

APRIL/MAY EDITION

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



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Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

As we turn the page into spring, we're greeted by gentle reminders of renewal all around us. After the stillness of winter, the return of sunlight, budding trees, and fresh air feels like a quiet blessing, inviting us to pause and take it in.

In this season of new life, may we also feel renewed in spirit, drawing hope from the beauty unfolding around us and the promise it carries. It's a time to step forward with gratitude, embracing brighter days together as a community of faith.

Spring also calls us back into connection with one another. As we gather in worship, fellowship, and shared moments, we are reminded that renewal is not only found in nature, but in the strength and care of our church family.

May this season encourage us to open our hearts a little wider, to extend kindness a little more freely, and to walk forward in faith with a sense of peace and possibility.



98 Elizabeth Avenue



Worship Service, Sunday
11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m



The
Presbyterian
Church
in Canada

Minister's Message

One of the two most popular Christian creeds that you may hear recited is the Nicene Creed, over 1700 years old, the creation of which is a key landmark in the history of the Church. It predates debates over Catholic and Protestant traditions by more than a thousand years, but its creation was not without controversy.

The council that formed the creed was famously a bit rowdy, with one famous story involving St. Nicolaus (yes, that jolly old St. Nick) punching the heretic Arius during a debate about the divinity of Christ. The argument was over a single word in the Greek creed, whether the son was of the SAME essence as the father (homoousios, in the Greek) or of a SIMILAR essence (homoiousios). This is the origin of the expression "It doesn't make one iota of difference", since the fierce debate revolved around a single iota (i) difference between the words.

Perhaps as a minister, I ought to feel differently, but to this day I find myself scratching my head at stories like this and wondering "Who cares that much about theology?" Fistfights between bishops over semantics, surely this is not what Jesus wanted, right?

In years gone by in Newfoundland, Catholics and Protestants did not mingle. Schools were separated, and a wedding that broke these boundaries was a scandal if it was allowed at all. Looking back, it seems foolish now. When a member of the church tells me that they have been listening to what the Pope has been saying, I am glad! His message of peace and lifting up of Jesus Christ on the global stage is clearly good for the world in these troubled times. When the times are evil, iotas of difference seem less important.

Minister's Message

Now, as a Presbyterian Minister, I'm sure I could find some doctrines in other churches to complain about. But not today.

When Jesus is confronted about other people casting out demons who aren't part of his crew, he says "Do not stop him [...], for whoever is not against us is for us." (Mark 9:40) All around the world, all around our city, we are surrounded by unknown allies. We live in a time where those we once thought of as enemies are enemies no longer, and that is an encouraging thought.

This Spring, may you learn fresh perspective on the divisions that seem worth so much to you. May parents have grace for their children, and children have grace for their parents, trusting more in the power of love than in iotas of principle. May we see a common humanity where we saw evildoers before. Listen for Christ to speak in the most unexpected places, and come to church to be challenged by who He really was so you may better recognize Him in the world. Selfishness and violence are nothing new, but praise be to God that we are not alone in our battle, not even close.

One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord, and as long as we don't get caught up with Santa in fistfights over iotas, that will be good news for us all!

Rev. David

Treasurer's Report

Last month I was happy about March being here, I'm even happier about April. There are signs the latest snow is disappearing and my spring bulbs are out! What a wonderful sight! This week, all the bulbs at the church were up and looking sprightly.

The next major item on my list of activities is the Annual General Meeting (AGM). I'm moving on with other treasurer activities, like completing the PCC Statistics Report due the end of April. After being asked a question about the price of oil, I'm calculating what the price of oil and its duration may mean to us. On a happier note, there are more opportunities for grants. I receive the monthly Community Council newsletter and each month they have upcoming grant opportunities. So, I may be looking for that "grant writer" sooner rather than later.

In January I applied for a summer student for St. David's and we have been successful. I received the information last week and the federal paperwork is ready to be returned. The notice for this job will be placed through the federal Student Job Bank. We will be letting the members of the congregation know details and where that job is listed once it is posted.

