LOVE FIRST

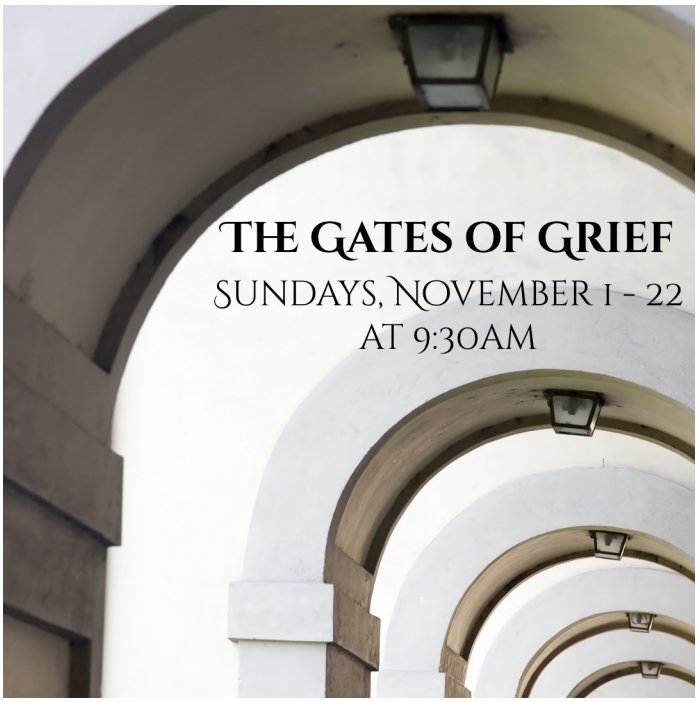
First United Methodist Church - Sartell, MN 56377



Church Conference
November 8th at 1pm

Come hear from our Conference Superintendent, gather with other United Methodist Churches, and vote on our Appointed Pastor's salaries and Leadership Report.

All are welcome,
all members are welcome to vote!



coming up in worship

Sundays at 9:30am at FUMC
Livestream at lovefirstumc.org

November 1:
Loving People in the Midst of Death
Revelation 7:9-17
Remembering the Saints on All Saints' Day

November 8:
Grieving Where We Wish Love had Been
Isaiah 61:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

November 15: Grieving What We Expected but Did Not Receive
Matthew 25: 1-13

November 22: Grieving the Sorrows of the World
Psalm 78: 1-7; Matthew 25: 31-46

November 29th: 1st Sunday of Advent!
Stay tuned for *"The Will to Dream"*

Did you miss a Sunday or
would you like to see your favorite sermon again?
We have an archive of videos available:
lovefirstumc.org/archive

Relationships are so important aren't they? The friend we call after a hard day, the relative that knew your favorite type of cookie and baked them often. The teacher that took us under their wing because they saw something in us we couldn't yet see for ourselves... A multitude of scripture texts declare and affirm that we are not intended to do this life alone, but instead are gifted a life of community. As we approach all Saints Sunday and spend the month of November in worship acknowledging that grief is a regular part of our lives, may we be reminded that who we are and where or whom we come from isn't so tightly defined by the walls of our church building or the city we live in, It isn't defined by who we are related to or who shares our likeness. This past month I had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Perhaps it was the only child in me, but I connected with a photo collage in the front room of the museum. This piece was described by the artist as "a family tree in which all individuals exist alongside each other, structuring a kinship network that transcends boundaries between relatives and strangers." The pastor in my wants to walk through our church capturing an image of each one of you to add to this display and to invite you to imagine all the faces you might want to include in this collage as well. Friends, we all belong to each other in the same way we belong to God. This time of year, in both joy or sorrow we remember the value of an expansive community in Christ. As we explore scripture through the lens of grief and loss this month, may we have eyes to see the Holy that exists in those less than comfortable times and seasons in our lives. May we rely on one another to help us both see and trust that God is present in our midst as well as in the faces of those around us. Let us not take for granted that we are surrounded by a great cloud of Witnesses and take note of the many faces that are all part of God's story.



For the saints who have gone before us and the saints who walk among us today. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Susie, ***sputzke@fumcscr.org***

The Justice & Mercy Team is asking for both monetary gifts, food donations, and reusable shopping bags for the meal kits this year.

If you choose to purchase items for the meal kits, suggested items include:

- Potatoes (box or bag)
- Stuffing Mix (box)
- Gravy (packet or jar)
- Green Beans or Corn (can)
- Sweet Potatoes (can)
- Cranberry sauce (can)
- Pie making supplies (non-refrigerated)
- Cornbread Mix (box)
- Other creative ideas you have...
- Reusable shopping bags

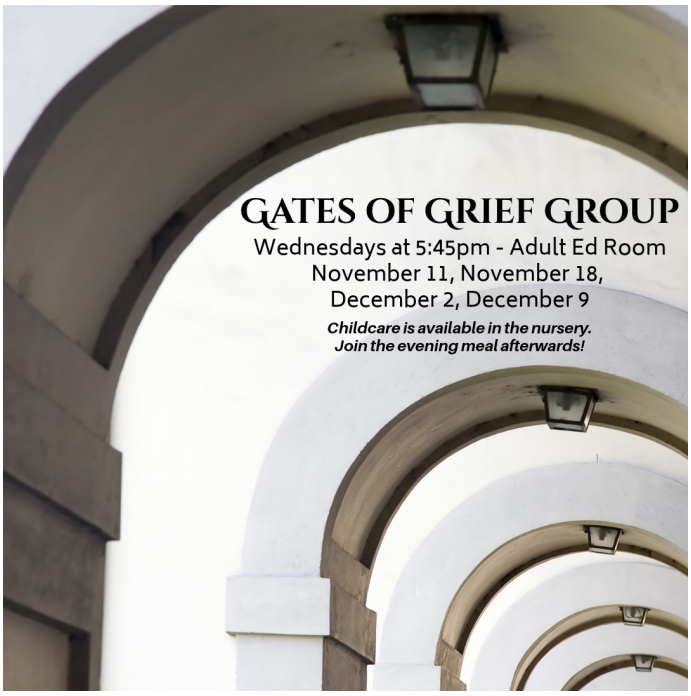
Holiday Meal Kit PROJECT

We have no refrigeration to store items, so please make sure the items purchased are shelf-safe.

Drop off items no later than Sunday, November 15th.

We will distribute meal kits on Saturday, November 21st at the Community Meal.

With gratitude, Love First Justice and Mercy Team



Gates of Grief: A Four-Week Group

Pastor Susie will be leading a four-week *Gates of Grief* group, offering a welcoming and supportive space to explore the experiences of loss, grief, and mourning. Together, participants will have the opportunity to share, reflect, and consider the many ways grief shapes our lives, our faith, and our relationships.

Building on the themes of our November worship series, we will explore the different "halls of grief" we find ourselves walking through as we navigate seasons of loss and change. Through conversation, reflection, and shared experiences, we will make room for the many emotions that accompany grief, honoring each person's unique journey while discovering how faith, community, and the presence of others can sustain us along the way.

Whether you are grieving a recent loss, carrying grief from the past, or seeking a deeper understanding of how grief moves through our lives, you are welcome. This group invites us to meet grief with compassion, to recognize that we do not walk these paths alone, and to discover the sacred spaces where healing, hope, and connection can begin to emerge.



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at First UMC Sunday, November 22nd at 6pm

Sponsored by First UMC, Celebration Lutheran, Riverside Evangelical, St. Francis Xavier Catholic, and the Waters. Bring a canned food item or an offering for Fe y Justicia.

We are looking for greeters, four people to help in the kitchen, and people to bring apple crisp. Sign up on your Connect Card or call the church office!



Love First KIDS

Families,
It's been a joy to grow and connect with one another this Fall season! Below you'll find updates from our Kid's and Family ministries:



KID'S TABLE on SUNDAYS
We created a space in our church lobby for kids who need space to move, do art or engage in hands-on activities during worship. You'll see it on the right side as you enter through the church doors, and it's positioned by the sanctuary window so you can still hear and be a part of worship!

FAMILY FAITH EXPERIENCE!
Thanks to our awesome families for making our October Family Faith Experience a great time! We sang, played, and reflected on how *God's love holds us together* through the good and the hard times. Our kids drew their prayers making a prayer chain sharing where in our community we pray for more of God's love to be felt.



Our next Family Faith Experience is:
Sunday, November 8th
10:30 - 11:30am in Ed Wing
All ages welcome!

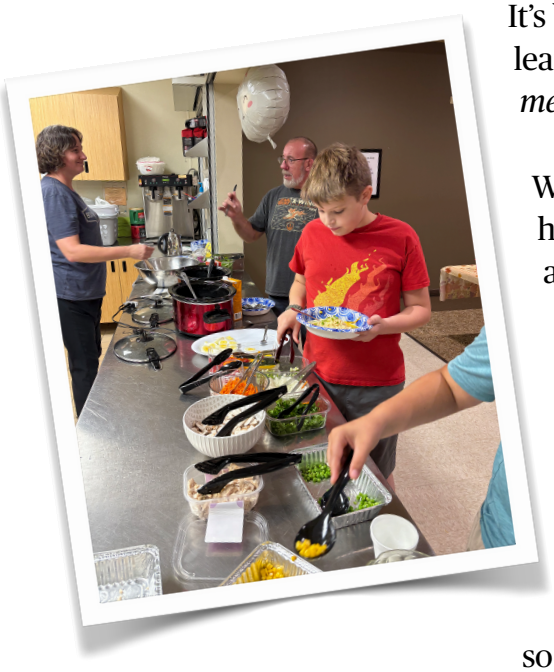
This experience is designed to help your family *form faith together* in a way that's joyful, meaningful, and easy to carry into the week. Treats and refreshments are provided. See you there!

PARENTS,
WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST!

Love First Kids & Love First Youth - one QR!

LOVE FIRST YOUTH



It's been awesome to gather with our youth this Fall! Our students are learning and reflecting on our central theme this year: *What does it mean to be human?*

We're reflecting on themes like God's prevenient grace, social holiness, and our invitation as humans to listen to how God is already speaking to us in our daily lives.

Our youth are incredibly insightful and eager to serve! Thanks to our youth and parents who helped serve at the Pancake Dinner!

WEDNESDAY DINNERS -
THANK YOU PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to our parents & volunteers who have provided a Wednesday evening meal to our youth ministry group. It means so much to experience good food, care and hospitality in community. We appreciate you! If you're willing and interested in providing or supporting a Wednesday evening meal, please email Neddy at **nyong@fumcscr.org**.

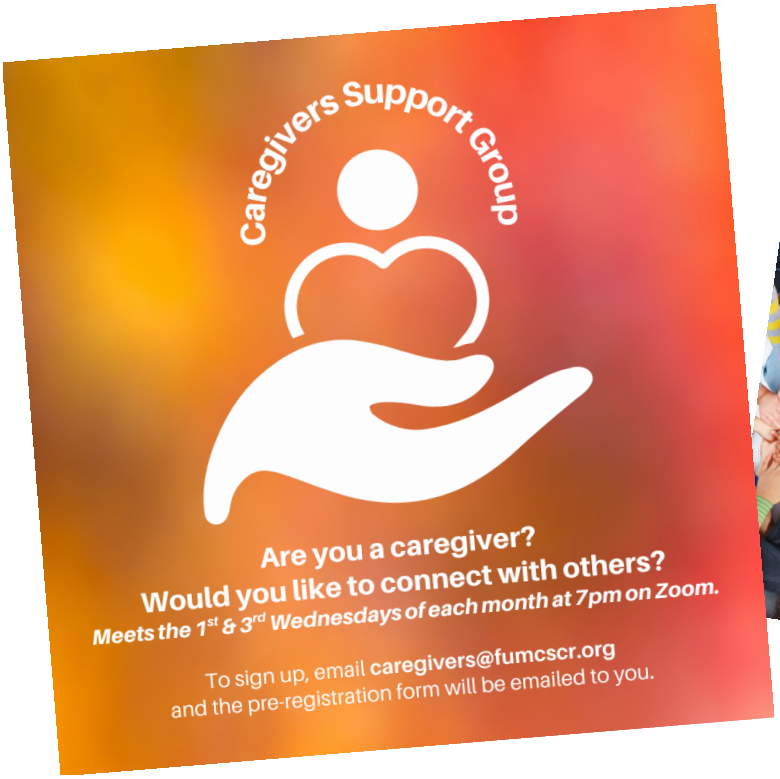
YOUTH PROGRAM DETAILS: Come as you are and remember to invite your peers!
Here's a look at our Wednesday night Youth program:

