



MESSENGER

Message from Travis

Yes, it stinks that there will be no circle of light around the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, or no Christmas pageant with a wandering star around the sanctuary, or no dark chocolate brownies every Sunday during coffee hour (a personal dream of mine). But that doesn't mean we cannot celebrate this season.

What if you made an Advent wreath? What if you made a yule log? What if you lit candles for the Sundays of Advent but also for the Winter Solstice and St. Lucia Day? The possibilities are endless.

An Advent Wreath - can be as complicated or as simple as you want (garland and heirlooms or just candles on a plate). **A Yule Log** - a log (get one from your woodpile or a neighbor's woodpile) drill holes for the candles to sit in and viola a yule log! **Hope, Love, Joy & Peace** the themes for the four Sundays of Advent (by the time you get this one will already have passed, but that's okay); write the theme on 3 x 5 cards and list what you are hoping for, what you love, what brings you joy, where you are longing for peace.

What if you had some fun with Saints Days? On **St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6th)**, what if you dropped off a bag of goodies at a friend's house. Some people give away bags of unshelled nuts (order some pecans from Koinonia Farms koinoniafarmstore.com [ctrl click]). Or on **St. Lucy's Day (12/13)**, you could make some saffron buns, but who likes saffron buns? Make some cinnamon rolls (whether that means buying one at a bakery, opening a can, or using a recipe - it's a pandemic, all bets are off), light a candle or put a candle in the roll and think of someone that has bright light into your life. Then eat the roll, wash your hands, and write that person a card (or don't wash your hands and make the card extra sticky and extra special).

What if you read a prayer of lament for all those who have died during COVID-19 on the day of the **Holy Innocents (Dec. 28th)** or read T.S. Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral on the feast day of **Thomas Becket (Dec. 29th)**?

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2020-2021**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Moderator	Laura O'Halloran	Vice Moderator	Monica Lewis
Secretary	Brian Satrom	Treasurer	Bill Forsyth

FAITH & SPIRIT CLUSTER

Christian Education		Kristine Revak
Adult Education		
Congregational Care		Luise Forseth
Hospitality Team Leaders		Polly Schrom
Missions		Keith Ford
Worship		Polly Schrom

ADMIN & SUPPORT CLUSTER

Building Use/Communications		Steve Hirsch
Finance		Bill Forsyth
Personnel		Tom Zaremba
Property		Larry Jacobson

VISION & COVENANT CLUSTER

Membership/Leadership/Stewardship		Beth Waterhouse
Planning & Policy		

OTHER GROUPS

Judson Historian		Tom Balcom
Judson Preschool Board	Sandy Chatfield, Monica Lewis, Susan Mason, Polly Schrom*	
Textile Group [Formerly Known as Knitting Group]		Sandy Chatfield
Loaves & Fishes		Gretchen Williams
Messenger		Eileen McLaughlin
Marketing Team:		Brad Joern (Organizer)
Spiritual Voyagers		Ron Cottone
Starfish Ministry		Wayne Urbaniak
The Gathering		Kathy Urbaniak
TRUST Rep		Jim ten Bensel
Ushers		Office Manager

The Pastoral Relations committee includes the following people: Joel Frederickson (chair), Greg Lehman, Mary Gustafson, Pam Joern, Leslie Rapp, and Karla McGray. Feel free to speak with any of these people to share ideas, concerns, or thanks.

(*Subcommittee members are listed alphabetically)

Articles for the next issue of the Judson Messenger can be submitted to judsonmessenger@yahoo.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month.

For hardcopy submissions, see the editor listed on the address page.

MODERATOR'S LETTER

Well, here we are, in the midst of some of our darkest days of 2020. How are you doing?

Recently I read the words "depth, not breadth" and I've been ruminating on that thought during these strange and dark times. Here's the thing I learned about going deeper when in October I dug a 3.5' hole to get to a sewer pipe: you have to dig out in order to go down, but my circle these days (whether it is people or sunlight or just about anything else you can name) has only been getting narrower and deeper.