I'd like to sincerely thank all of you who support our Church in so many different ways. Some people will not get this newsletter and one of them is Bradley who will be returning home to in Happy Valley-Goose Bay next month. He helps shovel our snow on Sunday mornings and takes out our garbage every Tuesday. Thanks to Kay Scott who was telling me of his snow shovelling activities.

And finally, to all our good friends and supporters who give their time and enthusiasm checking on lights, shoveling even more snow, and helping out with all our Church related activities - my heartfelt thanks!

Anne Calver

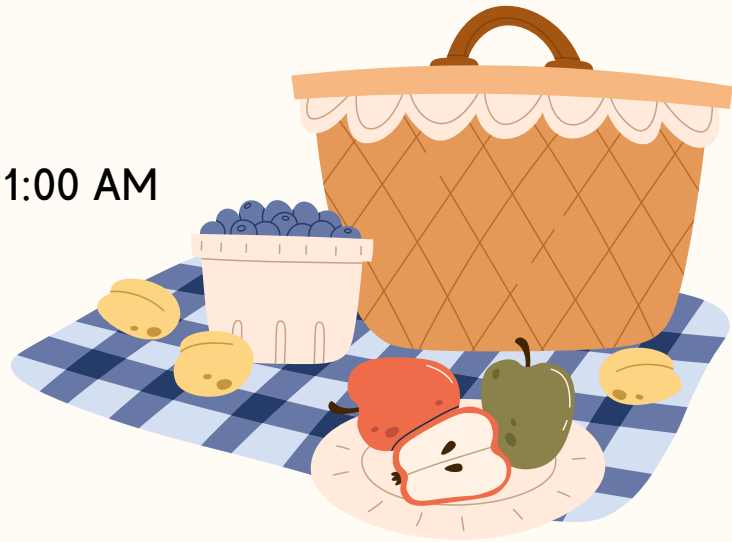
JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL
**CONGREGATIONAL
PICNIC**

St. David's and St. Andrew's

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM
PICNIC TO FOLLOW

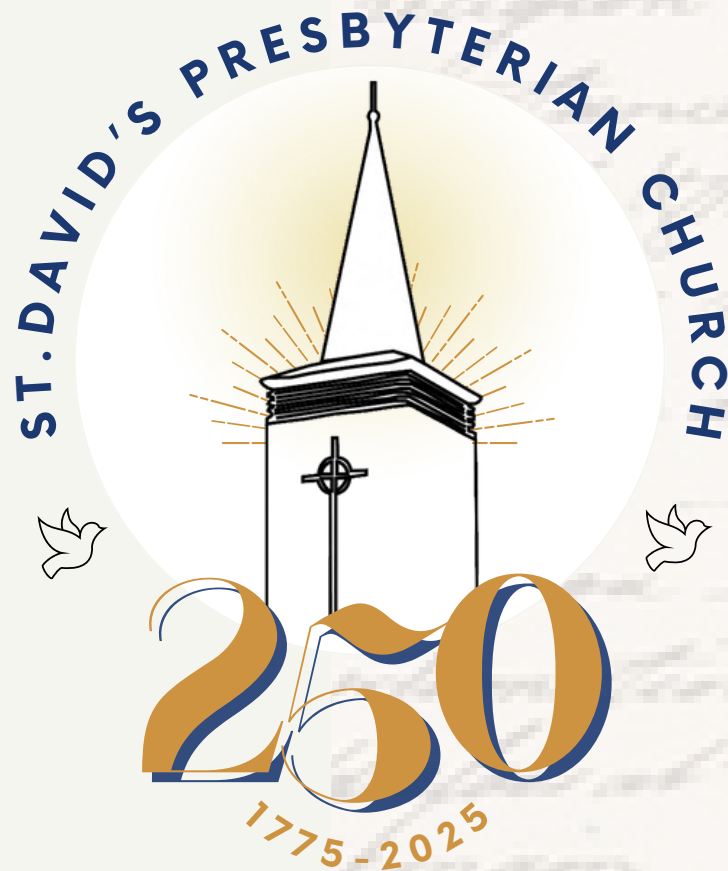
North Park Lodge
Pippy Park
St. John's, NL



The Sunday service and picnic will go ahead rain or shine, moving indoors if needed.

