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| **MARCH 2017** **Northwest Word**   **Northwest Association News,** **Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ**Annual Meetings|MID|Lenten Studies|LOCAL churches|News|Transitions|ACM|Pulpit Supply  |

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| **Northwest Association Annual Meeting**Saturday, April 29th St Paul's UCC, Wausau |

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| The Executive Committee of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ invites all churches (pastors, lay delegates, youth, retired clergy, and visitors) to the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at St. Paul's UCC, 426 Washington St., Wausau, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 29th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. We are honored to announce that the Rev. Winton Boyd will be our keynote speaker. He has been Senior Pastor at Orchard Ridge UCC in Madison since 1999. Since 2007, he has also been a facilitator with the Center for Courage and Renewal. In this capacity, he has led retreats for clergy, facilitated community discussion on civility, and grown from the insights of people from many vocations, disciplines, religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds. His topic will be *Faithful Living in Confusing Times.* Together, we'll reflect on how to live faithfully as followers of Jesus and members of our local, state and national communities. We'll explore what might be possible for our congregations in a time when so many are facing despair, anger and confusion around our socio-political climate.  At a time when many are asking for new compassionate leadership in our toxic times, we'll wonder together what role we have in shaping a faithful witness and resistance movement in our country today that reflects our Christian faith and Christian witness to justice and compassion.  Tell us your story! We will have an exhibition space available and we invite each church to display examples of how God is using your congregation to transform lives and change our world ... how you are shifting from maintenance to mission.   $10.00 per person$5.00 for confirmation students and youthRegister [online](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJuOol0_ZxfojQ1wOCDROL-SCqvtmWwIgeqIHZ8BB-zujTR8okvrDZkzDC_RY6uIll0AM2N5ywb-QA9SNGcYdlKCNv2m4GHaMXD4IgQ7jiyLiSZezsiqWLlVfOW6j7sDwNcPcJFfKRawEcqXRo2cT5c4dsZ_ZiqIFLvOXjHaT3RfqQ_uw1bRpQ3sijclDTcudyXNWgcgiYECCsWBbkQVmEZJqkUm74XlpnqGHraNUUnsZ4wqpsBJuAxgwlnWRxGjQiBKdtHUCt-hZMj5CJBI2RVk3rYoG2VwHNpmW9CpjRTsoibW-TLXG4jE8DDL5jrR6e&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==) The registration deadline is Friday, April 21st.   |

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| **Stacy Craig** |
| Stacy is the newest member in discernment n the Northwest Association. She is a member at St Paul's UCC, Delta WI.Stacy grew up in Sioux Falls SD and came to Wisconsin to attend Northland College where she earned a B.A. degree in Religion/Philosophy and Outdoor Education. Today she works for Northland as the Coordinator of Applied Learning.Stacy serves as a volunteer EMT in Mason WI.Please keep Stacy in your prayers. |

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| **Northwest Association Per Capita Revenue 2017 Fact Sheet** The NW Association recently sent invoices reflecting the Per Capita increase approved at the 2016 annual meeting.  Beginning in 2017, the per capita amount per member is $4.50.  This fact sheet helps break down what the Per Capita is all about:**What is Per Capita?** Each Association in the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ provides programming, staffing, and support of the churches in that geographic area.  The cost of those services are supported by Per Capita contributions from each congregation.  The Per Capita amount is a set dollar amount for each member.  Congregations receive an annual billing of their total Per Capita cost based on congregational membership.  The NW Association congregations currently have approximately 10,592 members in total.  **History** The Northwest Association maintained the same Per Capita amount of $3.75 for over a decade.  In recent years, the revenue has not been enough to cover expenses in the budget, which has caused a budget deficit.  This has required difficult decisions to reduce funding for important programs. **Planning for the Future** At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Association, the budget proposal included a recommendation for a modest increase to the Per Capita amount.  After passing a successful motion from a delegate to the conference, the Per Capita amount was raised to $4.50 per member.  This will correct the budget so the NW Association can continue to provide vital services for congregations. This correction in revenues will accomplish: * A balanced budget that covers expenses without a deficit
* Reinstatement of program funding that was reduced to balance the 2016 budget
* Consideration of vital future programming to support congregations, including scholarships, grants, assistance with search efforts, and more
* Critical review of reserve balances