How are you responding to the narrowing of your circles? Are you making more art? Are you writing more poetry? Are you reading more? Are you using up that stack of cards you bought 15 years ago (or longer) but never sent out? Are you reaching out to fewer people but getting to know those people better? Are your circles even narrowing? (With the latest restrictions from the Governor of Minnesota, I'm assuming that they are, but what if they aren't?) Are you purging things in your home that you've uncovered only to realize that you should have gotten rid of them a long time ago?

I have long been dreading this season, but as it is finally upon us I realize that this time is still a gift. Not one that I wasn't expecting or asked for (life is like that, though, isn't it?), but a gift nonetheless. We can choose to look at this time as a gift for our community as well. It allows us to dream, create, listen, envision, and reimagine what church and community look like.

As we move through the narrowing of our circles, I have a few quotes that I would like to leave with you this month. Thank you for all that you have been doing for this beloved community of table makers. You are a gift, and I miss you **ALL**, the ones I know and the ones I don't. The ones in my backyard and the ones around the world...especially during the advent season.

"Someone I once loved gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this, too, was a gift." ~Mary Oliver

"Night is not something to endure until dawn... Darkness is its own kingdom; it moves to its own laws, and many living things dwell in it" ~Patricia A McKillip

"Winter is the harvest of thought." ~Henry David Thoreau

"Darkness is the breeding ground of creation. What are you afraid of, and who taught you to fear it?" ~Anonymous

Humbly,
Laura O'Halloran

[Travis continued from front page]

What if you lit candles on the **Winter Solstice** and read poems with Laura O'Halloran on zoom on Dec. 21st? What if you committed to watching the Sunday morning worship services in December (6, 13, 20) and joined us for the **coffee hour via zoom** at 11:00 am to share how you observe and celebrate this season?

What if...

Peace,
Travis

FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND SURPRISE PACKAGE ONLINE EVENT – SUNDAY, DEC. 13 AT 4:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Save the date! Judson families are planning a super fun Christmas gathering, and everyone is invited. Stay tuned for details on receiving your Pageant Package prior to the event. We'll all open our packages together online and be treated to Christmas surprises.

IMAGINING CHRISTMAS – ADVENT SERIES

Let's spend an hour on Wednesday evenings to center ourselves in the deeper truths and rich metaphors of the Christmas story. We'll use guided visualization, art, music, and reflective writing to bring healing and intention to this holiday season. All sessions will be held online via Zoom at 6:30 pm— Email Carolyn at ckolovitz@judsonchurch.org to register.

December 2 - The Annunciation: Saying Yes

December 9 - The Epiphany: Journeys

December 16 - The Nativity: Wonder & Awe

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The children and youth of Judson Church will experience the love of God within our faith community. Here, the Christian story will take on meaning and relevance for their lives so that they become persons of faith: biblically literate, prayerful, seekers of justice, and equipped to reflect on moral decisions in light of faith.

EN VÍA—THANK YOU

On behalf of all of us here at En Vía, we would like to send a huge THANK YOU for your donation to our Staying Strong campaign.

We are so grateful for your on-going support of our work: this donation will help us continue our core program of interest-free loans and education, usually funded by our Responsible Tourism program. Better still, it will be doubled, thanks to our generous match funders! (That will show up on the Omprakash site at the end of the week.)

As you know, the entrepreneurs we work with have many different types of businesses: you might like to see these two short videos made last year by a team of volunteers together with Juana López Santiago, a tortilla maker in Teotitlán and Serafina Espinosa, a snack vendor in Guelacé. Both women have inspiring stories of the difference your support makes.

<https://youtu.be/8q4PmTA79DE> [ctrl click]

<https://youtu.be/0nJ6d9mbHLI> [ctrl click]

Thank you once again!

Stay well—From all the team at Fundación En Vía

Sign up for our [newsletter](#) and [blog](#) for regular updates about our work and stories of the inspiring entrepreneurs we work with. [ctrl click]

DECEMBER NEEDS FOR JOYCE UPTOWN FOOD SHELF

For the month of DECEMBER, Joyce Food Shelf needs:

DIAPERS (any size or brand) and CLEANING SUPPLIES (laundry detergent, dish soap, etc.)



