

## The TIE



**From our pastor,**  
Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

We are very excited to let everybody know that we are looking to receive several new members this summer. In preparation we had two membership classes. One with Rev. Jim Mitulski, who spoke about the history and mission of the UCC denomination, and one which was led by our own Caryl Hodges, who spoke about the origins and organizational structure of our church. Both sessions have been recorded, so if you are interested, we can send them to you.

Somewhere along the line the question “Who runs the church?” came up. The UCC website says the following: “Local churches have the freedom to govern themselves, establishing their own internal organizational structures and theological positions”.

Every organization has to have, of course, some structures along which it operates. At FCC San Rafael we have several boards of ministries, the trustees and the council, which all have their own area to govern in collaboration with each other. We are very horizontally structured, which is appealing to many people.

On another level though I think of how we as a congregation relate to each other along the lines of this Buddhist story:

*Indra, the king of the gods, owns the net. At each crossing point, a jewel hangs. These jewels stretch endlessly in all directions. Each jewel is so well polished that it reflects all the others. If you look closely at one jewel, you see every other jewel reflected. If you look into one of those reflections, you find all the other jewels again.*

In this story every jewel is both a center and a mirror. No jewel is the “main” jewel — each one is an equal element of the whole network. This is a model of shared leadership; this means authority doesn’t flow from one point downward. Every person in the system is a legitimate center of gravity. Wisdom and understanding grow as we learn from one another. No jewel dominates the others, they just offer a place of reflection.

Together we reflect the infinite beauty of the One who created us, and on the days when our own light feels faint, we are held in the brightness of each other.

Grateful to be on the journey together,

*Pastor Elisabeth*

## MEDITATION GARDEN RETREAT



This picture is from the annual Prayer and Meditation Retreat: “What practices sustain us” in the Fuller-Knopf’s Garden on June 27th. Cathi Fuller expresses her gratitude for all who participated and to Pastor Elisabeth for her leadership. We participated in sharing what practices sustain us, we participated in guided and silent meditation, and with prayers of gratitude or concerns. We shared “communion” together, enjoying brunch while surrounded by the beauty of the songbirds, trees and garden flowers.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

*Please remember the following members of our church family in prayer. Pray for their welfare and growth in faith and discipleship.*



### **June 28 - July 4**

Caran Cuneo

### **July 5 - 11**

Robert De Haan

### **July 12 - 18**

Jackie Dema

### **July 19 - 25**

Julie Dowling

### **July 26 - August 1**

Oak Dowling

### **August 2 - 8**

Anice Flesh

### **August 9 - 15**

Louis Frost

### **August 16 - 24**

Cathi Fuller and David Knopf,  
Rachel and Rebecca

### **August 25 - 29**

Megan Fuller,  
Elizabeth and William Godbey

### **August 30 - September 5**

Judy Girard



# *Come and Worship* with us!

***We will be worshipping at 10 AM in the sanctuary.  
The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).***

|                  |              |                                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 5</b>    | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>"Prayer and Beads" Part 3</b>                                                                           |
| <b>July 12</b>   | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>"Holy Welcome"</b><br>Matthew 10: 40-42                                                                 |
| <b>July 19</b>   | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Welcoming New Members</b><br>Celebration Coffee Hour/Lunch                                              |
| <b>July 26</b>   | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>"Creating a future worth living in."</b><br>Deuteronomy 30:19-20                                        |
| <b>August 2</b>  | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Worship</b>                                                                                             |
| <b>August 9</b>  | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Worship</b>                                                                                             |
| <b>August 16</b> | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Worship</b><br>The choir of Unity Church in Marin will sing.                                            |
| <b>August 23</b> | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Worship</b><br>Rev. Shine from the UCC Church in Tiburon will be preaching, Pastor Elisabeth presiding. |
| <b>August 30</b> | <b>10 AM</b> | <b>Worship</b>                                                                                             |



## **ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY**

We are also providing our Sunday worship service streaming on YouTube at 10 a.m. You can use either your computer, your cell phone, or your tablet. See below.

### **Link to join all church Zoom meetings**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

Meeting ID: ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number **1-669-900-6833**

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP IS NOW LIVE ON YOU TUBE**

We broadcast live Sunday mornings on YouTube. Our channel address is:

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbqlXLjsBEmjdGuoOKnOykA>
- Then click on videos->live
- Subscribe and each week you will get a direct link.

We will also post a direct link each week in the What's Happening? email.

The whole service unedited will be available for a few days; then an edited version to include just the sermon will be posted.