**With Gratitude** It is a privilege to provide the mission and support that we are called to through the NW Association on the WI Conference United Church of Christ.  With a still very lean budget, so much is accomplished in our congregations and that is something to be grateful for.  Thank for your faithful work and contributions.  God Bless.  |
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**New Book** **by Barb de Souza**Barbara de Souza, our Brazilian healthcare missionary who in retirement moved back to River Falls, has recently published a book detailing her life and ministry called "When Sleeping Women Awake, Mountains Will Move." The books are available  [https://www.amazon.com/When-Sleeping-Women-Awake-Mountains/dp/1603500634](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJ8MwNGnerMCHHfEIEUNaycdoyISuxA7toXxwwhTAPna8I75OLgX006cdbg8B8mzRIuQ7Hqxsb1ub6RGLmhg9l3TeFflNdywUlPOz47rt5xNYnEA1cCfk3Nn6R8WnHfYZ0B8vaXyh-OsmpcxWGz1_D1YSLLClesHPz&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==) Money from sales of the books will go to the Association  of Community Health Educators in Brazil.  Please be sure to congratulate her on this accomplishment!  |
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| Dear UCC Sisters and Brothers,Singers in your congregation / community are invited to consider joining the ministry of the Wisconsin Gospellers.  After 10 years of focusing on a transatlantic partnership, we are now cultivating new connections-with the New York Conference and Safe Haven UCC< which is a young “church plant” in Queens. We believe that music bridges geographic and cultural divides.  We also believe that each one of us has a responsibility to learn about the historical circumstances in which gospel music is rooted. We sing as worshippers, and lean of God’s grace-and human fellowship—as we step outside own “comfort zones.” Even if you-or the singers amongst you-are not interested in the Gospellers’ NYC tour, I hope you might consider joining us at an upcoming 2nd Saturday rehearsal.  Details on our website:                             <http://www.wisconsingospellers.org>. Please feel free to contact me or Music Director Mark Schmitt markschmitt2@me.com with any questions and/or ideas. Gratefully yours Kimberly Redding        guys-mom@hotmail.com And the Wi Gospellers.  |
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| CHURCH NEWS **First Congregational United Church of Christ** LaCrosse wants you to declutter.The Spring Rummage Sale Is April 29th!    Used Book Sale is Saturday, April 22.   Proceeds go toward our  church mission trip to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado!**First Congregational UCC Menomonie**  celebrated PIE day, 3.14,  by sharing pieces of pie as an intergenerational event. Bakers, deliverers and pie eaters all enjoyed the event. **First Congregational Park Falls**Windows to Our Future is offering the opportunity to purchase all or part of a new window for the church.  **Hope United Church of Christ,  Cochrane**, received four new members since the beginning of January—Barb LaDuke, Rose Cyert, Jeri Baures, and Audrey Holien.  Welcome!**First Congregational UCC, River Falls** **Swing Dance**-Put your dancing shoes on! The Music at First Church Series presented by the Music Committee hosts The After Hours Big Band on **Sunday, March 26, from 3 to 5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Come to dance or simply tap your feet & enjoy the music, all are welcome!  |
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| Prayers and sympathy for Mary Jo Laabs, Interim pastor at Community UCC in Medford and member at St Stephens in Merrill.Mary Jo's son, Nathan Knospe, passed to eternal life March 13, 2017.Nathan's [obituary.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuSg-EQy-ZOZzp7eLOCn67SgPtn43uJDqPRdh20nG8L85FOuDD8cX1HKoPcaL0KDwW9CfYhMc9TEN8qrYGjDpyPogD_QGuM-HC0A3Vjtl4cvdUGUB4RFPyfIL58tlM1OSlA7Gm1PGi2UE68ZUJJS7bHOH8_O9mOtl8wv0h7Zz3mN0&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==)  |

