



Image of the Franciscan Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor (Lower Galilee, Israel)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, February 19th, 2023
Transfiguration Sunday
Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is **“Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.”** As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our lives, but it has also revealed what is most important. As we lean into what the weeks and months ahead will be like, we will continue to pray for one another. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

As we continue both in-person and livestreamed services, we are committed to keeping everyone safe and finding fresh and creative ways to worship together. We value your feedback – let us know what is going well and what could be better!

- A worship bulletin will be available (hardcopy in person or pdf online)
- Please join in the liturgy and prayers and passing of the peace, as directed
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- Join us after worship for Fellowship Hour in the Church Lounge (Main level—across from Office)

We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

Spiritual Practice for Epiphany

The “Be Still” Prayer

The “Be Still” prayer is an important and simple spiritual practice I first learned from Fr. Richard Rohr. You can pray it anytime and anywhere - during a stressful episode in the hospital, when stuck in thick traffic, before you head to bed at night. “Be still and know that I am God” comes from Psalm 46, verse 11. To pray this prayer, take a deep breath and center yourself in God's loving, gracious presence. Then say “Be still and know that I am God.” Pause for a moment to rest in the reality of God's company and companionship. Then repeat the verse several times, leaving off a word or a couple of words each time. The entire prayer goes as follows:

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be

Move into a period of silent reflection, with your palms facing upward in a posture of receptivity.

Join us after worship in the Lounge for Fellowship Hour.
Coffee and refreshments will be served.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Grainne Bailey, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Chancel Choir

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE - *Prelude on GATHER US IN*

arr. John Behnke

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

The Acolyte brings in the light to remind us that we have gathered in the light of Christ.

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop, but we are tired and weary.

Help us to go where you have invited us.

Give us eyes to see your vision of simple wisdom and complicated truth.

Give us ears to hear your message of gritty hope and new life.

Lord, we have come into this time and space, to experience you.

Let us worship God, tender and just.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 401** - *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come before God this morning seeking wholeness, in a world that is broken. Let us confess the ways in which we have contributed to this brokenness, so that we may be part of the healing – for others, the earth, and ourselves. Let us begin with silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of vulnerability and glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. On this Transfiguration Sunday, we confess that our narrow vision often hides the brightness of your light. And our fear and fatigue often obscure your message of hope and new life. In the past week, we confess what we have said and left unsaid, what we have done or left undone - things that have not realized your dream. Forgive us, God, and make new creation right here and right now, in our words and actions, in our hearts and minds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With the sound of water pouring into the baptismal font, be confident that through Jesus Christ we are forgiven by God. So, go from here today and forgive others. We are reconciled to God. Go and seek to be reconciled with others. We are loved by God. Let us go out and love others. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Yellow Room to continue to worship together in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families toward the end of worship service in the Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - Hymn No. 448 - *Peace of God Be with You*

**Peace of God be with you.
Peace of God be with you.
Salaam, salaam.
Peace of God be with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together in unison for the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Holy God, at creation when your Spirit hovered over the watery chaos, you spoke, and creation sprang forth. Send your Spirit to hover over the chaos of our lives, and through your Word that we are about to hear, may your creative power once again bring forth meaning, growth, and beauty. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Matthew 16:24-17:1-9 (pp. 18-19 N.T.), 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:1 (pg.180 N.T.)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON - "Only Jesus"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 193 - *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5)

UNSER HERRSCHER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CALL FOR OFFERING

All that we have is a gift of God's grace. All that we have finds its source in the opportunities, resources and people that God has blessed us with. And God calls us to bless others by sharing what we have – our love, our talents, and our material resources – with others. We have many ways to serve, and multiple ways to make a financial contribution - please consult your bulletin or the slide on your screen. In loving gratitude for all the ways in which God has blessed and provided for us, let us bring God our offerings.



We invite you to give via our church website www.fpcw.org (see QR code), our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available in the Narthex. We are grateful for your generosity!

ANTHEM - *Heavenly Light*

Alexander Kopylov

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine. O light Divine!
May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light.
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation.
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar.
Oh shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray.
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be. Light Divine, we praise Thee.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Loving God, you gave the world the greatest gift of all, in Jesus Christ.

