

TRANSMITTER

OF THE LAKESHORE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

May, 2023

Family,

As I write it is Maundy Thursday 2023. Tonight, many Christians will hold communion services recalling Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Some of the services will include ceremonial foot washings recognizing that Jesus, modeling servanthood, washed the feet of his disciples.

Tomorrow, there will be Good Friday services aplenty. Some of them will last three hours and include sermons on the "Seven Last Words" of Jesus, a compilation of the seven sayings the four gospels record Jesus speaking from the cross. Woven into almost all the services will be the refrain "Jesus died for our sins." Accompanying these words will be the very widespread interpretation of the crucifixion as some sort of atoning sacrifice, of Jesus laying down his life to make payment for our sins.

Almost reluctantly, for to question the theology of substitutionary atonement is heretical to many, I find it necessary to note that this is not the only possible way to interpret the crucifixion. Indeed, from very early times there has been, and continues to be, lively debate about how best to interpret, how best to understand, the death of Jesus. In our churches we often hear it said, "The ground is level at the foot of the cross." I would add "On the level ground at the foot of the cross, there has never been only one officially approved theology of the cross."

In an article titled, "What If Crucifixion Is Not Salvific?" Miguel A. De La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at Illiff School of Theology in Denver, suggests an alternative interpretation. *Jesus' death neither pays a ransom nor is a substitution for us. Crucifixion is an act of radical solidarity, specifically, Jesus' choice to accompany in solidarity those dying on the crosses of religious*

and political oppression... To pick up our crosses and follow Jesus is an invitation not to suffer but to stand in solidarity with the oppressed of the world, a solidarity which might cost us everything.

In this theology of the cross, the emphasis falls on Jesus' refusal to turn a blind eye to the suffering of the world, his refusal to ignore those that die because someone else wants their land, his refusal to pretend that people are not crushed because they threaten the comfortable lifestyles of the powerful.

The Wisdom of Solomon is one of the books of the Apocrypha. Also called the Deuterocanonicals, these are books found in the Catholic Bible but not in the Protestant Bible or the Hebrew Scriptures. The Wisdom of Solomon was written in the late first century BCE or early first century CE meaning it comes from the time, or very nearly from the time, of Jesus.

Chapter 2:10-11 of the book is part of a speech depicting the outlook of the ungodly, those who are willing to destroy others in order to increase their own wealth. *Let's take advantage of the day laborer, who does what's right. Let's show that we couldn't care less for the gray hair of our elders. May strength be our only law and determine what's right, for it's clear to us that what is weak is worthless.*"

"What is weak is worthless." These words reflect the harsh realities that those whom Jesus stood with, faced. These words represent the deadly forces that crucified him. These words describe the self-aggrandizing spirit that is alive and well today.

In these days after Easter, as the cries of "He Is Risen" still reverberate, we must understand that the Risen One is also the Crucified One and that the crucifixion was an act of radical solidarity with those who suffer, those who are deemed by the powerful to be insignificant, inconvenient and expendable.

Peace,

Jim H.

Thank you to all who fasted and offered prayers during Holy Week for the Hunger Strikers in detention. In addition to the 11 people who fasted and prayed for particular individuals, the Public Witness Bible Study groups also prayed over each of the hunger strikers. Lakeshore was one of 38 organizations that participated in this multi-faith solidarity fast. At the vigil in San Francisco that Tuesday, the community marched from ICE headquarters in San Francisco to Senator Padilla's office, where we delivered the message of the hunger strikers to his staff. The next day, a staff member met with a group of us and was able to hear first-hand from the hunger strikers who shared details about their dire situation, their long-standing cries for justice, and the violent treatment they received in response to their fasting as a form of non-violent protest.