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP
Grades 6-8
5:45 - 6:45pm
In Youth room

Evening Meal
6:45pm - 7:15pm
In Fellowship Hall

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP
Grades 9-12
7:15 - 8:30pm
In Sr High Room







Thank you to all that helped or attended the "World Famous Pancake Supper" on October 13th. The final numbers are not completed as yet, but we collected 298 tickets at the door!

Every year we look at what works and what doesn't and make adjustments. Last year we started to offer gluten free pancakes and this year we had access to some chocolate milk. Who knew kids love chocolate milk? Just about everyone but me. Next year there will be plenty more.



The Pancake Supper is the Men's Club main fundraiser. All profits are used to purchase items of need for our church and donations to various groups in our community. We have a core group that are active in what we do, but would really love to get more members involved. If interested feel free to contact me.

Thanks again everyone,
Guy Havelka
FUMC Men's Club

Why I Give - Jesse & Logan Newman



Our charitable giving stems from our belief in social justice. We recognize that history, race, where we were born, and the families we grew up in all contributed to our opportunities to get higher education and pursue our careers. We feel it is our duty to share with those who have had fewer opportunities. We contribute to causes that support the type of world we want our children to live in: one in which people care for each other and the Earth.

We give to First United Methodist Church because we value the work that they do in our local community. Specifically, we are proud of the prairie and the commitment to pursue solar energy, and we have enjoyed being a part of experiences such as Eco camp, serving community meals and packing meals for FACT.

2026 Year-End Gifts:

If you are planning to donate a stock gift or a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation) to the church yet this year please remember not to wait too long. Gifts from these methods take a little more time to process.We want to make sure we can get them posted to your account for the 2026 tax year.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

	Actual as of 9/20/26	2026 Budget	% of Budget
Revenue	$465,473.80	$718,859.00	64.75%
Expense	$498,791.80	$726,531.55	68.65%
Difference	($33,318.00)	($7,678.81)	

OCTOBER COMMUNION OFFERING

World Communion Sunday
will receive our gifts of $890

The QR code is available if you would like to donate to the on-going budget or communion offering.

Emma Norton
The Journey Home Begins Here

Our November Communion Offering will be received by Emma Norton Services

Emma Norton Services has consistent positive outcomes for program participants thanks to a culture of radical compassion and acceptance, and the implementation of evidence-based housing policies. Through providing a supportive sanctuary in permanent housing, Emma Norton helps clients heal and move forward. As a housing-first and harm-reduction organization, we believe that permanent housing is the foundation each person needs to achieve their goals. Our supportive, permanent housing programs give clients stability, so we can work with them to identify goals, build a stronger sense of self, and transform their own lives to find wholeness.

Communion Offering QR: Use the drop-down menu to select "Communion"

Thank you to Amber and Bonnie Steffens for hosting the October 3rd Saturday Meal. The lasagna, salad, bread, cookies, and beverages were delicious! Thank you to our working crew of Josie Laskowski, Carol Lewis, Barb Strandemo, and Mary Smith for volunteering. We served 50 guests in our fellowship hall and 62 take out meals.

Our November 3rd Saturday Meal on November 21st will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Justice & Mercy are also providing Holiday Meal kits to our guests at the meal.

Please consider volunteering for 3rd Saturday Meal. We need volunteers in 2027 starting in January. Please contact Mary Smith if you're interested.