We respond by giving you what is precious to us.

Grow in us the willingness to forego some of our luxuries in life

so that others may have the necessities of life. Help us to remember those

who are forgotten by us too often – those who do not have warm homes, full cupboards,

or even clean water. Use our offerings and us, we pray, to bring equity and peace to all on earth.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN NO. 79** – *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT**

The Acolyte carries the light as we go out, to remind us that we both follow and carry Christ's Light into the World.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Let us go now out into the world in peace,

Having courage and holding on to what is good,

Returning no one evil for evil,

Supporting the weak, helping the suffering,

Honoring all people,

And loving and serving the Lord, while rejoicing in the Holy Spirit.

And may our loving and all-powerful God bless, preserve, and keep us,

this day, this week, and forevermore. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** - *Allegro Giubiloso*

Isadore Freed

Sources: Portions of the liturgy were written by Rev. Lolly Dominski, Parish Associate



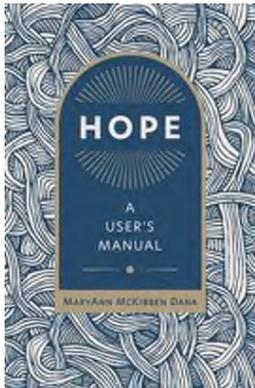
Our Common Life

Week of February 19th, 2023



Begin your Lenten journey with us on the evening of Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

- 5:30-6:00 Family Ash Wednesday Service including the optional imposition of ashes
- 6:00 Soup Supper in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center (including kid-friendly food)
- 6:45 Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary including communion and imposition of ashes. Livestream available.



Lent 2023 Theme: “Hope: A User’s Manual”

This Lent at First Pres, we are focusing on hope. Few theological ideas are more resourceful and generative for our time than this one! Using MaryAnn McKibben Dana’s new book as our guide, *Hope: A User’s Manual*, we will be exploring what hope is, what it is not, how it lives in our body, finds best expression in story and is, in the end, a practice we must keep at again and again. In Sunday worship, we will reflect on Scripture passages that touch on hope and we invite you to purchase a copy (available in the church office for \$12, or via your book retailer) and read along with us. It promises to be a rich and thoughtful journey together as we rediscover hope together!

Lent 2023

Adult Faith Formation Class

Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am (6 Weeks, Feb. 26 – April 2)

In-person in the Lounge; and over Zoom

2023 Lenten Adult Faith Class:

“Hope: A User’s Manual”

Join Pastor Jeff for this six-week Lenten study that serves as a “deeper dive” into our broader theme for the season: “Hope: A User’s Manual,” drawing on the recent book written by MaryAnn McKibben Dana (she led a women’s retreat at our church back in 2019). Each week, we’ll look at one of the six sections of the book with the help of the reader’s guide: (1) What Hope Is Not; (2) What Hope Is; (3) Hope Lives in the Body; (4) Hope Travels in Story; (5) The Practice of Hope; and (6) Hope Beyond Hope. No pre-reading required – just come and grow with us as we together seek to wrestle with what hope is, what it is not and to find it even in hopeless times. The hybrid class will meet on Sundays from 8:45-9:45 am in person in the Lounge and virtually via Zoom during Lent (February 26 – April 2): **Zoom Link** is available in the Daily Bread and in the Saturday evening email. Meeting ID: 840 3593 7190; Password: 815640.



First Pres Wilmette’s New On-line Directory

We hope you have received your invitation link via email. Once you’ve created your logon account, please do the following:

Review and update your contact and profile information. (Names/spelling, address, all phone numbers and types of phone #, birthdates, allergies/dietary needs, relationship connection to others in your household/family unit.)

- **If there is an *asterisk next to your name** or any name in your family unit, that is from an old system – **please delete it.**
- **Please upload a picture** – of yourself (and your family/family members).
- **After verifying your information in your new Realm account,** feel free to download the Realm Connect App for your mobile device (see more details in the FAQ linked at the end of this page.)
- **If you give to the Church online – do not change those settings in Phase 1.** (Giving through Realm will come at a later phase. However, you should be able to view your church giving history through your Realm account.)
- **Parents may request an invite link for children who are 13 years or older.**
Later phase(s) of our Realm roll-out will help the Church utilize the Group functions for communication, seeing scheduled church meetings and events, and online giving through Realm. More information and helpful suggestions as you get started with Realm are on the website and the Daily Bread.