One particularly disturbing story we heard was of Jose Ruben, one of the leaders of the fast who was violently transferred to a detention center in Texas and threatened with force-feeding if he didn't eat something. When he chose to end his nearly month-long fast rather than endure this excruciatingly painful procedure, he was given two cold cheeseburgers and french fries. As a result, he ended up in the hospital and needing to use a wheelchair. His commitment to his freedom nearly cost him his life. I share with you his tragic story so you have a better idea of what people are enduring, and why there is no way to live with dignity in detention. I also share his story as a testament to the power of his witness and community support. I received word two days ago that Jose Ruben had a bond hearing and was granted release from detention! He is now at home with his family where we can get the medical care he needs and recover from all he has endured.

Thank you to each of you for the part you played in bearing witness, raising awareness, and praying for the release of all who are in detention. May we also bear witness to the gospel of liberation, restoration and new life.

Pastor Allison

PS – I will be away for the first two weeks of May on a delegation to Palestine to bear witness to the apartheid conditions Palestinians endure and how we can continue to support the liberation and healing of all who live in the land we call holy. I covet your prayers.

Celebrating One Another

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NIV)

Lent and Easter are busy times in the life of Lakeshore. All of what we do is accomplished because of the willingness of many to share their time, talent, and treasure with the community.

Thank you! Thank you for the wonderful community celebration of the Easter Egg Dyeing and Hat Parade, and the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday. One activity followed the other. Thank you Education Department members for coordinating and to all of the LABC members and friends who took some part: setting up, supplying eggs and/or cupcakes, helping at the different tables, frying corn dogs and serving refreshments, cupcake icing, egg dyeing, dressing up in the spirit of the day, and cleaning up; then hiding and supervising the egg hunt on Sunday. It was a glorious testament to the love of the body that is exhibited within the Lakeshore community and shown to the greater community in which we worship and serve.

It is together, as a faith community, that we are able to carry out the ministries entrusted to LABC. As a community we are also called to fellowship with one another. It is true we do this to a certain degree on Sunday and through the studies and prayer times during the week, but there also is one of the major events that allows us to have a chance to relax and have fun together. We do this at the annual **“All Family Church Retreat.”** We again will be at Redwood Glen, **August 4-6.**

The retreat holds a special place in my heart with regard to my life and ministry at Lakeshore. I had been visiting the church for almost a year and it was time for me to make a decision about joining the church. My interactions with the folks here had been positive, but I felt being away from church and interacting would give me a sense of whether or not this was the place where God would have me plant myself. It turned into a wonderful group experience and decision, one which I have not regretted over the years.

So consider joining us at the retreat. If this is your first time, we are offering

discounts. Do not let finances prohibit you from coming. This can be a time of rest, renewal, fellowship, and discovery. We introduce the new church theme at the retreat, and the new theme is: "Be Kind to One Another" and the scripture text is Ephesians 4:32 (see above).

One of the songs we will use comes to us from our children:

We Will Be Kind
(Stephen Elkins)

*We will be kind to one another/ We will be kind to Christian friends
We will be kind to all the others/ Showing the world we belong to him*

*We will be kind to those in trouble/ We will be kind to those in need
We will be kind those unfriendly / Showing the world Jesus lives in me*

*We will be kind to those who are hurting/ We will be kind to those in sin
We will be kind to all who meet us/ Showing each one that our Lord loves them*

Growing Together in Christ,
Pastor Carolyn

May 2023 Preaching Schedule

Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- May 7 (Communion)
Minister Sandra Lee, Preaching
- May 14 (Mother's Day)
Pastor Hopkins, Preaching
"A Mother's Voice"
I Peter 3:13-22
Throughout history mother's have used their voices to connect, correct and care. We do well to listen for a mother's voice as read the Bible.
- May 21 Pastor Hopkins, Preaching
"Protected"
John 17:1-11
Jesus prayed that his followers will be protected. Did his prayer, does his prayer, have any impact?
- May 28 (Pentecost, Memorial Day Sunday)
The Reverend Dr. Zulu Lemtur, Preaching

Church Calendar for May

Department Meetings:

Educational Ministry May 7, 8:45 Zoom.

Social Concerns May 10, 6 Zoom.

Stewardship May 21, 8:00 Zoom.

Worship and Congregational Care May 23, 7:05 Zoom.