Bring these items to Judson Church any time in DECEMBER that is convenient for you, and Jim TenBensel will deliver them to Joyce Food Shelf.

You may also drop any items off at Joyce Food Shelf at 3041 Fremont Ave. S., Mpls., 55408 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Thank you for your continued support of Joyce Food Shelf.

JOYCE FOODSHELF UPDATE

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is changing to **Client Choice Shopping by appointment**. We value your partnership and want to communicate what these upcoming changes mean so that our partners and clients can stay informed.

The Client Choice model offers each person food choices in a small grocery store-style food shelf. Clients can shop for fresh fruits and veggies, milk, eggs, meat, fish, or poultry, canned veggies, dry cereals, grains, and other staples. We try to stock items for special diet needs. There is no cost to shop Client Choice.

Appointments allow us to maintain health and safety for all in our community. Appointments are available for each household 1-2 times a month, but they can call us if clients have emergency needs. If clients visit without an appointment, we will have pre-packed bags and boxes ready for pick up. However, these have less food variety, so it's best if clients make an appointment to shop. They can make an appointment at their next visit or call us at 612.825.4431 to schedule. In consideration for all, masks and social distancing are required at each visit. If clients don't have a mask, we will provide one.

We are currently contacting clients to inform them of these changes. If you know anyone experiencing food insecurity, please let them know that we look forward to seeing them. All are welcome at Joyce Uptown Foodshelf!



DON'T RECYCLE YOUR PAPER GROCERY BAGS! REUSE THEM INSTEAD.

Continuing our relationship with the We Win Institute, Judson is helping to package and deliver free groceries to families in north Minneapolis. But we need your help; we need grocery sacks.

Rather than just recycle grocery sacks, you can help with a crucial project. Just save your bags and bring them to Judson. Deposit bags in the covered, marked, blue tub right outside the Arcade door. We will deliver the grocery bags to the WWI Grocery Project. Want to do more? Ask your neighbors to give you their bags. Questions, call Keith Ford (612.590.5664). Want to help package and deliver groceries? Contact Karla McGray (karlamcgray@hotmail.com). (ctrl-click)

ODDS AND ENDS

- Please follow the [Judson Channel on Vimeo](#) (ctrl-click) so you can receive the latest worship services.
- Please [like Judson Church on Facebook](#). (ctrl-click)
- And please forward [this sign up link](#) (ctrl-click) to your friends and encourage them to sign up for our daily emails.

JUDSON EMERGENCY FUND

You have given generously to the Judson Emergency Fund, we have collected over \$39,000 in donations. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, do not hesitate to email or call Travis with a request.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any updates for the Tree of Life (the Judson Prayer List), either send them to me at (gtnorvell@judsonchurch.org) or send them to Eileen at (info@judsonchurch.org).



DIRECTORY REQUESTS

If you need an updated copy of an updated Judson Directory, please let Eileen know at (info@judsonchurch.org). You can request a hard copy or a PDF copy sent to you by email. If you have changed your address, phone number, or new email, please contact the church office.

OFFICE UPDATE

Eileen is now working five days a week at the church office. Her hours are from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Please feel free to contact her at the office, and if she is not available, please, leave a voicemail or send an email to (info@judsonchurch.org).

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Shopping at smile.amazon.com [ctrl click], you'll find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. To shop at Amazon Smile, go to smile.amazon.com [ctrl click], from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You use your same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to Amazon Smile smile.amazon.com [ctrl click], you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com [ctrl click], will result in a donation. Judson is one of the many 501c(3) public charitable organizations.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

A few years ago, Judson's youth, working with Beth Rademacher, prepared and sold kits for us to offer to those needy people we frequently see holding cardboard signs near freeway exits.

I obtained a few and passed them out along the way. Since then, I have continued this effort on my own. Take a look at the picture below.

