

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XL, Issue 1

## **Minister's Message**

### ***The Circle Metaphor***

If you didn't know this already, I've dabbled in the writing of hymn lyrics over the years, and therefore have quite a collection of hymnbooks. One of those is a book of contemporary hymns by a long-time and well respected hymnwriter and teacher entitled *Circles of Care*, and every time I see that book on my shelf I think of our name and tagline: Bloordale United Church, Circle of Friends. It's fitting for us to have such a tagline, borrowed precisely as it is from Markland Woods tagline, given that we worship in a round sanctuary – when we do worship in-person together! – and seek to be faithful friends to one another in living up to Jesus' injunction in John 15: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15: 12)

A circle is a rich and suggestive image, often used in more contemporary hymns in comparison to decades or centuries past. The metaphor expresses the desire to create inclusiveness through circles rather than hierarchies through ladders, often identified with the corporate world. When we join hands in a circle, there is always room for one more, and when we move in a circle, the leader is still part of the group, rather than out at the head of a line or above the participants in authority.

The circle is also a symbol of eternity, for it has no beginning or end, making it fitting to be exchanged as a ring when couples get married and make promises to be true to each other for as long as they live. Being a symbol of eternity, it is a very appropriate symbol for the divine presence in life, and contrary to the vast majority of United Church sanctuaries I've been in over 32 years of ministry, Bloordale's is the second round sanctuary in which I've conducted worship. I am reminded of the inclusiveness of the act of worship when we gather round the circular communion table – when we're able to! – as well as being quietly and consistently startled by the fact that both long-time members and newcomers have equality of access to all the seats, unable as anyone is to find a corner and hide. Consequently, the call to inclusiveness that is extended by a circle does exact a cost to its participants, as new ones have the gaze of almost everyone else and therefore have to risk being known to some degree from

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www.bloordale.ca

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Christian Development Co-ordinator	Wendy McEwen
Administrative Assistant	Halyna Parypa
Music Director	Paul Wisniewski
Custodian	Victor Nguyen
	<b>Church Council</b>
Chair	Pat Conway-Willis
Church Council Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees	Julia Stavreff
Ministry and Personnel Co-Chairs	Melody Klassen
	Pat Conway-Willis
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Kim Freestone
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas
	Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
	<b>Committee Chairs</b>
Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Pat Nelson
	Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift	Norm Dundas
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Property	Shirley Scott
Social and Fund Raising	Roxanne Dryding
Worship	Melody Klassen
Members-at-Large	Amy Bickford
	Joan Hollowell

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**WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD**

March 7th	Lent 3 / 63rd Anniversary Sunday
March 14th	Lent 4
March 21st	Lent 5
March 28th	Lent 6 / Palm/Passion Sunday / Communion
April 1st	Maundy Thursday / Last Supper Communion
April 2nd	Good Friday (combined service with St. James UC)
April 4th	Easter Sunday
April 11th	Easter 2
April 18th	Easter 3 / Earth Day Sunday
April 25th	Easter 4 / Good Shepherd Sunday / Communion
May 2nd	Easter 5
May 9th	Easter 6
May 16th	Easter 7 / Ascension Sunday
May 23rd	Pentecost Sunday / Communion

**All Services are at 10:30 a.m. except as indicated.**

## Stewardship Spot

*"Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'."*

### Facing Reality

When someone says, "You need to face reality," it can be good advice for someone who is trying to ignore or avoid present pain or bad prospects. But in the midst of a global pandemic that's just passed the year mark since the World Health Organization declared it on March 11th, 2020, to say to someone, "You need to face this reality," most of us know full well what we've unavoidably faced for twelve months, and don't need to be reminded to look it square in the face and take account of what we're going to do in confronting it as well as trying our best to live through it. When it comes to the reality of the pandemic's aftermath, or of putting broken lives back together after a tragedy or period of disappointment or disaster, however, it may be that our faith has something to contribute to the post-traumatic reality that we'll discover upon the withdrawal of the pandemic declaration in time to come.

That faith, after all, points to One who holds creation in the palm of the hand, who cradles and nurtures and nudges us along and who gives a strength and vision that's deeper and more true and good than anything we can come up with on our own, the more so precisely when we're at the end of our rope. The human best, friends, tends to lag behind the holy best at such times of repair and renewal, as we forge a way forward that often looks more like a return to a previous normal rather than a truly new, just and equitable way. To do for ourselves the best that we have it in us to do – to grit our teeth and clench our fists in order to survive the world at its harshest and worst – is, by definition, to be found to be alone in the universe and therefore unable to let something be done for you and in you that is more wonderful still. The trouble with steeling yourself against the harshness of reality, whether it takes the form of cancer,

accident, disease, or death, is that the same steel that secures your life against being destroyed secures your life also against being opened up anew and transformed by the holy power from which all life itself, its ground and grace as gift, comes.

We can survive on our own. We can grow strong on our own. We can even prevail on our own, over the pandemic or virtually any other obstacle – with a few exceptions such as death, however, as the pandemic makes clear. But the lesson we must learn again and again and again, friends, is that as we face whatever reality we're given, good or bad, we cannot become fully human on our own. I don't mean by this that we need other human beings only, which we surely do, in order to be found on the path to full humanity. Yes, we need them, but no, we don't need only our human siblings and neighbours, our doctors and frontline caregivers and servants of the good and all the rest. If there's anything we've found as we've been rocked by not only the pandemic but by the seismic shifts in social consciousness regarding race and economic division in the past year, it is that we need the God who, by original and sustaining and forgiving grace, enables us to transcend our innate inabilities and tendencies for self-protection and reach our full human potential as a species. We need to build back better, stop the divides that leave us all worse off one way or another, and enable the reign of God's ways of equality, dignity, sharing and cooperation, love and justice to prevail and be implemented.

So we are to face reality, yes, but with the knowledge, as the United Church's affirmation of Faith states, that "we are not alone," that we "live in God's world," and therefore it's time to stop running the world as if we own it. We are to be stewards of life, of true dignity and caring for our seniors, of equal opportunity for all, of hope and peace, neighbour helping neighbour and

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## Minister's Message

*(continued from Page 1)*

the moment of entry.