Other Meetings and Events:

LCC Advisory Board May 5, 5:30 Zoom

[**Ceasefire Walk** May 12, 6:00 First Mt. Sinai Church - 1970 86th Avenue]

[**Flick Flack** May 12, 6:30 Charlene and Jerry Wolf Residence, movie “*She Said*”.]

Forever Young May 20, 12:30 Family Room

Church Council May 16, 7:05 Zoom

[**Ceasefire Walk** May 19, 6:00 At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.]

[**Ceasefire Walk** May 26, 6:00 St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue]

LABC Reads May 27, 9-10 Zoom.

Weekly Meetings

Sunday at 11:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study, Church Library, Zoom

Tuesday* at 6:00 p.m. – Bible Study, Zoom

Wednesday* at 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study and Prayer (same as Tuesday),
Zoom

Thursday at 6:00 p.m. – Together in Spirit Bible Study, Zoom

Saturday at 10:00 a.m. – Time for Prayer, Zoom

***First Tuesday and following Wednesday of each month, Public Witness Bible Study.**

The church office is closed on Fridays. Pastor Hopkins' day off is Friday. **Transmitter** deadline is **May 15 (May 25 mailing)**.

Church Council Notes, 4/18/23

Minutes were approved as submitted.

- All pastors gave reports.

Vice Moderator Marc Buffin's Report:

- Alameda County declared an end to the COVID Public Health Emergency on 3/8. We know that COVID is still here, but more is known about the virus and how to treat it now. California had the lowest death rate of large states. In Alameda County the vaccinated rates are very high, 93+% have had at least one vaccine and 86.6% are fully vaccinated. At this point, the best way to manage is to be fully vaccinated, wear a mask if, appropriate to your circumstances, and stay at home if you test positive for COVID. We will end the "orderly exit" protocol starting April 23. Marc will give an update at the Congregational meeting with any additional updates or feedback.

Treasurer Carol Leichter's report:

- Envelope giving is exceeding budget. Expenses are in line with budget and being managed. The high expenses are utilities and some repairs. YTD expenses are \$4200 over budget. However, it was budgeted to move money from savings – up to \$2,000 per month if needed. So far, the cash flow is good and that has not been necessary. At this point, we are leaving the money in savings .
- The dedicated accounts are stable. Any deficits are deliberate and will be made up over the course of the year, for example the church retreat deposit.
- LCC has been fine. Income has exceeded expenses.

Marie Johnson
Moderator

Forever Young

Please join us on Saturday May 20 for our annual luau theme luncheon. We are pleased to welcome back special musical guests, AHAMELE, a ukulele group affiliated with Academy of Hawaiian Arts based in Oakland. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors! You won't want to miss their beautiful music and sweet aloha spirit! Lunch is 12:30 in the Family Room. Please RSVP by Monday, May 16, so we can know how much food to cook. Suggested donation is \$8 per person. A free-will offering will be taken for the musicians. Please email Sheila Sims at Sheila.Sims@yahoo.com or Sandra Lee at Sandra.Lee12@gmail.com.



Children and Youth Corner



May Greetings to All:

As we move toward the end of the school year and into the summer, we move closer to the time for Vacation Bible Camp. This year the theme is: "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light." The main bible story for the week will look at the life and works of Jesus. Wherever Jesus went He brought good news. Whoever Jesus met He taught good news. Jesus let His light shine!

The dates for Vacation Bible Camp are July 10-14.

This will be a time to see people we know and to make new friends. All the usual fun activities will take place during the week: Imagination Station, Games, videos, and fun opening and closing sessions. Usually the bible buddies are animals found in different places in the world. Since we have a "cosmic" theme, our bible buddies are found in outer

space:  - Cosmo - a star;  Ringo - a planet;  Luna - a

moon;  Sol - the sun; and  Halley - a comet. We are looking forward to a time of fun and learning during the week. The bible points this year: "When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!" "When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!", "When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!" "When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!" "When people need help, shine Jesus' light!" We will be looking at the life of Jesus and see Philip preach to a man from Ethiopia.