Each kit contains



- An Oats 'n Honey granola bar
- wet wipes
- 2 packets of sunscreen (warm weather only)
- 1 paper towel
- A tri-fold "Street Outreach" card
- A zip-lock bag to hold all this together
- A pair of warm socks (cold weather only)
- A half-liter bottle of water

Once the bag is packed, I use a rubber band to tie the bag and the socks together.

Notes:

I avoid granola bars with caramel or chocolate, especially in warm weather.

The "Street Outreach" card contains LOTS of phone numbers, allowing the individual to access many resources for assistance.

I obtain the "Street Outreach" cards from Saint Stephen's shelter; I buy them for 20 cents each. \$24 get 100 delivered in the mail. (I'm on my second 100.)

Wet wipes and sunscreen come in bulk from Amazon; I get the socks from them as well.

Water and bags are easiest to obtain at the grocery store.

Or, use your imagination as to what you'd include, and let me know how it goes.



Craig Wiester

OPPORTUNITIES AT MEALS ON WHEELS

Hello MOW Supporters.

I wanted to share with you some other volunteer opportunities that are needed in the community.

First of all, our caterer, Kitchen of Opportunities, run by Metro Meals on Wheels, is in desperate need of volunteers to help prepare and package the meals. The kitchen is located at 31st St and 4th Ave and follows strict Covid guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please check out their sign up at:

<https://meals-on-wheels.volunteerhub.com/> (ctrl-click)

Secondly, we have elderly clients who are in need of someone to run errands, most importantly, going to the drugstore to pick up prescriptions. If you are interested in helping, please contact our Grocery Program Coordinator, Sandy Parnell, at 612-721-5786, or email sjlparnell@msn.com. (ctrl-click)

Lastly, TRUST Meals on Wheels needs handled grocery bags. Feel free to drop them off at Judson Church basement Monday through Friday between 9:00 and noon.

Thank you for all you do! Take care, and stay safe.

Eleonore Balbach

Program Director, TRUST Meals on Wheels
4101 Harriet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 822-6040 phone (612) 822-8055 fax



MOWDirector@trustinc.org (ctrl-click) www.trustinc.org (ctrl-click)

STARFISH INFORMATION—NOVEMBER 2020

Clients helped: 9 [five were Covid related]

Total Aid: \$5,921

Rental/utility assistance: \$5,871

Bus/Gas/Cub/Visa cards: \$50

Funds Exhausted: November 3, 2020

Everything is being done by phone, texting, and email.

There is no person-to-person contact, so no gift cards are given.



JUDSON CHOIR

Mark Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm for another choir get together on Zoom. Even though we would rather be singing, it is fun to check in with each other. A link will be sent out closer to the date. Hope to see you there.



YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS VOLUNTEER ACTIONS**Volunteer Option #1 – “Make Your Own Kits”**

1. A kit or box/package of new gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and warm socks to give to those experiencing homelessness.
2. A kit or Ziplock baggy for staff when doing outreach on the streets to give out.
3. Items would include: a mask, a small bottle of hand sanitizer, a snack (granola bar, etc.), and a small bottle of water. Also, travel size shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, etc.
4. A kit or box/package of “move-in” items for those finding housing. Items needed are small bottles of laundry detergent, dish soap, toiletry items, toilet paper, washcloths, towels, and full-size sheets.

Volunteer Option #2 – Donate clothing to Youth Link

Our top 3 biggest needs are:

1. **Winter coats, gloves, hats, and warm socks**
2. **Basic clothing - leggings, joggers, sweatpants, jeans, hoodies, sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts**
3. **Underwear, socks, and bras** (all sizes of men's and women's, NEW ONLY)

Right now, we will begin to accept slightly used clothes (provided they are in good condition and WASHED).

[You can view all donations we will accept here.](#) (ctrl-click)

The other option is to search for and purchase these needed items from our [Amazon Smile wish list](#) (ctrl-click), where they will be sent directly to YouthLink upon your purchased donation.