If you are having trouble getting connected, email [Knopf.david@gmail.com](mailto:Knopf.david@gmail.com)

## **MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM**

**July 4:** The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday, July 9**, at 7:00 PM.

**July 17:** The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday, July 15**, at 6:00 PM

**August 6:** The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday, August 6**, at 7:00 PM.

**August 18:** The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday, August 18**, at 11:45 AM.

**August 19:** The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday, August 19** at 6:00 PM

**August 26:** The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday, August 26**, at 12:30 PM.



**KINDNESS — PASS IT ON!**  
*SMILE*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



### Keeping Our Facility Young

It is impossible. But like our own aging bodies, we can do preventive maintenance, make necessary repairs, and treat it with respectful care.

As part of our sewer maintenance, a hole in the cleanout of our upstairs sewer line was found. After obtaining three bids, Plumber Pedro Semana & Sons were selected and will begin work July 2.

Our list for repairs now includes restoring electricity to the Community Room refrigerator, replacing several of the Oak Room overhead lights, getting the courtyard landscape drip system working more effectively, and replacing part of the wood in the Sanctuary entrance threshold.

If you see something that needs repair, inform David Knopf or Amy, our Office Manager.

**If you have repair skills, talk with David.**

### Worship Service Streaming Extends the Reach of Our Church

Last month we had 82 visits to our You-Tube site and 38 different visitors. These numbers probably include people some distance away and some not directly involved in our community. We have 40 subscribers. We haven't yet retrieved numbers of people who watch through our website.

If you are traveling, want to review a meaningful sermon, or show off our church to friends or family you can:

1. go to our You-Tube channel at  
<https://youtube.com/@firstcongregationalchurch05836?si=o71syXzS0zEIP2oo>
2. or check our website, [www.fccsanrafael.org](http://www.fccsanrafael.org)

The weekly What's Happening email always includes a You Tube link to that week's service.

## PICTURES FROM FATHER'S DAY



## PRIDE SUNDAY



Steve and Stacy drove 7 hours from Los Angeles to see the AIDS quilt memorializing Steve's brother.

## COMING IN SEPTEMBER

**FREE!**

**LIVE JAZZ CONCERT  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



**Sunday, September 27**

Come enjoy live jazz music. Following the concert, slurp up cool ice cream at an old-fashioned ice cream social. **FREE!!** (Donations will be accepted.)

**Everyone is welcome!**

First Congregational Church of San Rafael  
8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael  
[fccsanrafael.org](http://fccsanrafael.org)



## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### AMAZING! WE COLLECTED 74 PILLOWS ON JUNE 28!! THE BOARD OF MISSION THANKS YOU!

Cathi Fuller, Robby Hill, and Megan Fuller delivered 74 pillows and 33 pillow cases to Homeward Bound on June 29. They were thrilled as that is their most needed item. The pillows and pillow cases will be shared between Homeward Bound in Novato and Jonathan's Place in San Rafael. Cory, a fundraiser at Homeward Bound, gave them an hour-long tour. What an amazing organization and center!



### BACKPACK SUNDAY - JULY 26

This is our annual gathering of school supplies for the Ritter Center kids. Please bring your donations to church on July 26; they will be distributed to the kids at Ritter Center in early August, because the school start dates are early. Here's what is needed:

- New backpacks (boys and girls, high need for elementary school)
- Binders (small/large) and binder paper
- Tabbed dividers and zip pouches
- Pencils (#2/colored), pens, and erasers
- Glue sticks and index cards
- Rulers, staplers, and small scissors
- Markers, crayons, and highlighters
- Pocket folders and spiral one-subject notebooks
- Calculators (especially graphing calculators such as TI-83)
- Geometry drafting sets



There is always a GREAT NEED for department store gift cards and cash donations

→**TIP:** You may want to print this list for your purse or pocket.



### REMEMBER THE FOOD BANK

Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items. Coffee, tea bags, cooking oil, boxed milk, peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, and canned meat, are especially welcome. Sugar and flour are also needed.

## BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT



The Board of Ministry Team's key role in the church is to coordinate with the Pastor and Music Director in providing meaningful worship services throughout the liturgical year. We address the spiritual life of the church through the following areas: welcome and outreach, worship and prayer, fellowship, and education. Our members are Louis Frost, Chair; Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg, Pastor; Gerry Grosz, Director of Music; Jackie Dema, Cathi Fuller, Cathy Krise, Charles Little, Cecil Sherrod, and Tessa Templeman..

### Agape Team

The Agape Team provides "compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, phone calls, home visits, and other support. Thanks to Cathi Krise and Helen MacLam who write gracious cards to members. And the Agape Team and the pastor for their continued home and hospital visits and rides to appointments and church. If you have or are aware of someone in need of prayer, transportation, pastoral visits or nourishment. reach out to the prayer chain, Pastor Elisabeth, or the church office.