Let us together learn how we might "shine Jesus light" in our world.

With Joy,
Pastor Carolyn

Upcoming Department of Education Events

Graduation/Promotion Sunday, June 11

Sunday, June 11 is graduation/promotion Sunday. As we have in the past, we will be recognizing/honoring our graduates and those being promoted. Help us by sending us the names of those who are:

- Entering Kindergarten
- Graduating Kindergarten
- Entering Middle School/Junior High
- Entering High School
- Graduating High School
- Completed post-secondary studies

When you contact us please include the following information:

- Person's name (first and last)
- School leaving/School entering
- If graduating high school, next steps if known
- In case of post-secondary completion, next steps if known (further study or career path) Please send the information to Pastor Carolyn at: carolyn@labcoakland.org.

Please get your information to us by May 21

Vacation Bible Camp, July 10-14, 8:30 am -12 noon Theme: Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!

The cost is \$25. There also is an all day option which requires a separate registration and payment.

Your help is needed to prepare before camp and during the week of camp. We encourage our high school students to be crew leaders for the week. Here is the link to volunteer and/or to register children for camp: vbspro.events/p/lakeshore2023

Questions? Contact Pastor Carolyn: carolyn@labcoakland.org.

All Church Family Retreat, August 4-6, Redwood Glen

The retreat is where we introduce the theme for the new church year which begins in September. This year's theme: "Be Kind to One Another" and the scripture text is Ephesians 4:32. In a world that seems to be more fractured each day, kindness is at the heart of bringing healing and wholeness to our lives,

community, and the world.

The leader for the adults will be our Evergreen Executive Minister, Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal. Sign up soon. Retreat sign up forms will be available each Sunday in the Narthex. Scholarships are available. Also, if you have been to and enjoyed the retreat and able to do so, consider contributing to the retreat scholarship fund so others might share in the experience.

Adult Bible Study



Our lessons in May bring us to Pentecost. We continue our daily journey in the realized promise of the resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday. As Jesus commissioned His disciples, He continues to call on us to follow Him in faithful discipleship. *“Our lessons call us to an active discipleship lived out in community, as we seek to welcome all into the household of God. We are invited to grow in the Spirit and be transformed daily into the image of Christ, whose resurrection power has already given us the victory.”*

May 7 – **DELIVERANCE**: Trust in God (Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16)

May 14 – **UNITY**: Community in Jesus (John 14:15-21)

May 21 – **ASCENSION**: New Beginning (Acts 1:6-14)

May 28 – **INCLUSIVITY**: The Lord’s People (Numbers 11:24-30)

We encourage you to join us each Sunday at 11:45 am in the church library or via ZOOM. You are invited to join in our lively and timely conversations and studies.

May Children and Youth Birthdays

4	Dashiel Phillips
6	Sam Harrison
12	Hudson Hopkins
25	Zidane Beal-Uribe



Hunger Task Force Corner

Mark your calendars for the 41st Anniversary Hunger Walk on **Sunday, June 4!** This year's theme is "Restore, Refresh, Renew." We will gather on the church steps immediately following church and walk together around Lake Merritt. After the walk, we will share a meal at church.

Please join us to raise awareness and financial support for those in our community who are hungry, displaced and/or without shelter. Proceeds from this event support Alameda County Community Food Bank, Berkeley Food and Housing Project, City Team Ministry of Oakland, Family Support Services, Harbor House Ministries, Intertribal Friendship House, St. Mary's Center, LABC Fellowship Fund, and HTF's Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

Sign up at church or by emailing labchungertaskforce@gmail.com. Help us make this year a success by going big with your fundraising efforts. Do you have your own milestone birthday or anniversary this year? Take that opportunity to reach out to a large group of friends and family to sponsor your Hunger Walk. We can help you with your fundraising email and/or Facebook fundraiser.