Following the service, join us for our annual picnic. Burgers will be provided, and guests are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share as part of the potluck. Please remember to bring your own lawn chairs, plates, and cutlery. Tea and coffee will be available.

This is a gathering we look forward to each year, especially as we spend time in fellowship with our friends from St. Andrew's. All are welcome.



Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

All members of the congregation are invited to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 3. This important gathering is a time to reflect on the past year, review reports, discuss church business, and look ahead to the future of our community.

Your voice matters, and we encourage everyone to participate as we come together in fellowship and shared purpose. Additional details, including time and location, will be shared during upcoming services and in weekly announcements.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful time in the life of our church.

**2025
Annual Report now available**

Gregory Hudson, May 1st
Jack Porter, May 1st
Luke St. Croix, May 3rd
Catherine Bailey, May 3rd
Janet Aitken, May 7th
Claire Goobie, May 7th
Jeremy Hicks, May 8th
Andrea Crosbie, May 10th
Benjamin den Otter Versteeg,
May 10th
Julia Bassler, May 12th
Harriet Offia, May 13th

Jessie Crosbie, May 14th
Dean King, May 19th
Emma Ryan, May 23rd
Daniel Rumbolt, May 23rd
Laura Barnes, May 24th
Monica McNeill, May 26th
Kathryn Hudson, May 26th
Lesley Stuckless, May 28th



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

From St. David's



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Kaena and Scott Bonnell

Celebrating their 21th anniversary on May 6th

Olive and Charlie Goobie

Celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary on May 19th

Roxanne and David Hancock

Celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary on May 24th

Congratulations! We hope you share your special day with family and friends and best wishes for many happy years ahead!

If you know of someone who is going to have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming days or weeks, please call or email the church.

What's Happening

at St. David's

APR

26

11:00

AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has started up again for the new year, and will be studying the Story of the Bible as told in the Jesus Storybook Bible. We aim to teach children to relate to the stories of the Bible and reflect Jesus Christ in their actions, while taking plenty of time for joyful play and building friendships. Parents are asked to consider volunteering to assist with one Sunday each month to ensure that our volunteers get breaks, and new volunteers are enthusiastically welcome!

MAY

03

11:00

AM

Creche/Playroom

We have an unsupervised Creche/playroom for Families to use. This space is available to use anytime and during the worship service.

MAY

10

11:00

AM

MAY

17

11:00

AM



APR
22
1:00
PM

BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Bible Study has starting back up for the season. Come join us in the Armour room for our informal study as we follow along with the journey through the Bible. All are welcome, no experience is required. Wednesday afternoons at 1pm (April 22, 29 & May 6, 13, 20, 27)

APR
22
2:00
PM

PICKLEBALL

Pickle Ball takes place every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm. If you'd like more information, or if would like to get some education on the rules and instruction on how to play, please join us on Wednesdays! (April 22, 29 & May 6, 13, 20, 27)

APR
23
2:00
PM

GOOD COMPANIONS

The Good Companions is a seniors group that meets once a week in the church hall and Armour Room to share in some activities. If you would like to try your hand at carpet bowling, join a game of bridge or 120's or maybe a friendly game of Scrabble. Please join us on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome!

APR
26
11:00
AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

The Contemporary Service for will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026

APR
28
12:00
PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of the WA will be held on Tuesday, April 28th 2026 at noon in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the May Bridge Lunch.