First Pres Realm Leader Team: Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Amy Miller, Scott McElhenie, Linnea Jacobs, Madeline Weston.



Stop by the Realm Help Desk following worship

Sundays Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, & Feb. 26

Members of the Realm Leader Team will be there to help you with any questions.

Feel free to bring your laptop or mobile devices.



Shorefront Legacy Center Exhibit

The Shorefront Legacy Center exhibit is open in our Chapel until the end of February. If you haven’t seen it yet - or you want to see it again - stop in any Sunday in February before or after church. Or, come to our community open house on February 26, from 1 to 3 PM. We are privileged to have the opportunity to house this exhibit which showcases the varied and unique stories of the North Shore's Black residents. One of the biographies you will see displayed is that of Charles Harrison.

Charles Harrison

Ever used a portable hair dryer? For those of you over fifty, do you remember the View Master – the toy that looked like a pair of binoculars? You inserted a disc of tiny picture negatives in the front end and clicked your way through stories, adventures, and travels.

These are only two of the many products designed by Charles Harrison. Hired by Sears in 1967, Mr. Harrison designed nearly 750 products and was eventually promoted to group manager for consumer products design.

Syria - Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



PRAY: *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres 2023

Our adult group ministry strives to encourage all members to be a part of this wonderful way to grow in faith. We'd love to see you at one of our small group gatherings! More information on our church website's Small Group page.

STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Adult Faith Formation – Sundays 8:45-9:45 am, Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on current study series. jlehn@fpcw.org

Bible Study – Every Thursday 10:00-11:00 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Contact: Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (March 15th) 7 pm Church Lounge. The March book is “The Personal Librarian” by Marie Benedict. Members take turns leading a book discussion. This group is hosted by Joyce Knauff joyce@jckassociates.com

FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday at Noon – Zoom, Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn

The “Loop Group” meets for fellowship, connection and prayer. We know many of us are stressed at work and could use a small group to be supported and encouraged by. You can work from anywhere to join this group – and you are always free to eat your lunch while we meet! Contact Pastor Jeff for the Zoom link.

jlehn@fpcw.org

Senior Supper Club – Next gathering: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 pm at Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette.

If you are an over 65 member and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Interested?

Contact: Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Slowing Time for Women – Next Gathering: Wed., February 22, 7-8:30 pm, Upper Room

Group member will share article/poem about our relationship with Time - Chronos-Human Time/Productivity focus and Kairos-God's Time/Fruitfulness focus. Snacks provided by members.

Contact: Marcia Baylin marciabaylin3101@comcast.net

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday, 11:30 am, Church Lounge Each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates these gatherings njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Next gathering will be on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 1st Wednesday 10:00 -11:00 am in-person and via phone conference

The group meets in a member's home at Westminster Place and follows a provided study guide with discussion facilitated by Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. Anne Menard (amenard4347@yahoo.com) coordinates this group.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Hour – Meets year-round, Thursdays at 7 pm in the Lounge

Men's Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent 5-minute meditation, and an opportunity for each attendee to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Paul Traynor at paultraynor@haymoon.com

Men's Council – Saturday mornings (8-9:30 am) in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

Meets October – June. We gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. If you have questions or would like to join our mail list, please contact Steve Reinhart

steve.reinhart@gmail.com.

Parents of High School Youth (POHSY) – Meets several times a year in member's home or at the

Church Raising teenagers is always a challenge, and as our youth gather together to navigate their lives as Christians, their parents are also joining together to lend support to one another. If you want to learn more, reach out to Iris Boaz at iboaz@ameritech.net.

Weekly and Monthly Parent Fellowship Groups – Contact: Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

kamithlaubenstein@fpcw.org.