Instructions for delivering your items to Youth Link

Items can be dropped off Monday-Friday from 8 am to 6 pm at YouthLink: 41 N 12th St., Minneapolis, MN 55403. Please call ahead if you would like to drop off items outside of these days and hours: 612-252-1200. You may pull around to the parking lot located behind the YouthLink building off of Chestnut St. There is a door back there with a doorbell. You may ring it, and the welcome desk will let you in to drop off your donations or assist you in bringing in your donations.

SHAPAN UPDATE

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for the Shapan Orphanage in Myanmar. What difference has it made? As a community, you have given donations that have provided food, clothing, housing, education, health care, and a loving place to live.

What's sweet about this year is that the children will have a Christmas party because of your generosity.

Hopefully, you have received the Mission Committees' letter asking you to donate to the Shapan Orphanage for 2021. We know these are challenging times, and all gifts will be appreciated.

Blessings to you during this Advent season.

Kate Brady

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Several days ago, I received a call from a Judson member. She had a problem and wanted her grandson placed on the Tree of Life under "New Health Concerns."

Her story: Her grandson hates remote classes. He's 14. He wants to be with friends and jump onto his skateboard and do crazy fun things. He can't. Because of Covid-19, his life is "trash." He eats less. He sleeps until 15 minutes before his zoom. School is 6 hours with 30 minutes for lunch. He is grabby, self-absorbed, and creating chaos in the family.

Typically, Grandma would bring dinner, and she and her grandson would go somewhere or do something he would enjoy. They have been doing stuff together for years.

Now she can't see him. Both people are not doing well.

I told her I would place her grandson's name on Judson's Tree of Life, and she can expect Judson people will offer prayers for both she and her grandson.

For, we are a community of people who stand with anyone who is in need. We honor the power of prayers. When we pray for one another, we give them a gift for life.

The Congregational Care Committee wants to thank you for the prayers, cards and calls you make for those requesting a gift in a barren time.

Luise Forseth
Chair

Winter Solstice Gathering

What: A time of lighting candles together in our own own homes as a community with some music and poetry.

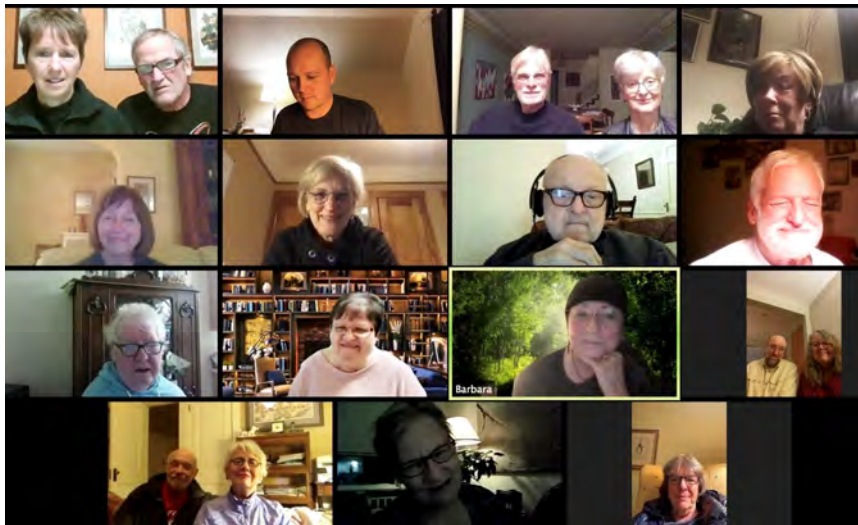
When: Monday, December 21, 2020

Time: 8:00 p.m. This coming together will be about 20 minutes long.

Where: On Zoom, in our own spaces

Why: I am missing ritual together with community. Maybe you are to?

How: We will send out a Zoom link via e-mail closer to the date. Feel free to invite friends or relatives as this is not an exclusive event.



Zoom of people gathered at Sandi Knoche's virtual wake on Sunday, November 15, at 4 pm.



Zoom of people gathered at the Virtual Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 29, at 11 am.