MAY
TBD
9:30
AM

POP-UP CHOIR CALL

The Pop-Up Choir takes place on the third Sunday of the month. Should you be available and interested in giving of your time and voices, or know of anyone who enjoys singing, you would be very welcome to join the Pop-Up Choir.

On Pop-up Choir Sunday, we will meet 930am in the sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service which typically finishes by noon.

Please consider helping out and do let me know either way so that I can prepare accordingly.

Thanks for your time,
Brian

MAY
03
11:00
AM

ST. DAVID'S & ST. ANDREW'S JOINT SERVICE

You're warmly invited to the joint Worship Service as we gather together with our friends from St. Andrew's. This shared service will take place at St. David's, offering a meaningful opportunity to come together in worship, fellowship, and community.

MAY

03

1:00

PM

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All members of the congregation are invited to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 3. This important gathering is a time to reflect on the past year, review reports, discuss church business, and look ahead to the future of our community. Your voice matters, and we encourage everyone to participate as we come together in fellowship and shared purpose. The meeting will take place immediately following coffee hour at approximately 1pm. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time in the life of our church.

MAY

10

12:00

PM

AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The AMS generally meet on the second Sunday of the month after the worship service in the Armour Room. Refreshments provided.

New members would be most welcome.

We have lots of discussion around mission and much laughter. Hope to see you there!

Call Penny Gillies if there are any questions
700-728-8112

One of the ministries under the AMS "umbrella" is the Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ the Knitters group! If you know of someone who could use a visit and the gift of a prayer shawl, please do let us know ~ a member of the group will reach out to arrange a convenient time to drop by.

MAY

12

12:00

PM

MAY BRIDGE LUNCH

The last Bridge Lunch for the season will be held on Tuesday, May the 12th. Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance.

Cost - \$20.00 per person. Please contact Lillian Crawford or the church office if you are interested.

If you would like to join this vibrant group, drop by and get to meet the ladies. There is a great lunch, a short devotion, and a business meeting where the plans for the next activities take place.

MAY

31

11:00

AM

ST. DAVID'S & ST. ANDREW'S JOINT SERVICE

You're warmly invited to the joint Worship Service as we gather together with our friends from St. Andrew's. This shared service will take place at St. Andrew's, offering a meaningful opportunity to come together in worship, fellowship, and community.

Groups and Events



Bridges to Hope

“The Weekly "Flyer" Specials with items helpful for food hampers”, will be included in your weekly Announcements insert in the Order of Service

The suggested item(s) for April 2026, especially useful for Bridges to Hope – **Canned Fruit, and Can Openers!!**

Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

While Bridges to Hope always has an ample supply of dog food, they have a **shortage of cat food**. Your help in this area would be appreciated too. Thank you.

Bridges to Hope – Monthly Update for March 2026:

Our food hampers were distributed to 1631 people - which included 8.2% seniors and 32% children. For the BTH newsletter, go to <https://bridgestohope.ca> and choose “About Us”, and then the “Newsletter” to see their latest newsletter.

 39 Cookstown Rd, St. John's, NL A1C 4G7

 <https://bridgestohope.ca/>



Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Who doesn't love a good Jigsaw Puzzle?!

Well, the Good Companions Group has started a Jigsaw Puzzle exchange... you will find the Jigsaw Puzzles in the locked grey cabinet just outside the Armour Room. (The key for the cabinet is kept in the office.) Management of the puzzles will done on an 'Honour System' – anybody can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle. You can take as long as you like to complete.



Sunday Coffee Hour Volunteers

Sunday Coffee Hour is a lovely custom we have at St. David's.

We are looking for individuals and families to help assist with setting up and/or serving ... there is really not much to it and other volunteers would be delighted to show you the ropes! A sign up sheet has been put on the refrigerator if you have a spare Sunday to help out. Please do call the office if you have any questions.

Thank you!



Music in the Hall

Discussions have been taking place for season four!!! Further announcements in the coming weeks... stay tuned!



