



FEBRUARY

The People We Are Becoming

As a church, we are always becoming something together.

This season in worship, we've been leaning into that truth through our current series, "The People We Are Becoming." Week by week, we are exploring what it means to live into the new United Methodist vision and mission statement:

Love Boldly.

Serve Joyfully.

Lead Courageously.



These aren't just aspirational words. They are commitments that shape how we worship, how we serve our neighbors, how we treat one another, and how we show up in a complicated world.

To Love Boldly is to practice radical welcome, compassion, and grace, especially when it's easier to withdraw.

To Serve Joyfully is to offer our time, gifts, and energy not out of obligation, but out of gratitude and hope.

And to Lead Courageously is to stay rooted in our faith and values, even when the path forward feels uncertain.

Together, these commitments help us ask an important question:

Who is God calling us to be right now?

Looking Ahead to Lent

As this series continues, we are also preparing to step into the season of Lent, a season of reflection, honesty, and renewal.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** worship at 7:00 p.m., when we will gather to remember our shared humanity, our need for grace, and God's promise to meet us even in dust and ashes.

This year's Lenten worship series will follow the storyline and music of a very "popular" musical and recent blockbuster film, one that explores themes of belonging, power, courage, friendship, and what it means to choose the kind of person (and community) we want to become. (*Wink, wink, we can't say the name, but you'll recognize it!*)

Throughout Lent, we'll also gather on Wednesday evenings for dinner and study, creating space for conversation, learning, and connection. These evenings are designed to be welcoming, thoughtful, and accessible, whether you come every week or just when you can. No matter where you find yourself this season, full of energy or feeling worn down, you are invited to be part of what God is doing here. We are becoming a people who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. And Lent will help us take the next faithful steps together.

Grace and peace,
Dr. Hutton

Calvary United Methodist Church

FOR GOOD

Impacting Lives Through Christ-like Love

Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages 9:00 a.m.

131 West 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland

JOIN THE JOURNEY

Whether you join us for dinner and study mid-week or gather with friends or family at home to reflect on the materials, we invite you to be intentional this Lent. Let us be a community that walks together, learns together, and is transformed *for good* by the grace of Jesus Christ. Study Guides will be available at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Ash Wednesday Worship and Sunday, February 22nd.

Lent at Calvary Frederick: *For Good*

A Season of Reflection, Transformation & Christ-like Love

Lent is a sacred season of 40 days (not counting Sundays) dedicated to prayer, self-examination, and preparation for Easter. It calls us to remember Jesus' journey to the cross and to open our hearts to transformation through the grace of God. This year, our Lenten series, *For Good: Impacting Lives Through Christ-like Love*, uses themes from the a very "Popular" musical and recent blockbuster movie, to help illuminate Gospel truths in fresh and meaningful ways. You might want to check out this movie in preparation for Lent!

Join us for worship and study as we explore how our faith, rooted in Christ's love and grace, can bring lasting change **in us, through us, and around us.**

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: *For Good*

Wednesdays, Dinner at 6:00 PM • Study at 6:30 PM

February 25 through March 25

Gather in fellowship for dinner followed by a weekly study as we walk deeper into the themes of Lent together.

WEEKLY FOCUS, WHAT TO EXPECT

Week 1, Are We Born Wicked or Made?

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 3:23-24

We begin by looking honestly at the nature of sin and what it means to be human, both created in God's image and yet shaped by choices, brokenness, and grace. As Elphaba's story in *Wicked* challenges assumptions about "good" and "wicked," Scripture reminds us all have sinned, and all are invited into God's redeeming love.

Week 2, Helping the Targeted

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 25:35-40

Jesus' parables call us beyond indifference to compassion and advocacy. Like Elphaba standing with the Animals in Oz, we explore what it means to stand with the vulnerable. As a church, we live this out through Prison Ministry, Appalachia Service Project, feeding ministries, and other outreach efforts that reflect Jesus' love in action.

Week 3, The Power of Friendship

Scripture: John 15:12-15; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Jesus calls His disciples friends and invites us into deep, life-changing community. Friendships, like the bond between Elphaba and Glinda in *Wicked*, shape us, challenge us, and draw us into more Christ-like discipleship. We reflect on how relationships formed in trust and love sustain us and point us to God.

Week 4, Being Popular vs. Being Faithful

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 6:1-4

The world often urges us to seek approval and praise, yet Jesus calls us to faithfulness over popularity. We explore how integrity and authenticity in our walk with God and others are marks of true discipleship, even when it costs us.

Week 5, Rising Above Death and Fear

Scripture: John 11:17-27; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

In this final week before Palm Sunday (which in 2026 is March 29), we reflect on Jesus' power over death. Martha's confession, "I believe that you are the Messiah", anchors us in hope. Paul proclaims that death has been swallowed up in victory through Christ's resurrection. This week prepares our hearts for Holy Week by embracing the resurrection hope that shapes every aspect of our faith.

A Finance Update from Calvary

Looking Back with Gratitude - Looking Ahead with Hope

2025 was a year of steady, faithful ministry at Calvary. Together, we worshiped week after week, welcomed new members into our church family, cared for one another through moments of joy and grief, and continued to be a visible presence of Christ's love in Frederick. We have strengthened long-standing community partnerships, paid our Conference Mission Shares in full, and maintained this historic and much-loved building as a place of welcome and service.

Financially, the church remained stable throughout the year, even as costs rose, particularly utilities and insurance, and as we navigated staff transitions. Because of thoughtful stewardship in prior years and the generosity of this congregation, Calvary was able to meet its obligations, support mission and outreach, and continue forward without interruption to ministry.

We are deeply grateful for the prayers, presence, service, and financial faithfulness that made all this possible.

A Snapshot of the 2026 Budget

As we look ahead, the proposed 2026 operating budget is \$652,677, designed to sustain Calvary's core ministries and prepare us for continued growth and outreach.

Using the same framework as our Light for the City stewardship campaign, the budget supports five key areas:

Worship & Music

Education & Leadership

Fellowship & Caring

Mission & Outreach

Community Partnership

How Your Giving Supports Ministry

Worship & Music

\$185,000 (28%)

Vibrant worship, strong music ministry, choirs, instruments, worship supplies, livestreaming, and the care of our sanctuary for weekly worship and special services.

Education & Leadership

\$135,000 (21%)

Children's, youth, and adult formation; leadership development; curriculum; small groups; and staff support for discipleship and ministry leadership.

Fellowship & Caring

\$110,000 (17%)

Pastoral care, visitation, prayer ministries, hospitality, congregational communication, and community-building ministries that foster connection and belonging.

Mission & Outreach

\$105,000 (16%)

Local and global mission partnerships, monthly Love Offerings, service ministries, and Conference Mission Shares supporting the wider United Methodist connection.

Community Partnership

\$117,677 (18%)

Facility care, utilities, insurance, custodial services, and administrative oversight that allow Calvary to serve as a hub for community groups, nonprofits, recovery programs, and outreach partners.

In addition to program funding, this budget responsibly accounts for staffing, facility care, utilities, technology, and Conference Mission Shares, ensuring that Calvary remains both mission-focused and financially sound.

An Invitation to Complete Our Shared Commitment

As of now, we have received approximately \$412,000 in pledged giving toward our 2026 goal. We are encouraged by this strong response, and we are not finished yet.

If you have not yet returned your 2026 Commitment Card, we warmly invite you to do so. Every response helps us plan responsibly and ensures that staffing, programs, facility needs, and mission commitments can be fully supported in the year ahead.

Your commitment, whether financial, or through prayers, presence, service, and witness, matters deeply. Even in seasons of uncertainty, returning a card strengthens our shared ministry and helps Calvary continue shining Christ's light in this city.

Commitment cards may be:

- placed in the offering plate,
- mailed to the church office, or
- completed online through the stewardship page on our website.

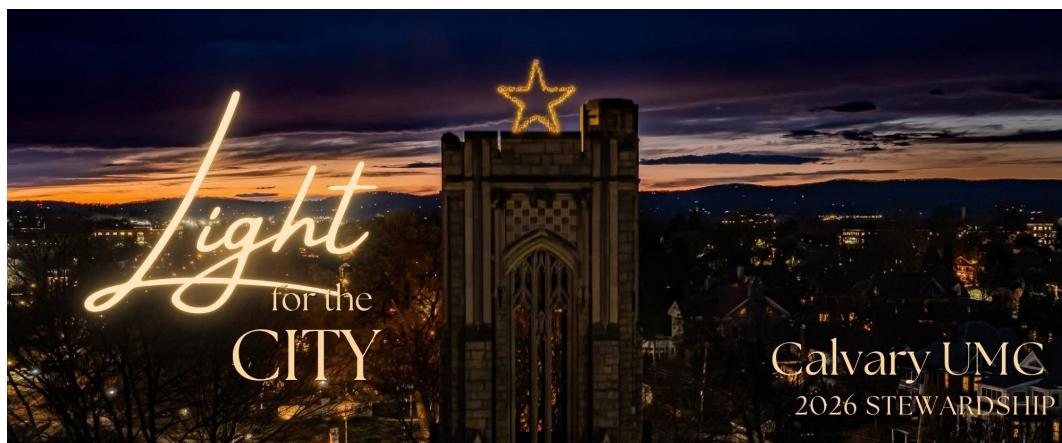
Thank you for the many ways you love this church and help Calvary move forward with faith, hope, and confidence into 2026.

Together, we continue to be Light for the City.

For more information feel free to contact:

Rick Miller, Calvary Finance Chair

rickm7097@yahoo.com



Sacred Resistance ...

... “an orientation towards living in a way that embodies God’s love and justice.” This statement from the website of Foundry UMC in Washington D.C. captures the essence of what that congregation’s lead pastor, The Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, offers in her publication *Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent* (Abingdon 2018). While Foundry’s congregation is well known in the Baltimore-Washington Conference as a voice for God’s justice in the public sphere, it is not alone in such matters; nor is such voice more timely than at present in our nation’s communities.

In this context, I was spiritually moved by Dr. Hutton’s message on Sunday, January 11, the scriptural text for which was Luke’s Gospel (3:21-22) account of Jesus’ baptism by the Holy Spirit. She reminded us of our United Methodist baptismal vow: “*to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.*” We are indeed living in times when we must pray for God’s love and guidance through the Holy Spirit to fulfill that vow!

Taking a lead again from Dr. Hutton’s worship series theme of the next several weeks leading to Lent, “The People We Are Becoming,” I propose that Calvary undertake a study of Rev. Gaines-Cirelli’s book with the intent of exploring how we as a congregation might implement such justice ministry in our Frederick community. A subtitle of one of the book’s chapters is “Be who you are called to be.” A call to justice ministry for Calvary would complement the abundantly fruitful community outreach ministries of mercy in which we continue to be engaged as a congregation. The prophet Micah (6:6-8) reminds us that justice and mercy work together in the Lord’s favor.

No timeline has been set for this to occur. It is simply a proposal at this time.

If you think you might be interested in participating in such a study, please let Dr. Hutton or me know (paul.d.nelson@outlook.com).

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministry

February Love Offering — Heartly House

This February, our Love Offering supports Heartly House, a vital nonprofit serving Frederick County by providing safety, advocacy, and hope to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking. For more than 40 years, Heartly House has been a place of refuge and healing for individuals and families seeking freedom from violence and a path toward wholeness.

Why This Matters: Heartly House offers emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, and prevention education, walking alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives with dignity, courage, and support. Their work ensures that no one has to face abuse alone and that families can find safety during moments of profound vulnerability.

Pajama Drive — Comfort, Care, and Dignity: In addition to our financial Love Offering, we will be hosting a Pajama Drive throughout the month of February for moms and children of all ages served by Heartly House. New pajamas provide more than warmth, they offer comfort, a sense of normalcy, and a reminder that someone cares during a time of transition and healing. Please place new pajamas in plastic bags, mark the size and gender (Male/Female/Unisex) on the bag and place in the Parish Hall collection area at the church.

Women's Sizes: small and XL but all sizes are helpful- Men's sizes: small, medium and large (teenage boys) Children's sizes: 9-12 months, 24 months and some toddler sizes. They also need slippers or socks, something that makes it comfortable to walk around the shelter in.

How Your Gift Helps: Your generosity, through both the Love Offering and donated pajamas, supports survivors as they move from crisis toward safety, stability, and hope. Together, we can surround families with compassion and tangible care, living out Christ's call to protect the vulnerable and love our neighbors in meaningful ways.





Communities Coming Together

Blood Drive Calvary UMC Frederick

Parish Hall

131 W Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CalvaryUMCFrederick to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor,
consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your
choice of merchant. See rcblood.org/heart



Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

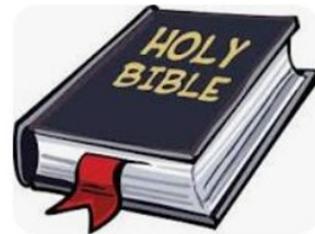
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Children's Ministry News



Love Bags have been assembled by Calvary's Mission Possible Kids, and are ready to be picked up and delivered by Calvary Church members! **Please look for the Love Bags in the hallway of the main church building, and if you are able, pick up a few and deliver them to the recipient named on the label sometime during the month of February.** Thank you for brightening someone's day by delivering a

Bible Dedication Sunday
February 8, 2026



February 8 is *Bible Sunday* - the special day when 3rd grade students (and older students who have not yet received their Bible) will be presented with their very own Bibles from Calvary! 9:00 Regular Sunday School with Special Bible Activities

10:00 Blessing Over the New Bibles with Rev. Beth during the Worship Service, followed by Bible Unwrapping by students in the chapel during Children's Church. Families are invited to watch the unwrapping and then return to the worship service. Cake will be served following the service in the Parish Hall! Congratulations to these students on this exciting milestone in their faith journey!



It's a Night Out for parents! Take some time for yourselves while the kids have fun at church!

Friday, February 13, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Ages 3 – 5th Grade

Bring your own dinner, and join us for a movie, crafts, songs and stories! Wear your pajamas, and bring a blanket and pillow to get comfy!

Please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-51455585-parents>

Calvary Hoe Down!

Saturday, February 28

4:00 – 6:30 pm

For ALL AGES!



Join us for dinner, square dancing, games and Family Fun!



Mark your calendars for this
summer's

RAINFOREST FALLS VBS!

June 22 – June 25, 2026

Look for more information to come in the new
year!

Volunteers Needed!

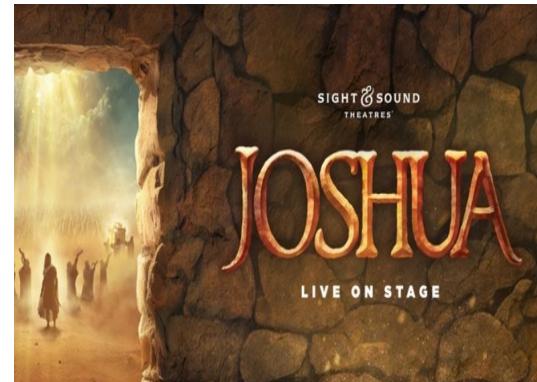
Calvary is taking a trip to see the LIVE
onstage performance of....

JOSHUA!

at *Sight and Sound Theater* in Lancaster PA!

Saturday, August 8 11:00 am

(leaving Frederick at 7:45 am)



Tickets have already been reserved – please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org if you and your family would like to join us! (Adults \$89, Children 12 and under \$39)



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



COME EAT WITH US!

FEBRUARY 17 6:00PM-7:30PM

**CUMC PARISH HALL
131 W 2ND ST FREDERICK**

**DONATIONS WELCOME
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
THE CALVARY YOUTH AND
ADULT MISSION TRIP TO
FRAKES KENTUCKY IN JULY**

**QUESTIONS: PLEASE REACH OUT TO MISS JENN AT
CALVARYYOUTH@CALVARYUMC.ORG**

**CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A COMMUNITY OF WELCOME, AFFIRMATION, AND LOVE FOR ALL**

Trustees Report—February 2026

Note: This month I will review some of the major projects and repairs that were completed in 2025. Fred Schumacher Trustee Chair.

The major project for 2025 was to replace all the internet interfaces and switches in the Sanctuary, Parish Hall and the Christian Education Building. These new units replaced the existing WIFI routers and access points that had been in use for eight years. We also replaced the server in the Baker Center that had been in use for 13 years. These new units interact with each other and provide 100% WIFI coverage throughout the buildings.

One other major project was the reconditioning of the grand piano in the sanctuary. Funds from the Music Committee, Delaplaine Foundation and the Trustees paid for the “retuning and refurbishment” of this instrument. Thanks to the Gebhart family, we were able to obtain an organ for the Chapel, and remove old one.

Finally, we were confident that the condensation problem on the 2nd floor Parish Hall was solved, so we removed the plastic and installed sheet rock on the ceilings in the kitchen and bathroom areas.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be on Sunday, March 8. following the service. We invite those interested to attend. *Note Daylight Savings Time begins on this Sunday, so be sure to spring ahead.*



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School

We are very excited to welcome back the 4H Embryology Program this year as part of our science curriculum. Four of the classrooms currently have incubators anxiously awaiting the arrival of baby chicks on February 2nd.

Kindergarten students will celebrate the 100th day of school on February 4th unless we have another snow day. This day is filled with activities focused on the number 100. The students create t-shirts at home with 100 objects to wear on this special day. I am always impressed with their creativity!

