

# 140th Anniversary Celebration Harvest Festival Parade, Saturday, Sept. 28 Celebration in the Tabernacle Sunday, Oct. 20 at 4pm

Our 140th Anniversary is a fun, low key celebration for members, past members and friends. Please invite your friends and family to join us.

We are celebrating our 140th Anniversary with an entry in the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival Parade on **Saturday, September 28, 2024.** We will have a banner, signs and a truck. We need lots of members and friends to join us in the parade. The parade route is less than a mile. Those that can walk it are encouraged to do so. Those that cannot may sit on hay bales in the back of the truck (space is limited). 1884 era costumes are encouraged. The parade lines up at dirt parking lot at W. Branch Street and Old Ranch Rd at 9AM. Official start of the parade is 10AM. It disbands at Mason and Poole Streets. Please come and join in the parade. Sign up at the Connections Table so we have an estimate of how many are coming. If you cannot join the parade, cheer us along from the sidelines.

We are holding the 140th celebration in the Tabernacle at Camp Arroyo Grande Sunday, October 20 at 4PM. The celebration includes a visit by John Wesley, the singing of Cowboy and Wesley hymns, a short history of the church, exhibits of historical church documents and refreshments. It should be a lot of fun. Bring friends and family. Please sign up at the Connections Table so we have an estimate of how many are coming.

Our actual 140th anniversary date is Sunday, September 22. We will be "passing the hat" for those that wish to contribute towards cost of the festivities.

#### FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY



Sign up for events at the Connection Desk in the Narthex

The San Luis Obispo
Botanical Garden tour
was much enjoyed by
our group on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>.
The gardens depict five
Mediterranean climate
regions of the world.

Wednesday, Sep 11, 9:30 AM Nature Discovery Hike and Tour at Camp Arroyo Grande. Meet at the church at 9:15 if you want to carpool. The camp was very instrumental in the early history of our church.

Sun, Sep 29 Free Movie in Criswell Hall is titled "Jules". Milton (Ben Kingsley) finds his quiet life upended when a UFO and its extra-terrestrial passenger crash land in his back yard. Things become even more heated when two neighbors discover his secret and the government closes in. Free movie, popcorn, refreshments.

**Sun, Dec 1** we look forward to begin observing Advent with a light lunch and craft workshop after church. We are recruiting willing volunteers to help lead a craft.

Friday, Dec 6 The Christmas Variety Show in Criswell Hall. With this event coming up faster than you think, the show is looking for talented volunteers: actors, actresses, comedians, magicians, musicians, poets, you name it! Check with Gerry McGuire.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire, Fellowship



The Noisy Offering raised \$1,587.28 for school supplies!

Thank you to the FUMC Congregation for your generous support of the Children's Center.

Thank you, Maddy Quaglino, AGUM Children's Center Director

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SIT AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH**

We need additional volunteers to help take videos or run the sound booth at first and second service. This does not need to be an every Sunday job. Volunteers can fill in when needed.

The sound person adjusts sound levels and remotely turns microphones on and off. During first service they also advance the slides on the screen. Though the sound board may look intimidating with over 600 knobs and buttons, it is easy to operate as a vast majority of the knobs should never be touched. Think of the power you have to shut off the preacher at any time!

The video camera is also simple to operate. Basically, the videographer pans and zooms the camera to whoever is speaking or singing. They may also adjust sound levels and microphones on the camera soundboard.

These positions can be done by youth or adults. They do not need to be members of the church. Please pray about it. It is a great way to help your church.

If you are interested, please see Julia Burns or Rev. Mary.

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#### WORSHIP LITURGISTS



#### **SEPTEMBER 01**

8:30 a.m.----Joe Brown 10:30 a.m.----Judy Leonard

#### **SEPTEMBER 08**

8:30 a.m.-----Lucy Jacob 10:30 a.m.-----Joyce Singleton

#### **SEPTEMBER 15**

8:30 a.m.----Elwood Hyden 10:30 a.m.---Michelle Richardson

#### **SEPTEMBER 22**

8:30 a.m.-----David Beard 10:30 a.m.----Cristy Van Hook

#### **SEPTEMBER 29**

8:30 a.m.-----Mary Throndson 10:30 a.m.-----Rosslyn Clauson

~ submitted by Carolyn Anderson



There is an urgent need for ushers to participate in our 2<sup>nd</sup> service! Several of our steadfast ushers of many years have asked to retire from this service. We are so grateful for their time, welcoming hands and friendship. In honoring their request, we must rebuild our faithful Team of Ushers this year.