May Flick Flack

May Flick Flack will be held on Friday, May 12 at the home of Charlene and Jerry Wolf, 25837 Clausen Ct., Hayward. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. (bring an appetizer to share). Viewing will begin at 7:00. The film chosen for May is *She Said* documenting how two *New York Times* reporters break one of the most important stories in a generation - a story that helped ignite a movement and shattered decades of silence around the subject of sexual assault in Hollywood. Those who prefer to participate via Zoom may view the film in their home, available through several sources, including streaming on Amazon Prime (\$5.99 rental fee). Discussion begins at 9:00. If you plan to attend in person, advise the Wolfs by May 10 ((kulmgirl@att.net or 510.537.1702). If you wish to watch at home and join the post movie discussion on Zoom, please let them know so they can send you the link.

Family News

Prayers for Larry Hutchings as he mourns the loss of his good friend, Larry.

Prayers with Gail Carter as she mourns the death of her husband, Dennis.
(April 12)

Prayers for Steve Kirk and his brother, David, who is hospitalized.

Prayers for Mikki Boyd and her family as they mourn the loss of two of Mikki's uncles.

From the Mail

LABC extends sincere condolences to Lola in the passing of her mother. The following are excerpts from her letters to her LABC family.

From Lola Afolyan

With gratitude to God Almighty we thank our family, friends and the people of Oshogbo, including the clerics.

We thank you for your prayers, love, thoughtfulness, words of comfort and acts of kindness and financial support as we celebrate the life of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Alhaja Mopelola Alake Akanbi of Jagun Akanbi Compound, Oshogbo, Nigeria. Her sweet memories stay with us forever.

Love and Blessings,
Monilola, Olalere, Aderemi, Arinola
and our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

LABC Reads Schedule

May 27 - *The Personal Librarian* Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murphy

June 24 - *Toby's Last Resort* Pamela Carter Joern

July 30 - *A Long Petal of the Sea* Isabelle Allende

August 27 - *Zoo* James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge

How Green Is My World

Mandana Park, located along Lakeshore Avenue next to Mandana Street in Oakland, is an emerald island of nature's green foliage within a sea of asphalt streets and concrete sidewalks. It is one of the smallest parks in Oakland's vast sprawl of over one hundred parks and recreation areas. This cherished enclave of nature is firmly anchored to Mother Earth by three stands of towering redwood trees that reach halfway to the clouds above. The trees were started as seedlings over a century ago by city gardeners around 1905 or 1910.

This lovely park is decorated with many flowering plants, including daisies, dandelions and puff balls, all add their own color and texture to the park's large green lawn. There are several other small flowering shrubs that I cannot name. Crows fly and squawk noisily overhead and squirrels run up and down trunks of the giant redwood trees.

The park has three play areas for children, a circular sandbox near Prince Street, a plastic playhouse, and a climbing pyramid for older children. This park is a splendid place for people of all ages to relax and connect with nature with a lot of its color and depth.

I started working at the park as a volunteer in spring of 2009. My first task was to sweep the layers of sand off the sidewalks and dump it into the sandbox where it belongs. Most young children play vigorously and scatter the sand almost everywhere. It took roughly two weeks and maybe five or six visits to the park with my push broom to completely clear the sidewalk.

Sweeping leaves and collecting them piles on sidewalks became my principle annual task over the years the sycamore trees, redwoods, and any leaves carried by autumn winds from up the street made my job bigger but a lot more satisfying. I also collected trash whenever the refuse became more visible, mainly around the three play areas, but that work came up once in a while.

The rewards of maintaining the park were many. Over the years, I felt as if the park were my own back yard, and I felt obligated to keep up the work, or else the place might deteriorate if I neglected to keep doing it. This park also became a social venue since at times people would come up and compliment me for doing all this clean up. I recall telling them other volunteers did some of the clean up work, that I was not the only person working here. Another motivation was exercise I gained from climbing down hill from my York Street condominium every two or three days each week with brooms and dust pan to collect leaves and drop them into green recycle barrels in someone's front yard. The work also gave me a sense of purpose, to improve Grand Lake area for all the folks to enjoy.

Like a fine polished emerald, our lovely Mandana Park is a gem to behold!