This month we will welcome families back for Donuts and Grown-Ups. Families are invited to share munchkins with their child from Dunkin Donuts and participate in some classroom activities. It is another way for us to build community in our school and for families to see the amazing work students are doing in the classroom.

Last month Olivia was busy enrolling students for the 2026-2027 school year. We currently have openings in our 3 year old classes and the other classes are just about full. Families and friends wishing to register may contact Olivia for a tour or more information calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com or 301-662-6783.

Just a reminder to mark your calendar for our Chick-fil-A fundraiser on March 9th.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Patty Lockard, Director



CALVARY

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

2025-2026 SEASON

March 1, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. – Brian Ganz, pianist

Extreme Chopin – the final installment!

Brian Ganz's quest to perform all 250 works by Fryderyk Chopin comes to a close in 2026, and Calvary UMC has been honored to support this endeavor nearly every year since 2011. This concert, which will be performed on Chopin's 216th birthday, is an interactive and highly energetic performance where Mr. Ganz brings Chopin's music to life with emotional power and warmth.



March 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – Peter DuBois, organist

Peter DuBois is director of music/organist emeritus at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY, and host/producer of the nationally syndicated public radio program “With Heart and Voice” (www.withheartandvoice.org) heard on more than 125 public radio stations across the U.S. A graduate of Eastman School of Music and University of Michigan, his performances have been heard throughout the U.S. and abroad, including St. Paul’s Cathedral in London; the Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris; the Basilica of St. Clotilde in Paris; and the Cathédrale du Saint-Sauveur in Aix-en-Provence. Join us for an exciting performance of organ music on Calvary UMC’s new Cornel Zimmer Pipe Organ.

This concert is dedicated in loving memory of Frank and Bobbie Parsons, long-time members of Calvary UMC and Mr. DuBois' in-laws.



1, Zachary Pettersson, Robert Schmeltz,

2, Daniel Long, Michael Pfister, Carmen Vega

3, John Harper, David Herber, Betsy MacMullen,

Tristen Palmer

4, Maurlea Long, Christopher Moyer, Thea Ruff, Thomas Winkler

5, Steve Mood, Amelia Whitmarsh

7, Joseph Cerrito, Katherine Crum, Heidi Sweet

8, Pauline Baker, William Schmersahl 9, Gary Coffman, Kimberly Remsberg

10, Ralph Lopez, Paul Quigley, Alison Radcliffe

11, Amelia Irving, 12, Reed Perryman, Abigail Proudfoot

13, William Davy, 14, Ashlynd Adam, Susan Miller, Richard Torian

15, Gerald Palmer, Isabelle Wilde

16, Jeff Stone, 17, Payton Forsythe, Shannon Whitmarsh

18, Terry Fisher, Elizabeth Klutz, 19, Patricia Grimes, Jane Hahn, Josie Manger

20, Susan Burall, Jennie Davy, Edwin Kinsey, Lois Pacheco, Andrew Wilde

21, Pat Herber, Katelyn Irving, Patricia Kellam

22, Joshua Herber, Alyxandra Hoover,

23, Roy Schwarzenberg, Adam Stone, Kathryn Woodall

24, Luke Witmer, 25, Jean Flory

26, Addison Benton, Janet Cline, Peter Duthoy , Penny Reading

27, Chase Leber, 28, Armani Gough, Vic Rohrback, Lydia Souders

February Anniversaries

Michael and Nancy Leftwich Feb 14

David and Juanita Pard Feb 14

Jack and Gracie Heller Feb 16

Keven and Kelli Fox Feb 24



February 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Joyful Voices 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl 5:30 p.m. Mission Possible 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	2 6 p.m. SPRC	3 10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. UMF Ex. Comm. 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	4 8:30 a.m.- 6:30p.m. Calvary Blood Drive 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	5	6 9:30 a.m. WRS
	Bible Sunday 8 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Bible Presentation 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Joyful Voices 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	9 7 p.m. SHP Team Meeting	10 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	11 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	12	13 6 p.m. Parent's Night Out 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
		15 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting 11 a.m. Joyful Voices 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	16 President's Day	17 10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	18 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	19 20 21
	22 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Joyful Voices 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	23	24 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	25 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	26	27 4 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Calvary Hoe Down

Calvary United Methodist Church
131 W. Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-662-1464

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*Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ
 for the transformation of our community and our world.*

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