I ask as you go about your weekly schedule that you include in your prayers consideration of joining the Team of Ushers.

Both men and women, also couples, are encouraged to give it a try. This is a great opportunity to greet and assist ALL who enter our doors.



We are a "Welcoming Church" with many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service. Our ushers are the first ones people meet as they enter our church. Please see Kerren Brown, who is usually in the Narthex each Sunday morning, to explore joining our Team of Ushers.

~ submitted by Kerren Brown

#### NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference: "Ending spiritual and physical hunger."

--Incoming DS Reverend Garth Gilliam

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
9/01/24	Tujunga UMC Community UMC of Inyokern	Pastor Kevin Kang Church Leaders
9/08/24	First UMC of Arroyo Grande Hindi-Urdu UM Mission	Pastor Mary Birgelaitis Pastor Lamuel Jacob
9/15/24	La Cañada UMC Immanuel UMC of Los Angeles	Pastor Karin Ellis Pastor Jay Kim
9/22/24	North Oxnard/Garden Church North Oxnard/Garden Church	Pastor David Jamir Pastor Cindy Huskey

#### Mission Statement of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande is a joyful, active and fun-loving faith community. We worship on Sunday mornings and offer opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship, health, and increased well-being all week long. Members represent a wide range of theological and political views and commit to treating each other with love and respect in the midst of differences. We nurture spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of God's love in Christ as we work together to spread the love of God in our community and in the world.

Church Council approved this Mission Statement for our Church. A Mission Statement tells members and the world who we are and what we believe. It can be a recruiting tool for our church. It goes into greater depth than our slogan: "Hope, Joy and Love Rising" and the slogan of the United Methodist Church: "open hearts, open minds, open doors." This Mission Statement has been under development for about five years and has undergone numerous revisions. It will appear on our website, Cast-A-Net and literature about our church.

#### MEMBERSHIP CARE TEAM UPDATE

Members are encouraged to call the church office when in need of some help due to special circumstances or medical conditions.

The membership team has been providing transportation to medical appointments when there is no available transportation. In addition, if you wanting some additional support listening or clarifying what is being discussed or ordered at your appointment, a pair of extra ears on your behalf is useful.

When being discharged from the hospital or rehabilitation unit, your membership care team is available to provide a meal each day until you are set up with a home delivery meal service.

Please do not be shy in asking for help. We are a caring congregation and very willing to help a fellow member returning to home to independent living. Call Frances at the church office: 805-481-2692

~submitted by Kerren Brown

On August 4<sup>th</sup> we welcomed into membership Aaron Kelly Dickison and Maureen Rose.



Aaron was born in Sedona, Arizona on a family cattle ranch and has since lived in both Fresno and the Sierra Nevadas. Aaron tells us that he moved to Arroyo Grande for his health and found God again!

Maureen comes to us from the Atascadero United Methodist Church. Maureen has 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, and 3 greatgrandchildren. She brings a very rich variety of experience. She worked as a bookkeeper and comptroller as well as running her own business until retirement in 2006. She has been involved in leadership, in music, outreach and mission. Her



hobbies include sewing and other hand work.

During September we will take in three more new members and will publish more complete bio information at a later date.

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## United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

September, 2024

September 5 is the first of the <u>Craft Workshops</u> on Thursdays from 10 – 12 in the McMillen Room. We need your help to get us ready for the Holiday Boutique on November 1, 2, & 3. Sewing and craft skills would be nice but we will find something you can do. Come help us!

All Women in Faith are invited to participate in the activities being planned to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church. Our church will have a float in the Arroyo Grande Village Harvest Festival.



Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a celebration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church in the community. We will meet at 4 pm in the Tabernacle. John Wesley will be in attendance and we will enjoy a light meal, with singing and stories of the church's history and displays of

artifacts and photos. I hope you will come, participate and volunteer. You can also come to the celebration in period dress. Mark your calendar.