The image of a circle also evokes, easily and readily, the care, love and nurture of others round about us. We are called, as a circle of friends, to be a witness to God's all-embracing love and to the universal call to beloved community which God issues to both the church and the world. As a result, justice-seeking in order to build a true and lasting peace, rather than an artificial lack of conflict because of the rule of force, is a large part of the concept of the church as a circle. The circle of a faithful and transformed church also upholds unity in diversity as a high value, and is unafraid to reflect the full human experience of pain as well as of joy, as all family circles do.

I've often wondered what might happen if, like women's knitting or sewing circles, we no longer met as Committees or even teams and, instead, formed and engaged circles for the various mission tasks that are important to us. Might it change the way we view Christian Education or Pastoral Care if we named the people who join these efforts part of a Circle rather than a Committee? Before you say "It's only a name," remember that names both convey and carry meaning. It wasn't by accident that Abram's new name from God, Abraham, means "father of a multitude," given that the promise attached to the name change was for God to supply many descendants to the barren household of the octogenarian!

The last year, almost to the day, since we've had in-person worship in our circular sanctuary has been hard on all of us. To use a negative image of circle for a moment, some of us, like a dog chasing its tail, having been running around in circles ever since, never quite landing in a secure place and always anxious. We've been mostly isolated from one another, and unable to surround the families of those who've died with support in a circle of friends who care. Yet we've held virtual hands in various ways, staying connected with each other, trusted our leadership circle to do its part, which they

have done with dedication and service, and remained supportive of the congregation's ministry initiatives and financial needs. It turns out, then, friends, that we truly are a circle of care as a circle of friends, staying true to the One who is the Source, Center and Sum of our or any other Christian circle. May it be so as we move the circle forward in the future, both during and beyond the pandemic.

Brian

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## Stewardship Spot

*(continued from Page 3)*

nation helping nation. We have been given such gracious gifts in this creation, all we need and more to sustain ourselves and create cultures of diversity and harmony, that we are rich beyond measure. But our chief sin in this post-modern paradise – the only one we've got! – that's been caught up by this lengthy pandemic, is that we presume that civilization has been our doing alone, having shoved divinity to the side in the name of humanity's ascent to the throne, particularly in the form of the so-called self-made human being.

Surely that is why, in Jesus' sad and ironic joke in Mark 10, verse 25 and parallels, the rich man has as hard a time entering Paradise as that camel through the needle's eye – because with his credit card in his pocket, the rich man is so effective at getting for himself everything he presumes he needs that he does not see that what he needs more than anything else can be had only as a gift. He does not see that the one thing a clenched fist cannot do is accept a helping hand, and that our clenched teeth do not allow the breath of God's newness to enter us. Let us do better, and be better, when we face the post-pandemic reality before us; let us, not passively but with conviction, enable God's ways to take center stage again, for God's ways are the ways of life.

Brian

## News From the Finance Committee

As Covid-19 impacted all our lives in 2020, it directly impacted programming services at Bloordale United Church.

It has been incredibly heart warming to see that the local contributions in 2020 remained high and on track. The other main source of income in recent years has been rent, and that amount dropped by \$40,000 in 2020! However, our renters recognized the dire financial situation looming on the church due to the pandemic, and so several of them graciously donated funds in lieu of rent. We collected \$9,564 in the form of these special donations during 2020.

In 2020, income from "Special Events" included proceeds from the anniversary dinner, pancake supper, the men's luncheon, silent auction, and the Blazing Fiddles concert. We were not able to hold any events after the pandemic began; so the total amount of income in this category was about 1/3rd less than the budget. For 2021 we have budgeted for slightly more in this category than we budgeted for 2020 because we hope to have a very merry series of special events during the last quarter of 2021.

What really made the difference to our bottom line for Operations in 2020 was the combination of wage subsidies (\$51.6k) and reduced spending on programming (organist, children's program, nursery attendant). Utilities, particularly, and some other property expenses, were significantly lower than budgeted. This left us with headroom to expense \$15K of expenditures such as repairs and maintenance, painting, windows coverings, etc. that would otherwise have had to come from the capital fund.

The bottom line for 2020 Operations was a surplus of \$39,627!

A major capital expenditure in 2020 was for the roof repairs (\$63K) which were covered primarily by a mortgage loan of \$60K from

the United Church of Canada. That loan must be repaid by Bloordale United Church at \$390 per month.

Kim Freestone,  
Treasurer

## Thank you for Federal Government and Tenant Support

We were pleased as a Council to acknowledge the support of the federal government for the subsidies for which we were eligible, as well as special donations from renter groups who supported us when they didn't have to, which, alongside our member's generosity and sustained commitment, made our bottom line in a pandemic-riddled year a positive number. For this, as well as for the consistent ministry and mission we've undertaken, under difficult and challenging conditions and with the help of God's Spirit, we are grateful beyond measure.

Blessings as we move forward in 2021 with the calm that weathering the storm of 2020 has brought us!

Brian,  
For Bloordale United  
Church Council

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## Brian Speaking on Indigenous Right Relations Mar. 24th

A south Etobicoke Lutheran Church has asked Brian to speak about building Indigenous Right Relations at a zoom dinner, worship and learning event on Wed. Mar. 24th starting at 6 pm, and has encouraged us to share the invitation. If you'd like to attend on zoom you can do so by going to their website at the following link and signing up there on their Eventbrite page

<https://martinluther.ca/>

Feel free to speak to Brian if you'd like to know more.

## Pastoral Care Update

To say the year 2020 was an unusual and challenging year would be understating things. It seems every aspect of our lives was impacted one way or another. We give thanks for the new year and look forward to all it holds.

The lockdown continues to impact church activities. Pastoral Care was not exempt.

Our last physical meeting of 2020 was in March. Despite no actual meetings during the rest of the year, members of the committee continued to reach out to those of our congregation who were ill and or totally isolated. Other church members assisted in doing this during the first lockdown phase.