Questions? kitchen@fumcscr.org

Signup QR **Donation QR**





Other Community Meal locations & times:

- Place of Hope (511 9th Ave N) serves 7:30am, 12:30pm and 5:30pm each day.
  Salvation Army (400 Hwy 10 S) serves Monday-Friday from 11:30am–12:45pm
- Salem Lutheran (90 Riverside Dr SE) serves the 1st Saturday each month from 11:30am–1pm
- Newman Center (396 1st Ave S) serves the 2nd Saturday each month from 11:30am–12:45pm
- Bethlehem Lutheran (4310 CR 137) serves the 4th & 5th Saturday each month from 11:30am-12:45pm
- St. Augustine's (443 2nd St SE) serves the 3rd Sunday each month from noon–1pm.
- St. Mary's Cathedral (823 1st S S) serves the last Sunday each month 4:30-5:30pm

We Can See Clearly Now, the Old Projector and Screen are Gone

Celebration Sunday on October 25, 2026, was observed with vivid colors, sharp images, and fully readable text, all displayed on the new Sanctuary Thor Canvas LED Wall that made its debut for our Congregation at the Service. As Pastor Susie pointed out, everyone can now clearly read the words to the songs, and there is no longer a sunlight glare excuse. It was an appropriate time for the installation of the LED Wall, as it is an excellent example of what we can accomplish with the sharing of the gifts and abundance within our Community, as shown through our Capital Campaign. On the day Love First celebrated and prayed together to consider how God is calling each of us to give through this Community in the upcoming year, it was good to roll out the LED Wall, a new tool that can show the stories, photographs, and videos of our Love First Community, and our many different ways that we answer God's call and live our love. Staff and Church Committees are very excited about the many different opportunities for programs and presentations that our new LED Wall provides.

The Board of Trustees thanks all the members of our Love First Community who have pledged and contributed to the Capital Campaign and made this project possible. Thank you to Korynn Ruch, our Finance Administrator and our Finance Committee for their creativity in working out the details to make the purchase possible. Thanks to our Tech and IT Coordinator Todd Rosso for his work over the past several years with Audio Visual Electronics on the planning and design for this project.

The photos show different views of the installation process.







United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

Acting boldly, showing up and making a difference!

Our actions have always spoken as loud as our words. Acts of love. Acts of Faith. Acts of change. For more than 150 years, we have been showing up and getting things done. Together we're making the world a better place: locally, globally, fearlessly. Learn more at **https://uwfaith.org/**.

Connect with a Circle - become part of a sisterhood in faith!

❖ Sarah Circle - Meets the third Sunday of the month at 10:30am in the office off the Multipurpose Room
❖ Susanna Wesley Circle - Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Library.
❖ Fellowship at Drake's - Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30am at Drake's Café, 520 1st St NE, Sartell. Call Kathy Hulsebus at **rsvp@fumcscr.org** for reservations.

UWF Calendar of Events

November 1 - Susanna Wesley Circle serves coffee hour
November 2 - Executive Team Meeting, 1:00pm in Library
November 15 - Sarah Circle, 10:30am in the room adjacent to the Multipurpose Room
November 17 - Susanna Wesley Circle, 7:00pm in Library
November 18- Fellowship at Drakes, 11:30am at Drakes Café in Sartell

Officers Serving Beyond our Local Unit

Did you know that First United Women in Faith has five members serving beyond our local unit? Besides serving on our unit's Executive Team these women are also officers on the Area and the Conference Executive Teams. Thank you to these members for their ongoing dedication to United Women in Faith!

- **Diane Bublitz** - Headwaters Area Treasurer
- **Vicky Clausen** - Headwaters Area Spiritual Growth Coordinator
- **Kathy Hulsebus** - Headwaters Area Emma Norton Representative
- **Linda Kotschevar** - Headwaters Area President
- **Carol Miller** - Minnesota Conference Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Fall Bake Sale Thank You

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of our Fall Bake Sale. Special thanks to our bakers, buyers and helpers who contributed to the fundraiser. Your contributions raised $875 for missions with women, children and youth!

Thank You for Supporting Community Angels Baby Clothing Collection

Special thanks to everyone who donated preemie and newborn clothing to Community Angels, a St. Cloud nonprofit supporting underserved families across Central Minnesota. Nearly 100 donated items were delivered to the Community Angels Boutique, where families "shop" for new clothing, shoes, undergarments, and health and hygiene products at no cost for children from birth through age 18.