#### CIRCLES AND GROUPS

All women are invited to attend.

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets the last Wednesday of each month (September 25) at 10 am in the McMillen Room. Come join us; we'd love to have you! We will be finishing up the book: "Walking with God" by John Eldredge. Contact Mary Throndson.

<u>Joy Circle</u> meetings will begin in September.

<u>Book Club</u> meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays in the Library at 10:30 am. Contact Judy Leonard for a book.

Sew And Sews meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage all interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing to attend.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE IS NOVEMBER 1, 2, AND 3 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY).

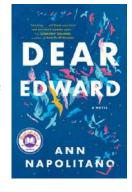
~submitted by Gerry McGuire, UWF President



#### UWF BOOK CLUB SEPTEMBER SELECTION: <u>DEAR EDWARD</u>

The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss the novel, <u>Dear Edward</u> by Ann Napolitano. This story begins with an airplane crash that shatters a young man's life. Throughout this emotional novel Edward comes to understand the difference between being a survivor and a victim. He experiences the power of kindness and how it helps to heal a broken heart.

This powerful story will definitely touch the hearts of all who read it. If you would like to read <u>Dear Edward</u>, contact Judy Leonard for a library book kit copy of it. We invite you to join us in our discussion of the book on September 20<sup>th</sup>.



~submitted by Judy Leonard

#### What is your church story?

As part of our 140th anniversary celebration the Communications Committee is asking everyone to tell their church story. These will be collected and published as part our celebrations. Your story can be how you found this or another church, recollections of past events or pastors, what you love about church, memorable events that may be happy, funny, inspirational or embarrassing that you laugh about now.

Everyone probably has at least one story.

Please drop them off, or send by post or email to the office, or drop in a box in the Narthex.

#### Our Church Story from Connie and Mike Clark

Back in 2002 we came to Arroyo Grande fixing up some horse property. Along with our work we visited different churches. When my mother's church came to A.G. Methodist for Dale Knowlton's Memorial Service, I met her there and really liked the Sanctuary. Mom was here a lot and we started attending the A.G. Methodist 8:30 service--so Mike could get back to work. Early on Jeff Buhler and Mike talked about guitars and Mike started playing with the 8:30 Lord's Crew with Susan and Mike Coho worship leaders. We loved the music they shared and their sincere commitment to Jesus Christ.

There were many events around our 125<sup>th</sup>
Anniversary in Sept. 2009. So many dedicated

Committees making the celebration meaningful, even meeting at the Methodist Camp Tabernacle!

One of our fondest memories is leading groups during Vacation Bible School. "GOD sightings", Praise Songs. "I know the plans I have for you says the Lo-o-rd!" Really FUN! Pastor Burgeson leading the Conga Line. Mike Herber making a Biblical town in Criswell Hall. Bernie Hawkins going to every VBS attendee saying "Jesus Loves You", always so loving and genuine...as are all of our friends here at Arroyo Grande Methodist.

We are very thankful for our church, now about to celebrate 140 years!

My Church Story from a 13-year old

I am 13 years old. I thought I would hate church and youth group. But I go to Youth Group and I love it.

Thanks for opening me up to it. Love God always.

#### My Church Story from Joel Anderson

or why Joel is a Methodist and dresses how he does for church.

Going to church was very stressful when I was a child. I hated going to church. It wasn't church that I hated. Sunday School was actually fun. It was GOING to church that I hated.

When I was young, we dressed up for church. That was the problem. On Sunday morning I had to polish my dress shoes. I hated polishing shoes, and usually got shoe polish all over. I am not sure why dress shoes needed polishing Sunday morning when we were rushed to get to church. But they needed to be polished every Sunday morning. And dress shoes were never as comfortable as my school shoes. Not only that, I had to tie my own shoes. Being uncoordinated, I never could tie shoes until I became a Cub Scout and had to be able to tie shoes to advance a rank. Then I had to put on a white dress shirt, tie (which made the shirt uncomfortable) and a dress coat. Regardless of the weather, hot or cold. It was the same dress coat. My parents did not believe in clip on ties. I actually had to tie my own (see shoe tying above). This all had to be done so we could get to the early service, depending on which church we attended (more on that later). The rush to eat breakfast, polish my shoes, get dressed up nicely with my shirt tucked in and getting out of the house in time to drive to church often led to stress, yelling and crying. We were always rushed on Sunday morning. It must have warped me for life, as you have probably noticed I never wear dress shoes, dress clothes or a tie (except when Lila makes me).