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 pm in the Green Room during Mid-Week Meetup for PreK-4th Graders

1st Sunday 8:45 am-9:45 am in the Upper Room

Coming Soon: College Parent Fellowship

Calendar for the week of February 19th, 2023

Sunday, February 19th, 2023

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Shorefront Legacy Center Traveling Exhibit	Chapel

Monday, February 20th - Presidents' Day

	Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day	
7:00 pm	Troop 5	WMFC
8:00 pm	Crew 5	Yellow Room

Tuesday, February 21st

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
5:30 pm	Senior Supper Club	Ridgeview Grill

Wednesday, February 22nd - Ash Wednesday

5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Family Service	Sanctuary
6:00 pm	Soup Supper	WMFC
6:45 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Women's Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

Thursday, February 23rd

10:00 am	Bible Study	Lounge
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

Friday, February 24th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, February 25th

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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Sunday, February 26th

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
	Middle School Class	Red Room
	Jr. High Youth Class	Yellow Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
1:00 pm	Community Open House Shorefront Exhibit	Chapel
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group	Tower
6:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth Group Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	Upper Room

For our Prayers

- Sarah Lehmer - recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Rick Thies - recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- David Leasure - struggling with personal and medical concerns.

For those in the midst of illness or other concerns for family, or friends.

- Marcia Baylin - caring for her mother in Rockford, IL.

For those who are walking through a season of grief.

- Jim Weyrens - at the sudden death of his son Peter.
- Marci Hardigan - at the recent death of her mother Jeanne Savely.

For countries experiencing war, extreme weather and natural disasters.

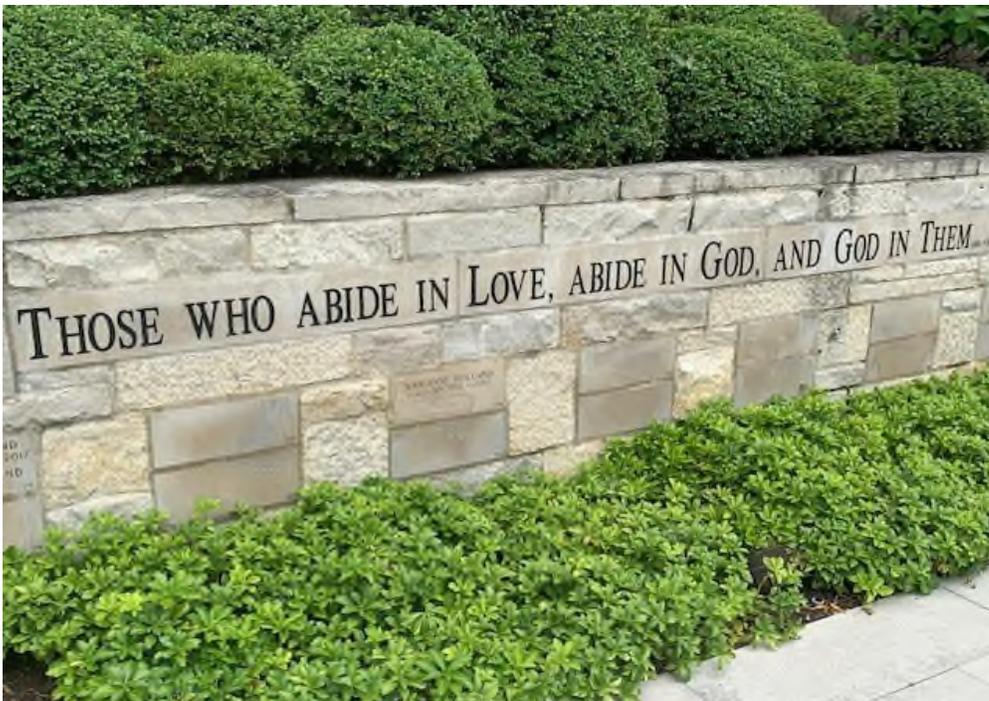
- The country of war torn Ukraine.
- All people and places impacted by extreme weather.
- The devastation from the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.



We are deeply saddened to report that long-time devoted member Jeanne Savely passed away on Monday. Please hold Jeanne's daughter Marcia, and son John, in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother.

A service for Jeanne has not been scheduled but we will share this information with you once the date and time has been determined.

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jack and Marsha Nahigian, in memory of Marsha's parents Gerhardt and Dorthy Rickertsen.



CHURCH STAFF

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OFFICE HOURS

9am-5pm (Tuesday -Thursday)

9am-3:30pm (Friday)



INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

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