The committee's practice of sending cards to acknowledge special birthdays, anniversaries, loss of family members and wishes for recovery from illnesses was maintained throughout the year. Although we were unable to do our annual Christmas poinsettia delivery, a total of 79 Christmas cards were mailed to members of the congregation in an effort to lighten the emotional burden of the lockdown. Thanks to all committee members for their input and especially to Nelsona who helped with the purchase, addressing and mailing of same.

Sylvia Williams

### Connecting with the Ill, Bereaved, and Shut-in

The Pastoral Care Committee connects with members who are ill, bereaved or are shut in. We are unable to make a connection if we are unaware. We are therefore appealing to members who may be aware of someone who might need a contact from us. Please obtain permission from that individual to contact a member of the committee. Thank you.

Sylvia Williams  
Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

## A Special Thank You for Nelsona



As of March 2020, our devoted hard working and dedicated Pastoral Care Minister Nelsona Dundas decided to retire. We have come to appreciate her gentle caring and understanding attitude. Her genuine

concern and care for members often led to her being asked to conduct or assist at funerals.

Nelsona has always noted the special interests of members and, shared relevant items on subsequent visits. She has a positive attitude and a cheerful chuckle that makes those she visits feel relaxed and happy for the visit. She has often visited members located well out of our boundaries, e.g. Sunnybrook Hospital, and Oakville as well as her annual trip to Newmarket to visit one of our founding members.

Her role of Legion Chaplain has made her especially helpful and cognizant of Bloordale's Veterans and their needs and interests, as well as services uniquely available to them.

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee can attest to her ability to quickly get to the heart of the matter and her willingness to "take up the armour" often carrying more than her share of the work involved.

We are pleased that Nelsona continues to be a member of the Pastoral Care Committee, and will miss her in her Pastoral Care Ministerial role.

Sylvia Williams

# Happy Easter!

## Food Truck'N Event is Coming Back to Bloordale

The team at Food Truck'N Events will soon be launching the Food Truck'N Curbside Market, a brand new concept that will allow you to order from Toronto's top food trucks from the safety and comfort of your own car.

Taking place weekly in the parking lot behind Bloordale Church, the Food Truck'N Curbside Market will feature a rotating lineup of food trucks with designated parking spots for the customers. To order, customers must simply park in one of the spots and scan the corresponding QR code, which will then take them to a secure ordering and payment website. After placing their order, their food will be prepared and brought directly to their car via curbside pick-up!

For orders exceeding \$100 or catering enquiries, the trucks can be contacted directly via email or phone.

Walk-up orders are not permitted at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions but will be re-evaluated as case numbers come down.

The initial event dates at Bloordale are Friday, March 17, Saturday March 18, and Sunday March 19. To stay informed of upcoming dates, participating trucks and rules and regulations, follow Food Truck'N Events on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Jason Bellissimo  
Food Truck'n Organizer



## From Your Chair of Council



It just seems that it wasn't all that long ago that we said hello, but you know it isn't enough at this time.

I am very happy to see that there are so many of you who join in on the zoom coffee time on Sundays. I know that you are not able to do it every Sunday, but never the less it is always nice to see you.

On February 22nd your council had a meeting to approve the Annual Report and budget. It all went very well and we as a whole are in a very good place thanks to all of you and to our tenants who make donations even though they are in lockdown. We also continue to get the Federal government's wage subsidy, thanks to Julia.

Jason of the Food Truck has been in contact with us. Jason will be doing it virtually and will have fewer trucks than we did last year. He is also considering Saturday afternoon, to see how it works, and then he might do it another afternoon during the week. We will keep you informed. They were very pleased last summer how it all went. Here is his website:

[www.JBisi.com/CurbsideMarket](http://www.JBisi.com/CurbsideMarket)

Rooks to Cooks: We are still waiting to hear whether they will be able to come back, but in the meantime, they will continue doing their classes virtually.

Your group of four are still meeting regularly by zoom overseeing the church business.

Let's hope that we hear when we all can get our vaccine shots. We will still have to be careful, but we will be able to see our families and friends more freely.

Victor continues to make sure that our church building is being kept clean.

Please continue to be very safe and if you know of anyone who is alone please give them a call to say hello.

Pat Conway-Willis  
Chair of Council

## Canada's Legacy of Slavery

By Sylvia Williams – January 2021

*(Installment #1)*

Prior to the killing of George Floyd and the resultant fallout, if I were to ask a Canadian if there had ever been African slaves and slave owners in Canada, the response would be somewhat like this: African slaves in Canada? Surely you are mistaken. Canada was a haven for slaves escaping the harsh treatment in the south. Have you not heard of the underground railroad? Canada was the last stop. We helped slaves. We did not enslave them. This response could be given by Canadians be they white or non- white.

The fact is, apart from the enslavement of Indigenous peoples, the colony of New France, or what is known today as Canada, was involved in the transatlantic and the international slave trades buying, selling, trading, enslaving and bequeathing blacks for over two centuries. Surprised? I will try to describe briefly Canada's history of slave ownership. It is clear that Indigenous slavery existed in Canada before the arrival of the Europeans, but with the arrival of the Europeans, there was a different view of slaves and slavery. Europeans viewed enslaved people as less than humans. They were property (chattels) and to be treated as such. In addition, they viewed slavery along racial lines: whites were ruling masters to be served by black slaves engendering a sense of entitlement which we continue to see today.

### How slaves got to Canada

During the early 17th Century, European merchants travelled to Africa in ships filled with goods which they exchanged for enslaved people who were then transported and sold in the Americas including New France. These newly bought "properties" would work in inhumane conditions to produce goods which were later sold on the European leg of the trip. The rationale was that slavery helped to maintain the economy. Canada's "first documented black slave .

arrived in Quebec city in 1628 just twenty years after the founding of New France." This was a child about 6 years old who was sold to a French clerk and died in slavery. His purchase was the start of the trading here. Despite this, slavery was illegal in French colonies until Code Noir allowed slavery for "economic purposes." This opened the way for slaves to be legally owned and traded. This code was later expanded to full proprietorship which meant that any child born to a slave woman would also be a slave belonging to the master. He could keep them, give them as gifts or sell them. (Huffintonpost.ca)

### How slaves were treated

Despite the thought that if there were slaves in Canada they would have been treated more humanely than those in the south, this does not hold true. Although they were fed and sometimes housed, they were still subjected to inhumane treatment. They were beaten, shackled, raped, hunted by dogs and sometimes executed. The book "The Hanging of Angelique" by Afua Cooper, outlines one such case. Visits to Canadian heritage site locations such as Dresden have artifacts of torture used on slaves. CBC has aired several programs depicting slavery in Canada.

In my next instalment I will be discussing: The Black Loyalists, an Act to Limit Slavery and The Underground Railroad.

Sylvia Williams

### **St. James Food Basket**

When you go shopping, please pick up one extra item for our food box, if you are able. Each week, we suggest a food item, to help feed the hungry. Past weeks' suggested items have been: peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna or salmon, toothpaste, pasta, beans or lentils, canned fruit, cookies and crackers. Please put items in Bloordale's food box, located in the sanctuary, and we shall take it to the St. James Food Basket.



## An Invitation from our Music Director

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to anyone that would like to contribute with playing an instrument or leading in singing a hymn or two, for one of the upcoming online services. Our video recording sessions are being conducted by strictly following public health guidelines. They are held in the sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons.

Big thanks once again goes out to John Pauksens and Debbie McIntosh for their time and technical support in putting the services together.

If you express interest in contributing, I would be very happy to connect with you on zoom and/or schedule in-person rehearsal at the church. The congregation would certainly appreciate your efforts.

I believe that it was St. Augustine that once said that "those who sing, pray twice".

Paul Wisniewski



## Worship Service Video Elements Posted on Vimeo

Videos containing music, Brian's sermon, (and sometimes additional elements such as Advent Candle Lighting or Lenten Candle Extinguishing), are posted weekly on Vimeo.

A new private link for our latest video is sent out on Fridays by Halyna in the weekly "Note to Congregation" e-mail, which also contains the written material that supports our Virtual Sunday Worship Service.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these e-mails please contact Halyna at the church office. The videos can be viewed on any internet-connected desktop computer or smartphone.

### Technical Aspects

For those who may be interested in the technical aspects, we do the video recording on Windows 10 laptop computers using:

- the built-in webcam and microphone of a PC laptop in the case of the Sermons and Candle lighting clips, and
- for the music clips, we use another PC together with an outboard webcam and with the church audio system and wireless microphones.
- For recording, we use a free public domain recording program called OBS Studio
- for editing and combining the video clips into a single video I am currently using a moderately priced Video Editing program called PowerDirector 365.

The Sermons and Candle Lighting video clips are recorded by Debbie, who sends them to me over the internet. The Music clips, are recorded in a separate session on Wednesday afternoons. I set up the equipment in advance and then the actual music recordings are made by Paul and Brian. I drop by later to pick up the PC containing the video clips, and do the editing and posting to Vimeo the following morning.

John Pauksens

### **Bloorbeat Available via E-mail**

If you wish, you can receive Bloorbeat electronically as an e-mail attachment.

Just inform Halyna in the church office  
416-621-1710

## **Congratulations Jim and Edna!**

Congratulations to Jim and Edna Bell on their 70th Wedding Anniversary, Monday Feb 8!

## **The Ten Commandments for our Time**

In his 1980 book *The Ten Commandments and Human Rights*, Walter Harrelson put together the following decalogue for our time and times:

1. Do not have more than a single ultimate allegiance.
2. Do not give ultimate loyalty to any earthly reality.
3. Do not use the power of religion to harm others.
4. Do not treat with contempt the times set aside for rest.
5. Do not treat with contempt members of the family.
6. Do not do violence against fellow human beings.
7. Do not violate the commitment of sexual love.
8. Do not claim the life or goods of others.
9. Do not damage others through misuse of human speech.
10. Do not lust after the life or goods of others.

## **Bloorbeat on the Internet**

This issue as well as past issues of Bloorbeat can be accessed on the Bloordale United Church website at:

<http://bloordale.ca/bloorbeat/>

## **People Using our Facilities**

Because of the present Covid-19 situation neither BUC nor any of our tenant congregations are currently holding in-person services. Nonetheless several of these congregations have donated to us during the lockdown, and this is greatly appreciated.

There are a few groups that are currently using our facilities, in a manner consistent with Covid 19 guidelines. These are:

- Terry Tan Daycare
- Bloordale Group AA (with max 10 people)
- Quo Vadis School
- Etobicoke Basketball Association
- A Dad and his two kids—for basketball practise
- An individual - for solo basketball practise

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Margaret Cloke**

**August 12, 1921 – January 19, 2021**

### **Ernest David Hughson**

**July 23, 1925 – January 24, 2021**

### **William (Bill) George Alexander**

**July 5, 1928, – January 25, 2021**

### **Gordon Moore**

**August 30, 1949—February 2, 2021**

## Shining Water Affirming Ministry Celebration

Everyone is welcome to mark the commitment we made at our last regional meeting to become an Affirming Region as a part of living into our equity vision. This is being celebrated on March 14 at 2 PM in a special online service of worship. For more information, search on the internet for "Shining Water Affirming Ministry Celebration", or click on this [link](#).

## Brian Given Community Recognition Award

Each year Etobicoke Centre MP Yvan Baker presents numerous Community Recognition Awards, and this year Brian was presented with this Award, alongside many others who have volunteered and made a difference in our local community. The awards were presented on January 17th in the afternoon, and this year the Awards ceremony was a virtual one.

Brian was recognized for his work on the Etobicoke Community Hub and for founding an Anti-Racism Group.

## Bulletin and Anthem Sponsorship Opportunities

Would you like to honour the memory of a loved one, commemorate a special event or occasion, such as an anniversary, or simply show your appreciation of someone? For \$15 you can dedicate the Sunday worship bulletin, and have notice of your dedication. Just call Halyna in the office, and give her the date and the information you would like in the bulletin.