After church we would go out for lunch, usually at a pancake house. We couldn't stick around church to socialize, as we had to get to the pancake house before the Catholic church (or maybe it was the Presbyterian church) got out, or there would be a long line.

My mother was a Congregationalist. My father was a Methodist. Over the years we alternated between Methodist and the Congregationalist churches, depending on which had the better preacher. I went to college at the University of Santa Clara, which is a good Catholic school. I didn't have a car so I had to walk to church. The walk to Santa Clara Methodist Church was shorter than the walk to the Congregational Church. And the Methodists were a lot friendlier. So, I have been a Methodist ever since.

After attending Santa Clara Methodist Church a few times, a woman came up to me and said "You must be Weston's son." Apparently, I look like my father. It turns out she was one of my father's girl friends when they attended Methodist Youth Fellowship at the Kingsburg Methodist Church. It is a small world.

#### From the Pastor:

#### A SIMPLE SEPTEMBER!

September's sermons are going "lite". The pastor will preach familiar passages from the Bible including The Lord's Prayer, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, Psalms 46 and 100. Rev. Rich Bolin will be our pulpit guest on September 15, 2024. Alongside these beloved passages you'll hear the continuous lectionary readings from the Gospel of Mark. Come, enjoy worship with us!

September 1, 2024
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
HEAVEN ON EARTH
Matthew 6:5-14, Mark 7:18, 14-15, 21-23

September 8, 2024 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost BE STILL AND KNOW Psalm 46, Mark 7:24-37 September 15, 2024
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
GUEST PREACHER
Rev. Rich Bolin

September 22, 2024
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATE
Psalm 100, Mark 9:30-37

September 29, 2024 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost SHEPHERD ME, O LORD Psalm 23, Mark 9:38-50

#### Hello from your Music Director!

Well, summer has quickly flown by and we are excited to bring the choir back and build our ranks both in the choir and the congregation.

The first choir rehearsal will be Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We enter through the door by the office to the Sanctuary. First Sunday back in the Chancel will be the same as when the bells return, which is Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning on a super year filled with lots of special music activities. If you have ever thought about singing in choir, now is the time to come and give us a try.

See you singing soon,

Julia

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#### **UMCOR's 2024 Disaster Response**

UMCOR and its partners are responding to disasters across the globe every day. I am sure that



many of us feel helpless in the face of these disasters reported daily on the TV and in the newspapers. The good news is that "What is impossible for humans is possible for God."-Luke 18:27. Thanks to the generous donations of Methodists around the world, UMCOR is hard at work helping survivors of weather and other natural disasters. The following are some examples of your generosity at work:

After Hurricane Beryl's devastation in the Caribbean in early July, UMCOR is coordinating with partners in the Methodist church in the Caribbean and other Americas (MCCA) to support relief efforts. UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to three MCCA districts: Jamaica, Haiti and Southern Caribbean.

An UMCOR Partnership with the Methodist Church in Kenya is providing emergency food for more than 8,000 people suffering from food insecurity because of severe flooding that displaced thousands of people due to the Tana River flooding in Northern Kenya damaging homes, sanitation facilities, schools and farms.

When Congolese population was deported from Angola, UMCOR gave support for the Central Congo UMC. They are working on a recovery program for Congolese expats returning from Angola who have resettled in Kananga. Distribution of agricultural tools, seeds and materials to build shelters for 50 households has benefited nearly 5000 people.

The need in Gaza is and remains overwhelming. UMCOR is actively responding to the humanitarian crisis by awarding grants to local partners in Israel, Gaza, and the surrounding region. Partners are using funds for relocation support, food and hygiene kits, support of students, trauma counseling to women and children, delivery of medical supplies and telemedicine services.