Young at Heart

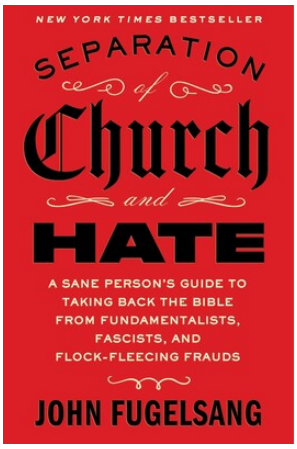
Friday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m

Program will be presented by Wendy Hulsebus, owner/manager of Cherrywood Advanced Living, a facility with 5 locations in Minnesota. We will be traveling to 1030 Voyageur St in St Cloud for a tour of the facility. It is in a neighborhood setting. For those needing rides, please be at the church by 9:30 so we can arrange drivers, etc.

Sarah Circle meets with Helen Stafsholt on Sunday, November 15, in our new location at the Multipurpose area. The program will be the World Thank Offering presentation so come with your offering. Betty Schlangen will have items for making cards for the CARE Team to send to residents for the Fall and Thanksgiving. If you have Fall stickers or other items that would decorate a card, please bring them.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to Emma Norton in October. It was a carload full of warmness.

Delicious Debate and Discussion



Join us after worship on Sundays in November as we continue discussing John Fugulsang's book "Separation of Church and Hate." We're a fun informal group and we'd love to see you!

Questions? Email:
adult.ed@fumcscr.org

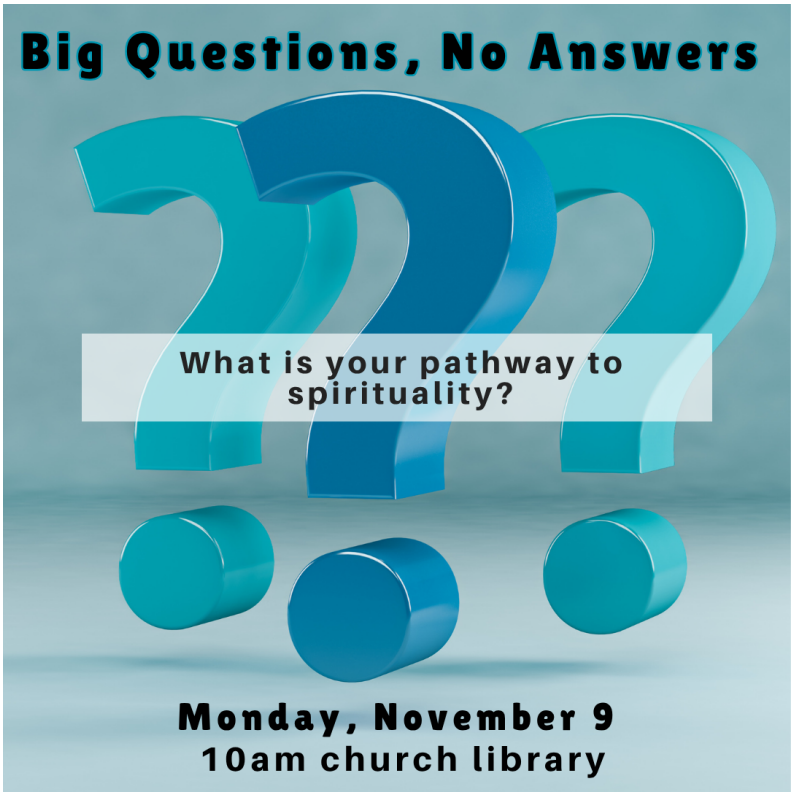
Big Questions, No Answers

What do you believe? What do you wonder about? And what happens when we're not sure?

Big Questions, No Answers is a monthly gathering of people who come together to explore the questions of faith and belief that don't have easy answers. In a friendly and welcoming environment, we make space for differing perspectives, honest questions, and thoughtful conversation, extending grace to one another as we wrestle with the things that matter most.

Second Monday of each month • 10:00 AM • Library

Come curious. Come as you are. Answers are optional.



LOVE FIRST
First United Methodist Church
of the St. Cloud Region
1107 Pine Cone Road South
Sartell, MN 56377
lovefirstumc.org

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ORGANIZATION

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