Yet another opportunity is to donate \$100 to purchase multiple copies of an anthem for the Bloordale choir library. Whenever that anthem is sung, the bulletin will contain a line of remembrance and acknowledgement, so the anthem becomes a lasting, living memorial. Speak to Paul W or Brian if you're interested in this musical option.

## Congregational Connections Coffee Hour!

Each Sunday we're hosting an opportunity to connect with other congregational members and friends by having a 30-minute zoom coffee hour at 11:30 am.

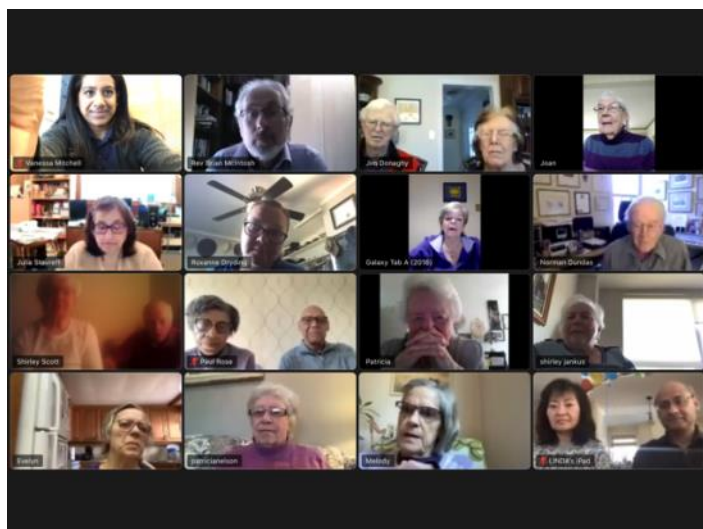
For telephone users, the local numbers to use in our area of Canada are 647-374 4685 and/or 647-558-0588, and you will need the passcode below. Here's an example of a Zoom url and associated meeting ID and Passcode, that you can use in order to connect from your PC or Smartphone,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85453608910?pwd=UmdONjRpV2pKL3JCYWQvZFRIT2VHQOT09>

Meeting ID: 854 5360 8910  
Passcode: 543391

Please Note that there is a **new** url, and **new** meeting ID and Passcode each week. They are provided in the "Note to Congregation" e-mail that is sent out by Halyna each week (usually on Fridays).

A screen shot from our Anniversary Sunday Zoom meeting, taken by Vanessa Mitchell, is shown below.



## Change Your Clocks on March 14th

to "Spring Forward" into Daylight Saving Time.

## **Past Bloordale Anniversary Awards**

For the past nine years we've bestowed upon three people the Annual Bloordale Anniversary Awards, as a way of recognizing the significant contribution that our members make to both the church and the community. They were:

### **The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award**

The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award is given to a member in recognition of long-term, distinguished service to Bloordale United Church. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual, who must have been a member for at least ten years.

#### **Previous Award Recipients**

2020-Shirley Jankus      2019-Shirley Scott  
 2018-Pat Nelson          2017-Edna Bell  
 2016-Helen Hitchcock    2015-Jo-EmBettridge  
 2014-Ross Prout          2013-Joan Hollowell  
 2012-Grace Everett

### **The Bloordale Community Service Award**

The Bloordale Community Service Award is given to remarkable people who put service at the center of their lives, making a significant contribution to the surrounding community. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

#### **Previous Award Recipients**

2020-Pat Conway-Willis    2019-Diane Mulholland  
 2018-Diane Hercus          2017-Joan Hollowell  
 2016-Frank Sword          2015-Ruth Alexander  
 2014-Jim Donaghy          2013-Jack Lovatt  
 2012-Bill Alexander

### **The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award**

The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award is given to a person who has offered significant leadership in the past year toward achieving our vision and mission goals and objectives. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

#### **Previous Award Recipients**

2020-Beth Jazvac          2019-Paul Rose  
 2018-Pat Conway-Willis    2017-Roy Harvey  
 2016-Jim Donaghy          2015-Bob Hitchcock  
 2014-Norman Dundas      2013-Julia Stavreff  
 2012-John Pauksens

## **Bloordale Anniversary Awards for 2021**

This year is the tenth year that we are bestowing these awards. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we were unable to gather for our usual Anniversary celebration and dinner, and to bestow the Awards in person. So the Awards were presented to the recipients via Zoom link at our online "Coffee and Conversation" time on Anniversary Sunday, March 7th.

This year' Award recipients were:

### **The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award**

Dana Bach

### **The Bloordale Community Service Award**

Lynn Lawrence

### **The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award**

Debbie Cauch-McIntosh

# **STAY SAFE!**



## **Introducing the 2021 Anniversary Award Winners**

### **Bloordale Outstanding Service Award**

#### **Introduction by Debbie Cauch McIntosh**

It is my pleasure to introduce the Outstanding Service Award recipient **Dana Bach** who is also an outstanding person.

Dana has supported many of our church's activities including providing leadership for the Out of the Cold dinner.

She has also been a member of committees such as Pastoral Care, M&P including either chairing or co-chairing within these committees. She has also taken notes and been Secretary of Council.

Dana is also a captain of an ushering team and has been seen on occasion outside our church shovelling.

Dana you are very much appreciated and so deserving of this Outstanding Service Award.

Congratulations!  
Debbie Cauch-McIntosh

#### **Remarks by Dana**

The Anniversary Award for Outstanding Service was a surprise but renews my spirit after the year that wasn't! Yes, I have served on committees and supported the work of others, but so do most members. One accomplishment that gave me the most satisfaction, was initiating the process, in mid - July, 2018, when our previous Director of Music suddenly resigned. So many people responded and shared their shock; a request for volunteers for a search committee was quickly answered. The process was enlightening for me and our choice, guided by the choir's input, was one we have never regretted: Paul Wisniewski has continued to be a great asset, especially over the past year.

I had been gradually withdrawing from Bloordale responsibilities since early 2019, so I could take a sabbatical, so to speak. I needed space to reflect on how and where I

was spending my energy, no doubt affected by reaching a significant birthday in 2020. Then, the pandemic arrived. Lots of time for reflection! I am a solitary person by nature, so Bloordale United Church has been a connection to community and I appreciate the liberal nature of this particular church. So much kindness, although the declining, and aging, membership meant members wore many hats, adding to increasing stress and some tense moments.

I do look forward to meeting together again, in our wonderful sanctuary, seeing you all face-to-face. It may not be soon, but it will happen. Where there is shadow, there is also light. Thank you for your faith.

Dana Bach  
March, 2021

### **Mission and Vision Award**

#### **Introduction by Pat Conway-Willis**

It is my pleasure to introduce **Debbie Cauch -McIntosh** as the Mission and Vision Award Recipient

Debbie joined Bloordale approximately 9 years ago and became the lovely wife of Brian. 6 1/2 years ago .

Since then, Debbie has joined many committees, along with the Indigenous, the Outreach, Black lives matter. so on..

Whenever I or anyone else ask for assistance she is always there, With the help of John P, she makes the video recordings of the Sermons for our Sunday Services.

Debbie has a great sense of humour, we always have great laughs.

Debbie enjoys spending so much time with her granddaughter. She continues to make sure that her father is doing well, along with her brother.

Like all of us, looking forward, to when we can all get together on Sundays.

Thanks again Debbie for doing all that you do, I am sure I have touched on a few and there are many.

Have a good one and many thanks for all you do

Cheers

Pat

### **Remarks by Debbie**

I was totally surprised and ecstatic to receive an email to say that I was nominated and had won Bloordale's Vision and Mission Award. I am truly blessed and humbled to receive this amazing award.

Bloordale UC has allowed me to spiritually grow and nurture my participation in being supportive and compassionate within and outside our church.

Special thanks to John Pauksen for his patience and teachings of the computer for the service videos which we are able to provide online. To my stepdaughter Lydia who introduced me to the camera function and camera roll. A bonus to video taping Brian is I get to hear the sermon twice!! Haha

Seriously, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to Pat Conway Willis for nominating me, my husband Brian for his love and support and to all of you for your ongoing care and support.

Congratulations again to Dana and Lynn who are my fellow winners and so deserving of their awards. So proud and honoured to have won with you both!

Blessings,  
Debbie Cauch-McIntosh

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## **The Bloordale Community Service Award**

### **Introduction by Joan Hollowell**

In 2010, **Lynn Lawrence** came to Bloordale and joined the Choir and the Outreach Committee. She threw herself wholeheartedly into both. As well, she has always been willing and able to help in any way needed at Bloordale, and was especially keen about participating in community service activities such as Bloordale's Children's Craft Night.

Supporting Canada's Indigenous people has always been a passion for Lynn. Even before coming to Bloordale she followed and was involved in Indigenous matters. In the Bloordale Outreach Committee, together with Brian and Debbie she attended meetings and demonstrations in Ottawa and Manitoulin Island supporting Indigenous rights.

In this past year, Lynn was the force behind the "Black Lives Matter" and "Indigenous Lives Matter" signs that were put up at BUC, in our neighbourhood, her own Port Credit Neighbourhood, and other neighbourhoods.

Thank you and congratulations Lynn for all you have done and continue to do for the causes of Social and Racial Justice.

Joan Hollowell,  
with Notes by Julia Stavreff

### **Remarks by Lynn**

As I wrote to a BUC Friend yesterday...

"I was totally in a shocked 'Pinch Me' moment when I read the announcement!

It's still rather unbelievable ... as I'm just a tiny part of the whole BUC membership team who all share whatever and whenever they can.

That core of dedicated people who are working daily to keep everything going at BUC (especially in COVID time) are beyond amazing.

As I tried to convey on the Zoom ... Bloordale is and has been a great gift of belonging and welcome in my Life ever since the first time I came there way back in 2010 !!!

It's an amazing community of caring faith friends that reach out well beyond the Church walls to care and support others ... What a great privilege to be a member of this wonderful circle !!!

Thank you to Joan Hollowell for her kind words of introduction in presenting me with the BUC Community Service Award .

Truly, I was in shock to see my name listed

along with the other greatly deserving Award Recipients Debbie and Dana.

At this anniversary time , I think back to the BUC community's vision 63 years ago, in choosing the configuration of a circle for it's sanctuary... an instant visual symbol of belonging and inclusion !!!

And how did I come to find myself at BLOODDALE U C ?

For some time, I had been looking for a new Church Home. It was on a July 2010 European Choir Tour that I found out Brian was a Minister working with the tour Musical Director at Bloordale United Church.

That Autumn I attended a Sunday service. From the moment I opened the door, I was warmly greeted and in the coming months I knew that BUC would be the church home I had been looking for.

Not only was the Choir Amazing, the Prayers and Sermons Awesome but also I noticed that Brian always wore a beaded necklace displaying the Indigenous Four Directions' colours – white, yellow, red and black, signalling I surmised, that Social Justice was important to the Bloordale Leadership.

I wanted to belong to a Faith Family that nurtured each other within its walls but equally looked outside to actively address real issues in its surrounding community and beyond. What a Team of committed Outreach I was privileged to join!

SO... If I might ... the ONE thing (besides the music!) that brings joy and great affirmation for me through Bloordale Membership is the privilege of being associated with "some" of all Bloordale's many Outreach Projects!

COVID isolation has allowed for much purposeful, positive reflection time. We must risk being the change we want to see.

I was shocked but not surprised to hear Harry and Meghan in their two hour conversation with Oprah last night, name the racism they experienced.

Racism exists ! Right here !

What is it? What does it look like? What can

we do to change it ?

By our BUC Church Council's choosing to display the BLM and ILM lawn signs, we as a church have declared to all who passed by, our intent to be talking openly about these issues, which will and can lead to change, one conversation at a time!

I am proud to join Joan Hollowell and Melody Klassen at the weekly ZOOM Book Group discussing Desmond Cole's book, "The Skin We're In", that Brian alerted us to some weeks back.

I have learned that naming racist words and attitudes, subtle or blatant is the beginning of change!

Thank You to Barb Saunders for placing a pair of BLM and ILM Signs on her lawn. If others would like a pair of these signs, I have some looking for a home ( for FREE ) which I would happily drop off at your door!

Those on my lawn sparked much fruitful conversation!

It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces at the 63rd Anniversary Celebration on Zoom.

For sure we all miss being at Church together in person so much! But keeping safe, patient, hopeful and getting a Vaccine will get us there one day soon!

Again, thank you Bloordale for this Award!

With Great Humility and Huge Appreciation...

Sincerely,  
Lynn Lawrence

## **Council Approves Annual Report and Budget**

The Council of Bloordale United Church met on Feb. 22nd by Zoom, and approved the Annual Report and the 2021 Budget, which were subsequently shared with the congregation. Questions about the Report or the Budget are encouraged, and can be directed to Brian, Pat Conway-Willis, or another relevant leader.

## **Outreach, Education and Advocacy News**

### **Anti-Racism Activity and Conversations**

The group a few of us helped to start last fall has become the Etobicoke Anti-Racism Action Coalition (EARAC), as it continues to both find its voice and unite in determining its niche in the struggle against anti-black racism. Paul Rose is very involved, serving on a Steering Team with Brian, and Sylvia Williams attends and has shared two articles regarding black history during a very busy Black History Month in February.

### **Refugee Sponsorship Update**

We're still waiting for medical checks and other bureaucratic steps to be taken, including we presume the opening of international travel to some extent, to enable the refugee we sponsored, whose application was approved in April of 2020 to actually arrive in Canada.

However, after being approached by a Syrian refugee support organization, the Syrian Canadian Foundation, we've formulated a plan that has been approved by Council to submit an application to sponsor 2 Syrian women, a mother and daughter, upon receipt of the \$30,000 being raised for the sponsorship by that partner organization, as well as upon completion of a signed Memorandum of Understanding, which is basically done. A sponsorship spot awaits our application as part of the United Church's 2021 allotment as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the federal government, which we hope will result in as swift an application process as possible – though it's still likely at least two or three years away before the pair would arrive!

### **Outreach Fund Donations Have Continued**

We've also continued to share our Outreach Fund donations with a number of organizations with whom we partner or whom we want to support, and we thank all who have continued to give of their resources to support that Fund.

## **Re-Opening Further Delayed**

With Toronto entering a modified Grey Zone as of Monday March 8th, and the limit to in-person worship being moved from 5 to only 10 people according to public health guidelines, we continue to be unable to contemplate re-opening for worship anytime soon. We remain hopeful that the vaccine rollout will continue to ramp up, and that it will enable us to continue to reduce the cases in our area and therefore fuel the likelihood of our in-person worship capability returning at some point this spring or summer.

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## **Vanessa's New House in Niagara Falls**

Vanessa (nee Ramsahai) and Kevin Mitchell have purchased a lot and are having a house built for them in Niagara Falls, Ontario. They expect to be moving in there in late Summer of 2021. Vanessa has shared picture of the new house which is still under construction.





## **My Dad's Covid Vaccination**

As I watch closely to the news and listen out for the vaccine rollout here in Ontario, better yet the Peel region, I heard Mayor Bonnie Crombie announce Monday afternoon "you can now register for 80+ year olds to get their vaccines @ Trillium Hospital." The announcement was very short and quick as Mayor Crombie mentioned [trilliumhealthpartners.ca](http://trilliumhealthpartners.ca) so I rushed to my iPad and quickly jumped on the site to register my dad who is 83 years old. I found it quite easy to navigate and the registration was just a few simple questions. Once completed, a message popped up to say that I will be contacted with an appointment. By Wednesday evening, I got an e-mail on behalf of my dad to say his appointment will be Friday March 5th @ 4:25 pm. I was impressed with how quickly I got a reply back. I booked some time off work to drive my dad to the hospital as we did not know what to expect and away we went.

Watching the news constantly can be informative but also a bit intimidating as of course we see much of the negative side of things. We anticipated a lengthy, long drawn out line up out in the cold from previous stories we saw on the news, so we prepared ourselves. Upon arrival to Trillium Hospital near Hurontario and The Queensway, we pulled into the Emergency entrance and followed the signs to the back for "Covid Vaccinations". We got a parking spot no problem and walked right in @ 4:05 pm. My dad answered a few questions at the front and away we went down the hall with no lines to wait. He immediately booked his second appointment with the clerk and walked into the vaccination room. He sat down and the nurse asked a few questions and explained which vaccine he was getting (Pfizer). A few seconds later he had his needle and we went to the waiting area for him to wait his 15 mins to see if he had any reactions. By 4:35 pm we were on our way out. We were quite shocked at how quick and fast the process was. 30 mins total! I would

say it was a very well-oiled machine with the kind of experience we had. As we walked out, they provided us a receipt of the make/lot# and details of the vaccine and took our parking stub to validate the parking (Free parking...Bonus!).

While on our way home I asked my dad how he is feeling and he surprisingly said "I don't feel anything at all but hungry as I starved myself all day". By the way, you do not need to starve yourself, he was just anxious and did not know what to expect. He felt no pain in his arm even shortly after the jab. But here we are 72 hours after the fact and he still feels no side effects and no pain in his arm at all from the shot. I did sign up for the survey they e-mail out to keep track of his progress incase anything happens. It is also good to report to others of his experience so that this can be part of the statistics of the success of the vaccine.

I do hope that this will encourage others who are questioning the validity of the experience and outcome. Although we are all different and handle medications and vaccinations differently, so far this is another success story for the vaccine win!

Roxanne Dryding  
Chair of Social & Fundraising

## **Calendars for Veterans**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We've never had such a wonderful response! 58 calendars were delivered to Sunnybrook on December 23rd as our Legion Service Officer was on her way up that day. On Wednesday January 6th, 21 more were picked up from the Church Office and went to Sunnybrook shortly thereafter. In 2019, We collected 48. This year - 83! Thank you for thinking of our Veterans!

Nelsona

## Shall We Celebrate?

The Finance Committee was able to pull out of their pockets \$1,000 for a Post Covid Bloordale celebration!!

Yes, you heard me right!