News from the Pews Newsletter

The News from the Pews Newsletter will be emailed out to the congregation on the 15th of each month. If you would like to receive a copy, please email or call the office and we will happily add you to the email list. If you would prefer to have one dropped off at your home, we can do that too!! It would be our pleasure!

The newsletter contains most of the regular announcements and notices that you receive every week, plus updates, stories and new features- often with pictures!! And we would love to read your stories and see your pictures, hear about special events, holidays, a treasured pastime and maybe share a favourite recipe!!

We are interested in any of the ways you would like to stay in touch and connect with each other.

Send your stories to stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com

Thank you!



Camp Geddie ~ Summer 2026

Camp Geddie is now seeking staff for the 2026 summer season. We welcome anyone and everyone above the age of 16 to apply on the many positions being offered. It runs this year from July 2 until August 14. Campers may also register at this time according to the available specified dates and age group. For more information, please visit the website at campgeddie.ca. We are looking forward to an excellent summer experience of faith and fun for all involved.

Message from the WA

Hello Ladies,

St. David's Women's Auxiliary is in **NEED** of new members to continue its work. We get together at Noon on the last Tuesday of each month for a light lunch, meeting and friendship hour. You don't have to attend our Church regularly or even be a member of the Church to join us. Also, if you aren't a baker or a cook, there are lots of other ways to help. Why not just come and make a new friend; we'd really like to see you.

We carry out various projects each year to raise money for improvements to the Church/Church Hall. These include hosting the Pancake Supper, Good Companions Lunches, Funeral Receptions, etc. We are always looking for new ideas and maybe you have some.

Over the last several years, our main fundraiser has been our monthly Bridge/Luncheons. These have been very successful and we have established a reputation for good food and a warm and welcoming atmosphere. If you're not available in person to help on that day, perhaps you'd consider making a pot of soup or a dessert for that event. Cookies, sandwiches are often required for functions so perhaps you could help there.

Please consider coming to our meetings or offering to help in some way. If you are interested, or require further information, please call the Church Office, (709) 722-2382 or one of the following:

Janet Calver Phone: (709) 745-1343 E-mail: Janetlcalver@gmail.com

Lillian Crawford Phone: (709) 754-2362/(709) 691-3057 E-mail: lilliancrawford4@gmail.com

Janet Aitken Phone: (709) 726-1916 E-mail: janet_aitken@hotmail.com

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

P. S. From time to time, we need some strong men to set up table/chairs before a function, so check with your husbands, partners or sons to see if they would be willing to help as well.

Good News *from you*

WA Hosted Bridge Party – March 10, 2026

The WA hosted their March Bridge Party on Tuesday, the 10th. The weather was in our favour again and everyone was looking forward to a wonderful lunch and a friendly game of bridge. Our “team of helpers” welcomed everyone and made sure they were given a warm welcome. As usual, the soups and desserts were scrumptious and everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon of fellowship and fun – and bridge of course!

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteered to make this afternoon a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We look forward to seeing you all again in April!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 10th.



Good News *from you*

Eleanor Cummings from Sherbrooke, Quebec

Many of our Good Companions will have fond memories of Eleanor Cummings who became a dear member of our congregation and a regular with our Senior's group. A couple of years ago, Eleanor made the move to Sherbrooke, Quebec to live with her son, Peter, and his wife, Suzanne. Peter keeps in touch and sent this note along with a picture of Eleanor. Obviously, Eleanor has not lost her touch! Thank-you Peter for the photo....

A little photo of Mom doing her carpet bowling with the residents of Grace Village next door.



Check out “The Nature of Things”



“The Nature of Things” recently showcased the life of an iceberg from Greenland to the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador. The show, titled, “The Bergs” also featured Memorial Engineering's Dr. Stephen Bruneau and Dr. Bruce Quinton as they shared their iceberg expertise on the topic and highlighted the unique research and testing that helps Memorial lead the way in the science of protecting ships from potentially disastrous iceberg collisions.