**Prayer Chain** E-mail either Julie Dowling [isabella1472@comcast.net](mailto:isabella1472@comcast.net) or Annie Song-Hill [asonghill@gmail.com](mailto:asonghill@gmail.com) if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

### Community/ Fellowship Time and Spiritual Life

- **Meditation Tuesdays at 5 PM** Meditation continues every Tuesdays at 5 PM. Tell Elisabeth if you wish to join by Zoom or need a ride if you cannot attend in person.

### July and August

- **Joining Sunday:** On **July 19** we will welcome new members to the congregation.
- **July 26** is **Backpack Sunday**.
- **Elders** Next meeting is Wednesday, **July 29** at 6:60 on Zoom. We will discuss our memories of the 60s and 70s. (See page 9)
- **Book club** Next meeting is Thursday, **July 30** at 7:30 on Zoom. The book is *The Housekeeper And the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa. (See page 9)
- **August 16** the **Unity Choir** will be singing during our worship service.

### Looking Ahead

- **Welcome Sunday** will be **September 13** followed by luncheon at the Church.
- **A Jazz Concert and ice cream social** will take place in the afternoon of **Sept 27**. (See page 6)

The Board of Ministry wishes to applaud and give thanks for the wonderful services in May and June: On Prayer, Mother's and Fathers' Days; Juneteenth and Pride/Sunday with Aids Quilts/Pillow Sunday, all in one! (See pages 5 and 6)

Volunteers needed: Please consider volunteering as a liturgist, greeter, or communion server!

**Next meeting of the Board of Ministry: Tuesday, August 18 at 11:45 AM.**

## **JULY ELDERS - HOW WERE THE 1960s AND 70s FOR YOU? WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 6:60-7:30 on ZOOM**

Historians consider the 1960s and 70s times of great change: Vietnam, Hippies and Flower Power, Marajuana, Love and Free Love, Music, Peace, Rebellion, and The Silent Majority reacting negatively to all of the above. "Get a haircut, Hippie!"

We were all there, but how was it for each of us? Were we carried along in the wave of rebellion against the uniformity of the 1950s? Or did we not notice because we were busy with other things? Or did we hate it all and want to return to a calmer time?

"We are often called 'the elderly,' but that quiet label hides a truth most people rarely pause to consider: we are the last living witnesses of a world that no longer exists."



On Wednesday, July 29, at 6:30, let's reminisce about those times over Zoom. How were they for you? Did they affect you? We'd all like to hear about your experience.

JOIN US! Share and Learn More About Your Friends!

Link to join all church Zoom meetings

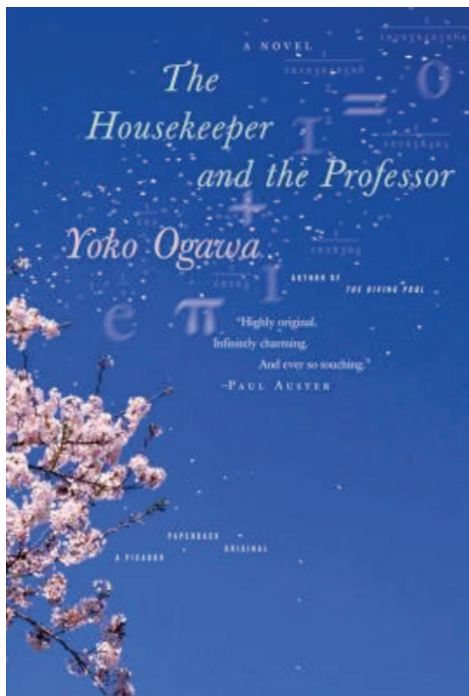
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

Meeting ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number 1-669-900-6833

## **BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, JULY 30, 7:30 PM**



On Thursday, July 30 at 7:30 PM on Zoom, we will be reading *The Housekeeper and the Professor*, by Yoko Ogawa. 191 pages. It is available from both the Marin and Sonoma County libraries as a book, an e-book, and an audiobook. Here's what it's about:

He is a brilliant math professor with a peculiar problem—ever since a traumatic head injury, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short-term memory. She is an astute young housekeeper, with a ten-year-old son, who is hired to care for him.

And every morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are introduced to each other anew, a strange and beautiful relationship blossoms between them. Though he cannot hold memories for long (his brain is like a tape that begins to erase itself every eighty minutes), the Professor's mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. And the numbers, in all of their articulate order, reveal a sheltering

and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her young son.