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| **Constitutional Changes to be considered at the Annual Meeting**To all Members of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference:  When changes were made on the Conference and Association levels a few years ago, the position of the Association Minister changed.  Those changes were never updated in the Constitution of the Northwest Association.  In the fall of 2015, an adhoc Constitution Revision Committee was formed under the Executive Committee of the Northwest Association to review the entire Constitution and propose revisions.  That group consists of Rev. Rob MacDougall, Rev. David Huber, and Susan Stein.  The [enclosed document](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuSg-EQy-ZOZzLs6OXCb-6u-AgKtqy3mRNGmOvpPIJg5DdSCimw0PYv4LPfZpz1-fS32HJDCckjw044o2DER4ZYRfKVF_euxy4PazHb8rb9QkI7vgucbQ0JhaROvSQme_-z8q_Lfhnh61YbYjhdyQ6dh-kifhHnl11qfozJ0Drr-PJLJ0l5WnF1NKOnpPz8ewqnPvrpCPljY9&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==) reflects their work.  The Executive Committee met on January 5, 2017, and it voted to recommend these changes to the membership.  The action on these proposed amendments will be taken at the Northwest Association’s Annual Meeting to be held on April 29, 2017, with acceptance or rejection of the entire document.    The most important items include the increase in the number of lay delegates (Article III.E.4); changes in the duties of the Treasurer (Article V.A.2.d.;);  replacement of language describing the Associate Conference Minister’s position (Article V.B.); the changes in the number of elected persons on most Divisions (Article V.D.2.a); the update of inclusive language in Article V.D.2.d.; the requirement of written reports by Divisions and Committees in Article V.D.3.; and the addition of Article VI.B. which authorizes the Executive Committee to update the Constitution when the Synod changes its paragraph numbers.  Note that two of the proposed amendments will not be put into effect until after this Annual Meeting.  One is to change the number of people on two of the Divisions from nine to six.  The Division membership changes will happen through the Nominating Committee’s ballot at the 2018 Annual Meeting.  The other change is for the number of delegates each Local Church may send to the NWA Annual Meeting or other special meetings of the Association.  That change will increase delegates so that each church will have a minimum of two delegates after this meeting.  That will be effective for representation at any Special Meeting called after today, and absolutely for the 2018 Annual Meeting.  Blessings,  Rev. Rob MacDougall Rev. David Huber Susan Stein  |
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| **Conference Annual Meeting****June 9-11, 2017**The WI Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be held the weekend of June 9-11 at the Green Lake Conference  Center. Those who have attended in the past have learned that there is nothing more inspiring than to worship with 500 people from around the State of WI. There is nothing more encouraging than to hear what our brothers and sisters in Christ are doing in their churches across the State; to attend workshops  on different topics of interest; to listen to marvelous speakers; explore the display area and to experience “church” in the WI Conference UCC. [Official call to the Annual meeting](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJjuXdponPRqsgIb4sL87ZWkmvLgoFCsY1I4Qch2o8J6jylLIXYkin4EVS4EPsJBMkOXAC7WSAg-HrWM3Pa7-LQmU4WJotpZOMqbKmSjo5dZf8iZEsyd8vXrM3udZyZRATvoZW_Q22ZK8dMXo1KU4rFtSMk7Zm6zimDcF32pIbshA=&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==)  |
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|     **Have You Had Your Conversation?**               At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, a vote was taken to begin a year of study by Congregations on what it would mean to become an Immigrant Welcoming Conference.  At the annual meeting in June 2017, a vote to formally adopt the resolution will be held.            How will your church vote?  What does it mean to be Immigrant Welcoming?  Have you had a conversation?  A copy of the resolution can be found on [**www.wcucc.org**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuWjuWugZo0DeUA3z_PBUAUIuulyhNC3VeFDXdL34ficirLnZUSjo6NW_KWm-QNULtLsMB3PqhlLX0Hlq1HFkgWZfRcjJFyI9vQ==&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==).  A number of free resources are available to help you lead your congregation in discussion and discernment:   * [www.ucc.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJNd86Fsq0ATjzyJyK4m_1z8oQq0Nn8R1wypRHWQqMLQg21qYBH4o7BQfCCBceYKCuKVAIfNsPyKLcgJsEYhlYmA==&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==) “Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation - The Journey is Made by Walking”
* [www.wichurches.org/programs-and-ministries/becoming-welcoming-communities-immigration-reform/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJktYMiZmgoYzzjcfGyfefqW-QRmv-G1n6lEtB8hk3jtWZVDL3BAE3njZWW8oGlChrvjRUB5qfSjpetkBnDzXd99-UiJ4KmmhHQrauI2YcM402WeDnTj2ECJGWNUWnv5CIUlrS8mGQ2xXEj2w8GHgE4hmjMDCpaOmi-9xkMTzvehSFYuvQcwU2y4RQHkS2DZp6&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==)  “Becoming Welcoming Communities:Study Guide and Session Handouts” , prepared by the WI Council of Churches
* [www.wichurches.org/programs-and-ministries/interfaith/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuVw8zpbqHYCJ_Snn3U3PzYbge_S9vWG7vJGaeWTcEAXJtm2_vaN00BWSuW65XzDKceodf5DpLDmhQLxRoRUJHvo3X0OLbauvVEu2zgYy-A_Xdpl3L7GMbICTU0ZC0N0ESEj_i4ThYPLyXWxqDRZL9mk=&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==)  a related study from WI Council of Churches, “Loving Our Interfaith Neighbors”

As immigration issues are front and center in the daily news, the Division of Ministry of the Church in the World (DMCW) of the Northwest Association would encourage all churches to inform themselves as we seek to understand the role of the Church in welcoming the stranger.  For more information, visit the “Have You Had a Conversation” display provided by (DMCW) at the Northwest Association meeting on April 29.    Sue McBride, member of the DMCW  |
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| **Lenten Studies**St Stephens Lenten Book Study, *Sabbath as Resistance - Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW**Trintity United Church of Christ, La Crosse,* **“Extra-Biblical Jesus”** ***A Lenten Study***First Congregational UCC Menomonie – ImmigrationNekoosa UCC, Living the Questions First Congregational UCC La Crosse, The Call:   The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul    |
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| **Clergy transitions:**  On Sunday, March 12, Congregational UCC Ladysmith and Congregational UCC Conrath called Rev. David Bowles to be their new pastor;  Rev. Matt Schneider-Adams has accepted a call to serve a church in Iowa, he will be leaving United Church of Christ Prescott the end of May, and Rev. Sue Schneider-Adams has resigned as transitional pastor at Congregational UCC Roberts effective the beginning of June, they will be greatly missed and we wish them well as they move to new ministries. |

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| **Celebrating 100 years of ministry** |
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**St Paul's Ellsworth**March 19, St. Paul’s UCC former Pastor, Keith Trembath will be here to speak as we continue to celebrate our 150th anniversary of ministry.  His message is titled, *The Journey:  Then, Now and Beyond.*  Then, the following week, we will have a visiting pastor, the Rev. Burt Williams, who will be sharing a very creative message titled, *Great Things Can Happen!*  |

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| **Reflection from Rev. Rob MacDougall, ACM, NWA** There is a Celtic prayer that begins this way:      **God, kindle within our hearts today a flame of love       for our neighbors,       for our foes,       for our friends,       for our people,       for the brave,       for the cowardly,       for the thoughtless ones …**During this season of Lent, as we read and remember the stories of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem and we hear about friends and foes, the brave and cowardly, we are astonished that God kindled a flame of love in Jesus’ heart for them all, for us. I give thanks for all of you, our congregations and pastors, who open yourselves to God’s kindling during Lent.  I give thanks for all of you who gave and received ashes on Ash Wednesday, for all who have undertaken Lenten studies on immigration and prayer, for all who hold special worship services and meals where all people, young and old are welcome, for all of you who give of your time and resources to people around you. Over the years I have heard some say that the season of Lent has lost its vitality, strength and even spiritual relevance for Christian people, but I am observing that just the opposite is true for people in our churches.  I have heard people speak this year of a need to be deeply grounded in the strength of the gospel of love.  In a time of life when people are feeling uncertainty and confusion, they/we are opening ourselves to the kindling of love in our hearts.  As has been true for centuries, during Lent people of faith clear away the clutter and deceit of life that we might be claimed again by the peace, wisdom, justice and mercy of God. For all our churches and pastors I give thanks this Lent and I pray that God’s kindling burst into flames and ignites us all with love.     |

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| **Wisdom of the Seasons Women 's Retreat**SPRING SEASON RETREAT   For Adult Women, all ages.    Come and enjoy a day in a country setting to learn from nature, scripture and conversation. Each “Season” reveals the rhythms and cycle of our physical and spiritual lives.  Saturday April 22  9am to 3pm Lessons of Spring: Cultivating our Lives Digging Deep, Planting New Seeds, Realizing our Roots  Location: Brad and Julie Garber Home 13975 Shaky Lane Fairchild WI     Led by Julie; UCC Licensed Pastor, Spiritual Director, Yoga Instructor, RN \*\*Limited to 15 women Cost: $20 per person; includes light breakfast, lunch, snacks, beverages, art supplies \*Please call to register or for information: 715-577-7372 Future Retreats: 6/24/17, 9/23/17, 1/13/18 |

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| **Camp Registration** |

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Schedule, [https://www.ucci.org/2017-schedule/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuSg-EQy-ZOZzcnNEFXw-fQ3TCy7zXadqFXKbLhhmFzPz2PP_RAvNckFHIhqvaoBGH9JVj_4NP-jGBKABBtMcxrhy6CjBu4wnBF3J3wH0cs6BOJLACsWz94w=&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==)   Scholarships available, [http://www.wcucc.org/associations/northwest-association/resources/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001A1TtNf-BEpLxAGpLiSp5ANyYThAlAnOlcYwag5fAacLivSilgymtuSg-EQy-ZOZz5moEvzZl40nf4szO5PLFrOGVkL3ZlOAnRdp8_LCxPD7h356_Ci4702rOs-SRbDr-IPpel7yR3KUYQvbBccxXC8-YVf3ORmxuprUObuRknB8U9NK0F5la8pvVzACzN98JGic-0gjAzsR2mL93gVA3JQ==&c=qrs-hy8sCoW92q4vPzfwUw6NEULdolx1d_l3BpzsHNTe-A1P0U5zwA==&ch=PQfyCha9dJzXKXjTMagXMeef37vobz7A_7rqXSHWHP8PH2TL4NF-ww==) |

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