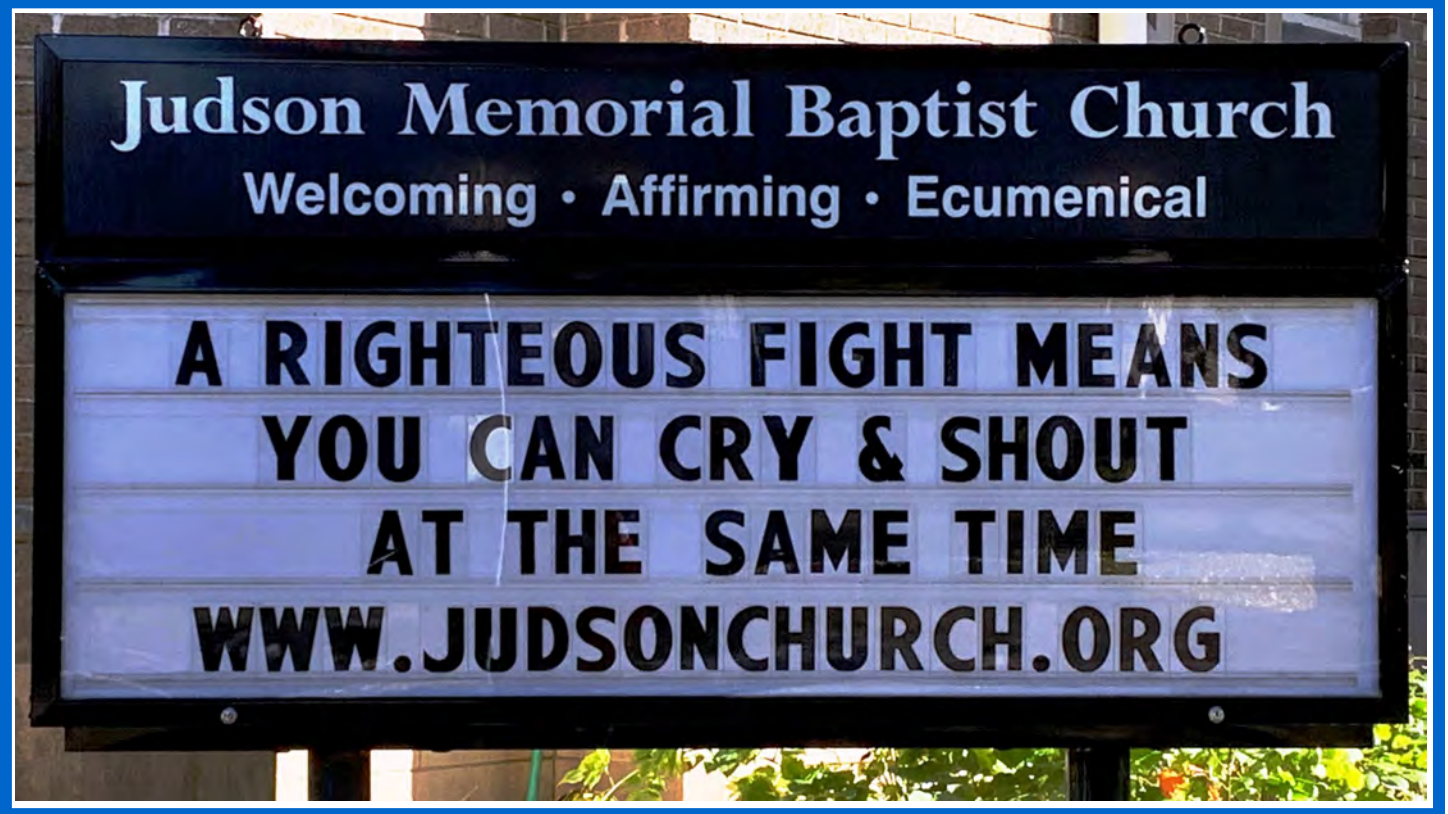


Background scenes of Sunday's production



Scenes at Judson on Monday, November 30, 2020





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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED