at (<u>amckee@firstpreswh.org</u> or call 294 -3121). The registration deadline is January 20.

We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat this year!

GENEROSITY SHOWS as we work and give together

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means that the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget, which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. **Every person** who generously gives in support of this budget **is a partner in everything** that we do, from preaching to teaching, to the care of our own children in the nursery and the children in Honduras through international mission.

In our 2015 operating budget, the extent to which we generously share resources so that the church can be the church is revealed.

Benevolences:		
World Mission in Presbytery (Honduras), Synod, and General Assembly	\$	34,300
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Per Capita (Shared operating expenses)	φ \$	24,898
Deacon's Fund (Local Mission)	Φ \$	24,802
Congregational Care	Φ \$	1,000
Stephen Ministry	\$	2,000
International Mission (Strangs)	\$	<u>3,000</u>
Subtotal Benevolence	\$	<u>90,000</u>
Personnel:	Ψ	20,000
Pastoral Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$	238,091
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$	186,618
Support Staff (salaries)	\$	223,130
Nursery Staff (salaries)	\$	15,750
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer Payroll Taxes	\$	33,600
Controlled Disbursements	\$	25,211
Subtotal Personnel	\$	722,400
Office/Administrative		
Printing, Postage, Supplies	\$	21,100
Phones, Equipment, Misc	\$	13,900
Subtotal Office/Administrative	\$	35,000
Properties Buildings and Grounds	\$	27,000
Utilities	\$	37,000
Insurance	\$	81,000
Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance/Other	\$	12,000
Subtotal Properties	\$	157,000

Dream Budget for 2015

Dream Budget for 2015, continued

Program Committees	
Christian Education	\$ 5,900
Youth Ministry	\$ 7,000
Worship and Music	\$ 6,000
Other Committees	\$ 17,840
Subtotal Committees	\$ <u>36, 740</u>

Total needed to fully fund First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2015: \$ <u>1,041,140</u>

A unified church budget is all about partnership, as each member of the church shares as a partner in the overall ministry of the church. (No one person can take sole credit for the sharing of faith or the works of charity, leaving someone else responsible for the sidewalks and sewer lines.) Each time any of us drops a dollar in the plate, we have helped every area of ministry.



As we move into 2015, our generosity will show in ministry as each of us takes part in walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do.

The 2014 Advent Devotionals (hard copies) are ready to be picked up in the narthex and McLeod Hall and will be available through computers on the church's web site beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2015, the Session approved the theme for the 2015 Advent Devotional: *"The Nativity Story and the Stories of Our Nativities"*

As many of you know Dr. Negley has collected a number of Nativity sets over the years. Most likely many of you have Nativity sets as well. Not all of these will contain many pieces, although some of you may own very elaborate Nativity sets. Some might just feature the Virgin Mary and Christ Child while others may be of the Holy Family. Some might include the shepherds, the Wise Men and an angel, while others might also include other people of the village of Bethlehem and animals. The Nativity scene may appear on a Christmas tree ornament or be a one piece carving, sculpture or music box. Others may have the scenes painted on a gourd or sand dollar or the scene might be woven in fabric or needlepointed on canvas. They may be quite colorful or monochromatic. They may be made of delicate china or durable felt

Like we did with favorite Christmas tree ornaments several years ago, we would like to get photographs of one of your favorite Nativities. If you have an elaborate or large Nativity set, then Alan could come to your home at your convenience to take the photograph. If you own a smaller more portable Nativity set, then we would appreciate it if you could bring the Nativity scene or set to the church office to be photographed.

We would then ask you to write a couple of paragraphs telling us about the Nativity scene or set. Information you might include:

- Was the Nativity scene or set made by a loved one or maybe you made it in Sunday school or Vacation Bible School?
- Of what material(s) is your Nativity scene or set made?
- Was it a gift to you or a family heirloom you inherited?
- How long have you owned the Nativity scene or set?
- Did you purchase this Nativity scene or set while on vacation (for example, in Africa, the Holy Land or Europe)?



- Is it a small painted plastic version (often sold in dime stores)? Was it your first Nativity and therefore dear to your heart? Inexpensive though it was, it helped you learn the story of God's great gift of love to the world.
- Does the Nativity scene or set have a special place to be displayed in your home during the holiday?
- Do you keep the Nativity scene or set out all year long to remind you of Christmas?
- Who sets up the Nativity set and are the characters always placed in the same position?
- Do you traditionally read the story of Jesus' birth while gathered around the Nativity set?
- Other information or stories you are willing to share as to why this particular Nativity scene or set is precious to you.