*Roderick Murray
Oakland California
April, 2023*

Earth Stewardship Task Force Corner



“Earth to hit critical warming threshold by early 2030’s climate panel says” *East Bay Times* 3/22/23. While it has been shown to be difficult to move forward on climate mitigation, headlines like this should create stronger action and genuine efforts from **ALL** of us. I have found it very hard to warn the public that we are reaching a critical warming limit in the next decade. The world’s top climate scientists just released a landmark warning that we must act now to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Earth is on track for catastrophic warming, and if we do not limit warming to no more than 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, we will face dire consequences. We must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy sources. The time to act is now, and we must all do our part to protect our planet for future generations. The consequences of the earth reaching a critical warming limit are dire. Climate change is already disrupting daily life around the world, causing extreme weather, heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and hurricanes, killing and displacing people worldwide, and causing massive economic damage. If we do not limit warming to no more than 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, we will face catastrophic effects of climate change, including irreversible sea level rise, mass extinction of plants and animals, and disaster for billions of people and critical ecosystems. The earth is likely to cross a critical threshold for global warming within the next decade, and nations will need to make an immediate and drastic shift away from fossil fuels. Continued warming is expected to have harmful effects worldwide. By limiting the planet’s warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we can stave off severe climate disruptions that could exacerbate hunger, conflict, and drought. We can take several steps to help prevent catastrophic warming. Firstly, we can reduce our carbon footprint by eating a plant-based diet, avoiding air travel, living car-free, and having smaller families. Secondly, we can reduce energy consumption by using energy-efficient appliances, turning off lights and electronics when not in use, and using public transportation or biking instead of driving. Thirdly, we can support renewable energy sources by installing solar panels or wind turbines, and by choosing to buy products from companies that use renewable energy. Fourthly, we can reduce waste by recycling, composting, and reducing our consumption of single-use plastics. Finally, we can advocate for climate action by contacting our elected representatives, participating in climate strikes, and supporting organizations that work to address climate change. Every action counts, and we must all do our part to prevent catastrophic warming and protect our planet for future generations. This is seriously heavy and hard, but we can still create a safer future by paying attention and trying our best to change our habits to match the needs.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all May birthday folk!

1	Virginia Damretzky	19	Aaron Hopkins
	Jesse Wilkinson	24	Kendall Harris
2	Wilbert Teague		Myra Saxton
4	Robert Wilkins Sr.	25	Rita Jennings
7	Kay Baxter-Reid	26	Mark Wilson
8	Paul Templeton	28	Brandon Sims
9	Roxanne Jones	29	Will Carroll

New Transmitter Assistant

Barbara Hunt is a longtime Bay Area resident. Her parents moved to Oakland when she was just one year old. She attended Oakland and Berkeley schools. At CSUSF she majored in vocal music. A fraternity friend suggested that she consider computer programming because music majors have the potential to do well as programmers. She followed his suggestion. This began her career in Information Technology, working initially as a computer operator in large data centers and advancing into computer programming and software engineering management. Along the way she completed an MBA in Information Systems. She currently lives just blocks away from Lakeshore. Barbara is very aware and deeply grateful that our Heavenly Father has enriched her life with blessings. LABC is one of those blessings. She is grateful to be a member of the LABC family and to contribute by assisting with the Transmitter.

Save the Dates:

The following are important upcoming events that we hope you won't miss:

June

- 5 Hunger Walk/Pentecost
Sunday
- 11 Graduation/Promotion
Sunday

July

- 10-14 Vacation Bible Camp
- 16 Ride for Palestine

August

- 4-6 All Church Family Retreat

A Special Invitation:

June 23-25, 2023: You are invited to the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The event theme is "For Such a Time as This" inspired by the Hebrew Bible story of Esther. Registration and more information, including speakers and presentations, is available at www.americanbaptists2023.com.

TRANSMITTER

OF THE LAKESHORE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

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Mikki Boyd, Minister of Music
Sandra Lee, Ministry Associate
Tyrone Mack, Sexton
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