The Professor is capable of discovering connections between the simplest of quantities—like the Housekeeper's shoe size—and the universe at large, drawing their lives ever closer and more profoundly together, even as his memory slips away.<sup>2</sup>



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

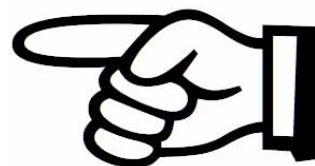
3 — Jack Intrater  
 5 — Saba Dempsey  
 6 — Cyndi Siroky  
 6 — Elisabeth Middelberg  
 26 — Tristan Cline-Meehan  
       Michael Cline-Meehan  
       Jacob Cline-Meehan  
       Taylor Cline-Meehan  
 27 — Louis Frost  
 29 — Catherine Hills

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 — Caran Cuneo  
 6 — Jamie Cline  
 6 — Audrey Hills  
 12 — Rebecca Knopf  
 13 — Cio Kaufman  
 17 — Helen MacLam  
 19 — Emma Intrater  
 19 — Melanie Sakskul  
 22 — Amy Smith  
 24 — Jacob Dempsey  
 27 — David Knopf  
 28 — Judy Girard



## TIE DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER 2026 TIE AUGUST 24



The deadline for articles and news for the September 2026 issue of The TIE is Monday, August 24. Please email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, August 24.

### Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Thursday mornings  
 or by appointment

Phone: 707 280-0382

Email: [Elismid@yahoo.com](mailto:Elismid@yahoo.com)

### Amy Powers – Office Manager

Monday and Thursday 10:30 AM - 2 PM

You can contact Amy by phone  
 or email any time.

Office Phone : 415 479-2747

Email: [office@fccsanrafael.org](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)

# FCC Calendar JULY 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                                                                                                     | Tue                                                                                                                                              | Wed                                                                                                                                              | Thu                                                                                                                                                                        | Fri           | Sat           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>28</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am-11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                               | <b>29</b><br>10 am<br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary   | <b>July 1</b><br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary | <b>2</b><br>7 pm-8 pm<br><br>BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM | <b>3</b><br>Independence Day<br>                                                          |               |               |
| <b>5</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am-11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                | <b>6</b><br>10 am<br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary    | <b>7</b><br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary      | <b>8</b><br>6 pm-7 pm<br><br>Church Council Meeting via ZOOM  | <b>9</b><br>7 pm-8 pm<br><br>BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM                           | <b>10</b><br> | <b>11</b><br> |
| <b>12</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am-11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                               | <b>13</b><br>10 am<br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary   | <b>14</b><br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary     | <b>15</b><br>6 pm-7 pm<br><br>Church Council Meeting via ZOOM | <b>16</b><br>                                                                                                                                                              | <b>17</b><br> | <b>18</b><br> |
| <b>19</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am-11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM<br>10 am<br>JOINING SUNDAY - NEW MEMBERS      | <b>20</b><br>10 am<br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary   | <b>21</b><br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary     | <b>22</b><br>                                                                                                                                    | <b>23</b><br>                                                                                                                                                              | <b>24</b><br> | <b>25</b><br> |
| <b>26</b><br>Parents' Day<br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am-11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM<br>10 am<br>BACKPACK SUNDAY | <b>27</b><br>10 am<br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary | <b>28</b><br>5 pm-6 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary   | <b>29</b><br>6:30 pm-7:30 pm<br><br>ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM  | <b>30</b><br>7:30 pm-8:30 pm<br><br>BOOK CLUB reading THE HOUSEKEEPER AND THE PROFESSOR | <b>31</b><br> | <b>1</b><br>  |

This calendar is also available on the church's website in interactive form. There you can click on any event to see more details. Check it out at [www.FccSanRafael.org](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).

# FCC Calendar **AUGUST** 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                                                       | Tue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Wed                                                                                                                                                                | Thu                                                                                                                                                                               | Fri       | Sat             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>26</b><br><br><b>Parents' Day</b><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM<br>10 am<br><b>BACKPACK SUNDAY</b> | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>28</b><br><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Meditation in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                       | <b>29</b><br><br>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm<br><b>ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM</b>             | <b>30</b><br><br>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm<br><b>BOOK CLUB reading THE HOUSEKEEPER AND THE PROFESSOR</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>August 1</b> |
| <b>2</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                            | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>4</b><br><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Meditation in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                        | <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>6</b><br><br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br><b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM</b>                   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>        |
| <b>9</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                            | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>11</b><br><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Meditation in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                       | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>       |
| <b>16</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                           | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>18</b><br><br>11:45 am<br><b>Board of Ministry Meeting 11:45 via ZOOM</b><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br><br>Meditation in the Sanctuary | <b>19</b><br><br>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br><b>Church Council Meeting via ZOOM</b>    | <b>20</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>       |
| <b>23</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                         | <b>24</b><br><br>5:00 pm<br><b>TIE DEADLINE 5 PM</b> | <b>25</b><br><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Meditation in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                     | <b>26</b><br><br>1:15 pm - 2:15 pm<br><b>BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM</b> | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>       |
| <b>30</b><br><br>10 am<br>Worship, Church School & Child Care<br>10 am - 11 am<br>Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM                                                         | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>1</b><br><br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Meditation in the Sanctuary                                                                                                                                                      | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>        |

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