Please call Alan at the church 294-3121 to inform him of your willingness to participate. We will begin taking photographs as soon as possible after Thanksgiving. I will be happy to come out to your home and take the photograph if that is more convenient.

With the photographs and the two paragraph narrative, we will have a great start towards the 2015 Advent Devotional. We have discovered that this project succeeds by working on it almost a year in advance. As in the past, scripture verses and a prayer will be added to accompany your contributions. **Thanks!**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

Youth Live Nativity performance is **December 13th at 8:30 p.m.** We are still in need of you to sign up. Be here by 8:00 p.m. Rehearsal for this event is **December 10th at 5:30 p.m**. Dinner will be provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

School is back in session, and so are our Wednesday afternoon meetings for the First Pres Middle School Youth. All young people in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to join us on **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.** in the First Pres. Student Center (711 Sixth Street NW). There will be FOOD (supper is provided) FELLOWSHIP (the 737 building is open for basketball, four square, carpet ball, and general hanging out with friends) FUN, FAITH, AND FRIENDS (we have a great group of adults who will help you and your friends explore the Christian faith and learn more about loving and serving God.) We wrap up at 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and be sure to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All 9th thru 12th grade young people are encouraged to join our High School Youth. The group meets on **Sunday nights, from 5:30p.m.**–7:30 p.m. in the Student Center, 711 Sixth Street NW.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND? Supper with your friends, time to catch up with your friends, some games and laughs with your friends, bible study and Christian service with your friends.

Come out each Sunday and make some new friends in Christ at our High School Youth.



Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 21. Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$11 and checks, marked "poinsettia fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 15**.

lace the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 15** A complete listing will be available Sunday, December 21.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s):	
In Memory of:	
In Honor of:	
I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.	
I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.	TA LANS
Number of plants ordered:	11-1-11-11
Amount Enclosed: \$	N 2 M S C

B irthdays

DECEMBER

12/2Peggy Chun Ron Damjker **Teresa Renney** 12/3Henry Chilton Bruce Eelman Daphne Gray Tina Summerlin 12/4Jack Scamehorn **Ronald Firment** 12/5Alee Swango Jane Tillman 12/6Helen Butz Steve Saterbo Ginger Schreier 12/7 Aiden Brinson Dot Lenfestey Christina Maness 12/8**Caroline Beckley** Margaret Dantzler 2/9Bob Helmick Lorraine Todd 12/10 Dick Hill **Gladys** Meier Marile Weeks 12/11 John Gray Austin Johnston 12/11Michael Lyons Zane McCann

- 12/11 Roy Morrison Jane Ray Dave Sparr
- 12/12 Kaylie Arnold Bill Lockhart Jackie Pinckney
- 12/13 Dawn Fellows Peggy Kennedy Beverly Seagreaves
- 12/15 Merry Stewart Borowski Micah Darte Erin Duce Lia Gray Lynn Lasseter Griffin Powell Margaret Way
- 12/16 Marty Bentley Jean Bostick Randy McCann Kim Powell
- 12/18 Geoffrey Roe Morgan Schreiber
- 12/19 Megan Kosmensky Ed Threadgill
- 12/20 Jim King
- Renee Parrish
- 12/20 Harvey Snively
- 12/21 Neil Berger

- 12/21 John Puckett Mark Turner
- 12/22 Maggi Helmick Lou Parrott Daniel Slocum Cynthia Stroupe
- Weston Thibodaux 12/23 Cecilia Linn 12/24 Judy Fitzgerald Ryan Johnson
- 12/25 Frances Asheim Betty Drasdo
- Carol Roe 12/26 David Alexander Patti Forum
- 12/27 Rusty Hart
- 12/28 Treva Plowden 12/28 Stephanie Cornejo Madison Thomas
- 12/29 Ashley Dunson Wiley Koon, Sr. Glenda Parrott
- Glenda Parrott Mark Sanders 12/30 Terry Rayfield
- 12/31 Shirley Ostram
 - Barbara Roberts
 - Steve Sowards