After all the vaccinations are said and done, and God willing, we can avoid that 3<sup>rd</sup> wave... Bloordale would like to hear from you about what it is and how it is that you want to celebrate together, in person, face to face. Social Distancing and face coverings may or may not still be in full effect.

Avoiding that 3<sup>rd</sup> wave is crucial to this celebration. If all goes well, we can plan for having it in the fall of 2021.

Do you have ideas???? Let me know. You can reach me @ [roxannel.dryding@yahoo.ca](mailto:roxannel.dryding@yahoo.ca) (that is a lower case "L" after my first name) or 416-881-0997. You can text me, call me, leave me a voicemail. I'm here to listen to your ideas.

Roxanne Dryding  
Chair of Social & Foundraising

**HAPPY 63<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
BLOODALE !  
1958 - 2021**

## Upcoming Events

In every Bloorbeat, there is a list of upcoming events, presented/hosted by Bloordale. It is one of our readers' favourite things to read.

Alas, virtually all in-person activities have been cancelled at Bloordale since last March 15<sup>th</sup>, (due to COVID-19), with no clearly foreseeable resumption date in the near future.

Listed below are some of Bloordale's activities that have been missed; we wait for things to normalize, so that we may resume.

- Choir
- Children's Choir
- Lunch Bunch
- Sunday Coffee Hour
- Men's Luncheons
- Open Gym for Teens
- Wesburn Manor Services
- Ladies Friendship Circle
- Pastoral Committee Seminars
- Social Committee Outings
- Power of Pen Series
- Welcoming BBQ
- Semi Annual Congregational Meeting
- Tasting Night with Walima Women's kitchen
- Tenants/Congregants Potluck
- Fall/Spring Cleanup
- Holly Tea
- Little Free Library
- Congregational Singing
- Children's Craft Night

## Consider a Planned Gift to Bloordale United Church

Giving a gift to the Planned Gift Fund through your will is one way to continue faithful stewardship beyond your lifetime. When your estate plan is prepared please consider a gift to your church through the Bloordale Planned Gift Fund. Contact Julia Stavreff or Norm

## Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines *(updated Jan. 2019)*

When you email items to Julia and myself for Bloorbeat, please include the word "Bloorbeat" and words about the specific content in your e-mail header and in any file names, e.g. "Bloorbeat Upcoming Events". This makes it much easier to locate the items in my rather busy e-mail inbox when putting the Bloorbeat together.

In general, for text-based submissions, please avoid use of fancy fonts, and fancy spacings or tab settings because these create more work for me and make it more difficult to maintain a consistent style in the newsletter. And please never use "All Caps" in headings or elsewhere .

Straight text, in 11 point font, with bold (but not underlined) headings in 14 point font, is best. Use word wrap within a paragraph and "Enter" key at end of paragraphs, but not at end of each line.

For photographs of church related items we can handle the standard graphics formats such as .tif .gif, .jpg, .png or .pdf. We print in black and white but post on the church website in colour.

For advertisements, PDF or uncompressed TIFF are the preferred formats. Please check picture clarity and text clarity of your ad printed in your chosen size in black and white on a laser printer and viewed in colour on a computer monitor.

**Join Our Circle of Friends!**

## Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

One of the ways that people who care about Bloordale act to secure its future is through the PAR program. Brochures that outline how to do this are available in the display case near the office, or speak to Brian, Norm Dundas or Julia Stavreff if you'd like more information. PAR does offer the church your

## Subscribe to "Broadview"!

If you don't subscribe to the UC Observer, our award winning magazine about spirituality, justice and ethical living, you might not know that it's received a significant makeover, and is now being marketed more generally, with the new name Broadview. Take a look at Broadview, on the Outreach table, and consider subscribing if you don't already, at a very

## Invitation for Submissions to Bloorbeat

Spiritual perspectives, committee news, community happenings, and ideas for changes and improvements to make Bloordale an even nicer place than it already is are all welcome.

Please submit or discuss your ideas with our Communications Committee chair

Julia Stavreff, 416-622-6309,  
stavreffj@stavreff.ca

## Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
	<b>2021</b>
May 16	May 9
Sept 19	Sept 12
Nov 14	Nov 7

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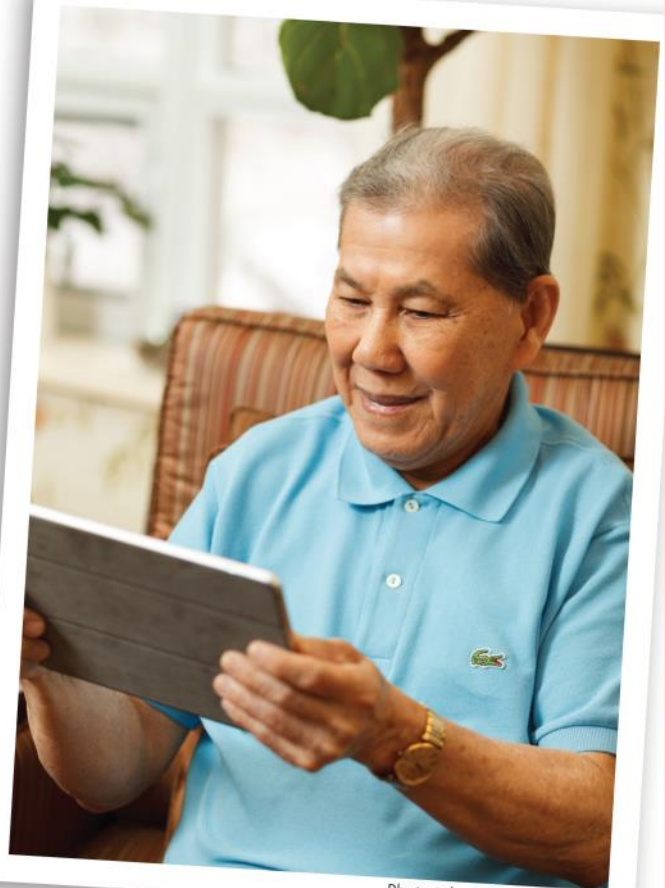


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