To watch the episode, search ‘Life and Death of an Iceberg: From Greenland to Newfoundland’.

Good News *from you*

Signs of Spring – April 2026

Yes, Spring is getting closer and we have some pictures to prove it! Penny took a couple of pictures in front of the Church - and yes, those are our hardy little crocus showing off all their brilliant colours. And we also have a picture of pussy willows – another true sign of Spring and a promise of better weather to come!



Good Companions Paddy's Day Dinner – March 19, 2026

On Thursday March 19, the WA hosted a hot turkey dinner for our Good Companions Group. Our Good Companions bring a lot of joy to everyone with their enthusiasm for life and their infectious laughter – especially those carpet bowlers! The Paddy's Day dinner is a special time, not only for the “companions”, but for the WA members as well, who get to share a meal with them and a little chit-chat. How good is that!! And let's not forget their generosity. They had a cart loaded with all kinds of donations for Bridges to Hopes within minutes of their arriving at the Church Hall.

We hope the pictures below say it all – and take note of all those green clothes and accessories! (And thank-you to David, Orson and Oliver who joined the Good Companions for lunch, helped with the cleanup and even took in some of the carpet bowling moves!)

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Good News *from you*

Palm Sunday Holy Week Pageant

On Sunday, March 28th, the congregations from St. David's and St. Andrew's came together to present a "no-rehearsal" Holy Week pageant. St. Andrew's has performed this pageant in their own Church for several years now – quite successfully - and our congregation was delighted to be able to take part in the production. Jenny Pallard, was the chief organizer, writer and director – and what a terrific job she did! Jenny pulled together all the participants and made sure each person knew what to do and when. The 2 sets of narrators – one from each Church – told the Holy Week story while the participants acted out the scenes. All in all, it was a wonderful way to bring together our Church families and to share the Easter story. Many thanks to Jenny for all her patience and hard work and for making it a lovely experience for all!





After the pageant, everyone who could stay, came down to the Church Hall and shared some homemade goodies and some great conversations. Thanks to everyone who helped out with the baking and setup/takedown. And a special thank-you to Paul Rice who was our chief baker and organizer for the "after-pageant-event".

Some photos from the event can be found on the following page - thanks so much to everyone who passed along photos! There were too many to include them all, but we hope you enjoy the selection we've provided.




Church Information



Church Office Hours:

-  Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
-  709-722-2382 (General office)
-  709-699-3661 (Rev. David Sturtevant)
-  stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com (messages are checked regularly!)

Pastoral Care

-  For Pastoral Care please contact Rev. David Sturtevant at 709-699-3661

Donations

-  The sole email address we are using to accept donations is: stdavidsnfld@gmail.com
It is linked to our bank account and automatically accepts all donations!
-  You can find more ways to donate on our website, stdavids.nf.ca/donations-2/

How to Reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant – Cell. 709-699-3661
Music Director: Brian Way
Administrator: Heather Steele Morrissey
Women's Auxiliary: Lillian Crawford
Good Companions (Seniors): Call Heather in the Office
Bible Study: Rev. David Sturtevant
Atlantic Mission Society: Kathy McKay & Penny Gillies
Prayer Shawl (Knitters): c/o Lillian Crawford

Session

Lillian Crawford (Clerk)
Sue Templeton Ken Templeton
Janet Calver Aubrey Bonnell
Penny Gillies Eleanor Bonnell Jenny Griffioen
Kathy McKay Steve Bruneau Jennifer Waterman
Ian Bruneau Ed Vanderkloet

Treasurer: Anne Calver **Envelope Secretary:** Ian Bruneau

Board of Managers:

Jill Bruneau Anne Calver Lisa Dooley
Aldrin Gain Heather Steele Morrissey Nnenna Odide Offia



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Want to share your news in the next edition?
Contact us!

 stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com

 [stdavidsstjohns](http://stdavidsstjohns.com)

 stdavidsstjohns

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