A nniversaries

- 12/02 Jerrett & Kristen Abbott Jay & Dorrie Tackett
- 12/05 Joey & Krista Endres Josh & Jessica Lockhart
- 12/09 Russell & Lynn Aaron
- 12/14 Bob & Shirley Turner
- 12/16 James & Daphne Gray Ray & Gladys Larson
- 12/18 Carl & Kathy Cheatham
- 12/19 Andrew & Linda Stavres
- 12/20 Wiley & Sara Koon Steve & Teresa Negley
- 12/21 Jose & Alison Batista
- 12/22 Nat & Jane West
- 12/23 Orrin & Helen Champlain

- 12/23 James & Ellen Zeller
- 12/26 Steve & Laura Dunham Kline & Barbara Roberts Drew & Lindsay Stapor
- 12/27 Mike & Martha Seney Ed & Suzann Threadgill
- 12/28 Bob & Carol Carter
- 12/29 Howard & Cheryl Beckert Jon & Merle Griffin Gale & Gwen Waters
- 12/30 Richard & Pam Baker Pete & Merry Stewart Borowski
- 12/31 Dean & Sonja Jackson Cal & Ann Quessenberry John & Tracy Scheck

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



At 8:50 a.m., members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend The Gathering. This service is held in the sanctuary. The piano is the primary instrument for leading in congregational music with a variety of instruments adding special touches from week to week. The prayers in worship and the flow of the service help the congregation gather in God's love. The Gathering ordinarily lasts 50 minutes and will conclude with the Benediction at 9:40 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m., you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the congregation opportunities for spiritual enrichment and the sense of God's love and grace. This worship service ordinarily lasts one hour and concludes with the Benediction at 12:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us in worship, study, and fellowship!

CONNECT With Us at Sunday School!

Children ages three and four gather in Room 108 for their own Sunday School time of crafts, snack, Bible lesson, and fun.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will rotate through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Computer, and Movies on Sunday mornings. The theme changes every 6 weeks. On October 26 they begin the Good News rotation.

The Youth of the church, those in Middle School and High School, are invited to come hang out in the Student Center from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. We have a variety of volunteers who will lead this engaging class filled with faith-building, friendship, fun, food, and great times. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Connect - Grow - Thrive meets in Room 207. The class has been studying the book, The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People by John Ortberg. All are invited to join in WANTER this discussion filled class. Members of the class take part in leading the discussion each week.



WHAT'S THE LEAST CAN DITTENT AND STILL BE W Christian? MATTERS MOST

The Perspectives Class meets in the Geneva Room and is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Glenn Thomas. They are focusing on Martin Thielen's book, What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian? Everyone is invited to join in this thought-provoking discussion time. Pastor and author, Martin Thielen, has compiled a list of ten things people need to believe and ten things they don't, in order to be a Christian. This lively and engaging book will be a help to seekers as well as a comfort to believers who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with.

Dr. Steve Negley's class meets in the back of McLeod Hall. The topic is: Mastering the Basics in I John. This eight-week study will take the class on a journey through a little book (I John) tucked near the back of the New Testament. Long before C.S. Lewis and his look at "Mere" Christianity, a writer named John was putting pen to papyrus and helping early Christians explore the essential elements of their faith. Addressing a congregation where faith and practice had taken some wrong turns, John shared the good news of how things could move in the right direction. Bring your Bible and be prepared to explore how we can walk in the Light and walk in love; test the spirits and be aware of antichrists; live as children of God who love one another; and revel in how God's love inspires our love.



Walk in the Light **Mastering** the **Basics in I John.**

First Presbyterian Church 637 6th Street, NW Winter Haven, FL 33881 863-294-3121 FAX 863-294-1105 www.firstpreswh.org office@firstpreswh.org Our Purpose Statement As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we... Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ Develop and nurture God's children into disciples Provide a place and a program for praising God Live our lives according to the Word, guided by the Spirit Commit to justice for all God's people.

Adopted by Session, 2003

This newsletter is published weekly. Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly. Church dated material, please deliver by 11/28/14.

Non-profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 1162 Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 311 bag lunches the week of 11/17/14.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 96 people on 11/22/14

Return Service Requested

"COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE"

REHEARSALS FOR NATIVITY PERFORMERS: Children & Adults on **Sunday, December 7 during Sunday school** and Youth on **Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m**. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.

Also, we will be fitting costumes for anyone who has NOT already been fitted

ATTENDING REHEARSAL IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE PERFORMANCE NIGHT RUN MORE SMOOTHLY.

Thank Y ou!!!

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