Closer to home, forecasts predict a record-breaking storm season here in the United States. There is

unprecedented heat, flooding and hurricane-force winds. UMCOR is working diligently to help survivors. Many fall through the cracks when appealing for state and governmental aid. UMCOR is there with critical supplies and the expertise to connect people to the help they need most immediately as well as give long-term help.

As we continue our on-going financial support to UMCOR by our church, it is also important to note that UMCOR receives top ratings from CharityWatch, the only independent charity watchdog in the United States. Learn more about UMCOR by visiting www.umcor.org or by following www.facebook.com/umcor.

#### **Needs in our Community**

Your Mission Team has been busy this past month serving the needs of the community. We served lunch on July 30 to 85 participants at the People's Kitchen and were doubly blessed by their heart-felt gratitude for the tasty, nutritious hot meal.

Hungry

In addition, your donated clothing was very happily received by People's Kitchen, Children's Resource Network and St. Barnabas Thrift Shop (which gives free clothing to the homeless who are sent by the Five Cities Homeless Coalition).

Your generous donations of toiletries were also given to the Five Cities Homeless Coalition for the daily needs of the homeless in our community.

And last but not least, checks for \$1000 each were distributed to feed the hungry from the Mission accounts and Endowment Funds to the 5 Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry, the Five Cities People's Kitchen and the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition.

We thank you for your generosity and feel it is a privilege to help those in our community who are in need.

~ submitted by Priscilla Alquist, Mission Team Chair







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	LABOR DAY Church Office closed for Federal Holiday	3 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga- CH 1 PM Bible Study-L 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 7:00 PM Board of Trustees-MMR	4 9:00 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10:00 AM Fellowship Committee-L 6:30 PM Worship Committee-PS	5 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH  10:00 AM Craft Workshop-MMR 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR  6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-S	6	7
8 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	9 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:00 PM Bible Study -L 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	11 9:00 AM Church Work Morning -CH 9:30 AM Camp AG Discovery Hike & Tour, to carpool meet at church at 9:15 AM 10:00 AM UWF Steering-L 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Craft Workshop-MMR 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-S	13	14
8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service and Bell Choir  10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service Chancel Choir and Bell Choir	16 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-L 1:30 PM Finance-L 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	9:00 AM Church Work Morning -CH 2:00 Church Council- MMR Happy Birthday To Us! 140 Years!	19 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Craft Workshop-MMR 10:30 AM Staff ParishPS 4:00 PM Children's Center Board-MMR 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-S	20 10:30 AM UWF Book Club-L	21
8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	23 4:30 PM Commu- nications-L 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	24 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	9:00 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10:00 AM Mary- Martha-Esther Circle-MMR	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Craft Workshop-MMR 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-S	27 11:00 AM Nominations-PS	28  10:00 AM A.G. Harvest Festival Parade. Church has a "float" in the Parade.
8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4:00 PM Free Movie-CH	30 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH		•	CH-Criswell H K- L-Libraı	Kitchen ry Room #123 Millen Room #113	



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Leonard Lutz

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Susan Throndson

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#### **TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY**



Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

First meeting is Tuesday, September 3 1:00 p.m. Criswell Hall

The study book is
CALLED by Susan Robb--Hearing and
Responding to God's Voice--Lessons from
Six Biblical Characters.
Books are available from Nancy.
Sessions are at 1:00 PM on Tuesdays.
All are welcome to join us!



Mike Coho 09/06
Sally Weitkamp 09/13
Alice Addison 09/14
Bob Throndson 09/16
Jan Treat 09/18
John Emery 09/22
Claire Jacob 09/29



Have we missed your birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthday to our monthly birthday list!



#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sundays? Dates are available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. Your floral tributes are welcomed and will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday. You can pick up your arrangement after the second service. Contact Frances in the Church Office

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

#### **MEALS AVAILABLE**

Did you know that there are now meals available to anyone in need? Your Mission
Team will make chicken casseroles available to anyone in need of a little temporary assistance. Perhaps you're not feeling up to shopping or cooking. These meals will be in the freezer in our church kitchen and labelled and dated. Please feel free to take advantage of these meals. If you have any questions, contact Priscilla Alquist.



## First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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