

**The Foreside Community Church
United Church of Christ**

February 2023



*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:16 NIV

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
340 Foreside Road
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Pastoral Notes

Dear Foreside Friends,

Above all else, I want to be sure to remind that there are still a few days for you to register and join us for our **“Why Church? All Church Conversation”** on ****Saturday, February 11 from 9am to 2pm.** ****** Gathering a diversity of gifts and perspectives from our congregation is an essential part of the church’s work of discerning where and how we are called to minister and serve in the coming year, and to help us think about how we sustain and care for one another and the church as we do so.

If you are able to join us, please register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/cA4Pa6T9MC>

Secondly, I want to invite you to journey with us through **the upcoming season of Lent, beginning with our Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd at 6 p.m.** This year our theme will be ***Love Unbound***, reflecting on how Jesus’s journey to Jerusalem, through the cross, and into resurrection life frees us to deeply know God’s love.

Modern traditions have often labeled Lent a “penitent season,” one marked by some additional prayers of confession, and perhaps a little self-denial. Of course, Lent’s earliest form was not simply a season of penitence for its own sake, but of **preparation**. Those who were to rise in newness of life through baptism in the Easter dawn spent the days before in learning, practice, and formation for their full inclusion in the beloved community. It’s a pattern that our confirmands are currently living out as we prepare to celebrate the gifts of the Spirit they will bring as they step into maturity and commitment to the church.

Viewed from an angle of preparation, I find Lent to be underrated as a source of *good news*: Jesus’s teaching, example, and journey through the brokenness of death into new life engage and form us to receive God’s love more fully. This is indeed love unbound: defying the forces of the world or of our own devising that would try to restrict or contain God’s love... to only some, only the deserving, only the *correct*.

How might you—how might we—use this season of Lent, not to itemize the reasons we might not be worthy of love and belonging, but as a season of rejoicing that God has freely offered love and belonging just the same, and freed you to be transformed by that gift? Rather than a season in which we feel crushed under the weight of our failures—of cracks in our lives—we are shown in that God has placed loving treasure in these “earthen vessels” just the same. How could we live more boldly, more compassionately, and more justly freed by that offering and good news of love?

I look forward to walking this season with you,





I am fully vaccinated and am available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as you would like. If you would like to schedule a meeting, [you can do so](#) here, or by contacting me [by email](#).

*Blessings of the Spirit to you,
Pastor Geoff*

On the road and missing a sermon? Want to go back and revisit any one sermon? Want to share a sermon with a friend or family member? Pastor Geoff's sermons in both written and audio form from May 2019 to the present can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at: <http://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/category/sermons/>.

Worship in the Sanctuary...

...and attendance on Sundays is open to all with the following prevention protocols in place:

- **Masks are currently being requested (a supply of which can be located in the narthex).**
- We ask households to give each other good social distance.
- Windows will be opened enough to increase ventilation.
- Worship will also be live-streamed for any who cannot - or do not feel comfortable - attending by going to:

[https://www.youtube.com/
ForesideCommunityChurch](https://www.youtube.com/ForesideCommunityChurch)

**Bulletins for each service, including words to that day's hymns
are also posted at the above website address.**

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY UPDATES/REPORT OUTS

(C. Ward)

As you know, we stewards look after the finances and physical plant of the church. We have the blessing of being somewhat more affluent than many churches these days. As a coastal community, the area attracts families with deeper pockets. By the same token, we are a modest institution, and have not “over-built,” even when the numbers in church were greater and two services per Sunday were considered.

This past year has been a tough one for the stock market, and we have seen the value of our accounts fluctuate wildly (see treasurer’s report). Through it all, we continue to hang in there and trust that like an ocean voyage, first we go down and then we go up.....and like the sea level, the trend is up. We have no plans to change our account investments.

Covid cut a swathe in our income from rentals, and that is slowly coming back. AA is a constant. Painting groups, rug hooking groups, etc., seem to come and go – but remember, we have space that can be shared. Tell your friends.

The FAIR

The fair continues to be a joy, and a lot of work, too. It is arguably the best fellowship event of the year, pulling more individuals in for work and play every year. There is something for everyone to do, make, sell, contribute, and buy. It seems the more we enjoy ourselves and the less we care about the bottom line, the more money we make. This year the fair contributed more than \$19,000 to our yearly bottom line, better than in any recent years!

I can’t say enough about the volunteers this year, who all contributed to our success. A couple of our trusty men pulled boxes of treasures out of every nook and cranny, some that had been squirreled away for years. We had extra space to spread out sales without a sit down café. Liz Ventre and her team looked up items, looked for identifying marks, and set appropriate prices, higher than previous years. They sold “a ton!” In the jewelry department, Susan Blethen took a similar amount of care, carefully checking makers’ marks and materials and, with the help of Coleen Donovan from Foreside Antiques, setting appropriate prices. Wendi Maynard was once again the relentless happy houseware hawker on the stage. Carrie and Co. left us innumerable pieces of knitting. Christina and the cashiers kept the beans in the right piles. Jill Fox did everything, knew everything and was everywhere. Of course we held

“*Champagne Preview*,” facilitated prior to the fair opening by Resa Jones, complete with delicious hors d'oeuvres and iced bubbly, assisted by her dear friend Emma.

Finally, the silent auction, full of the usual eclectic collection of wonderful donations, was put over the top by weekends in vacation cottages donated by Deb Grey, the Cinelli's, and Phil and Mary. And a BIG shout out goes to Laura Rodas, who set up and managed the on line auction, despite being busy with a new job and the pageant. Some of our bidders got the hang of it, and came in at the last minute with big numbers, just the way they are supposed to! We have auction bugs to work out – always room for improvement next year.

Of course, there are so many other people involved, so if I have not mentioned you by name, it is not for lack of appreciation. Thank you, thank you one and all!

The PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

(Thank you Eric!) continues to reach out to every member, and your giving meets our needs – although without a lot of wiggle room. Our costs were a little less than budgeted this year, and we are getting a small reimbursement for keeping our employees paid during covid, and this will be helpful for the next year, but we could use \$10-20,000 more in the till to pay for overdue painting and flooring in the more heavily trafficked areas, if we don’t want to invade our investment account. Our budget for a year is about \$340,000. The decision about how much each of us pledges is a personal one, but bear in mind that we’ve lost several of our larger donors in the past few years. We need everyone to step up to the plate.

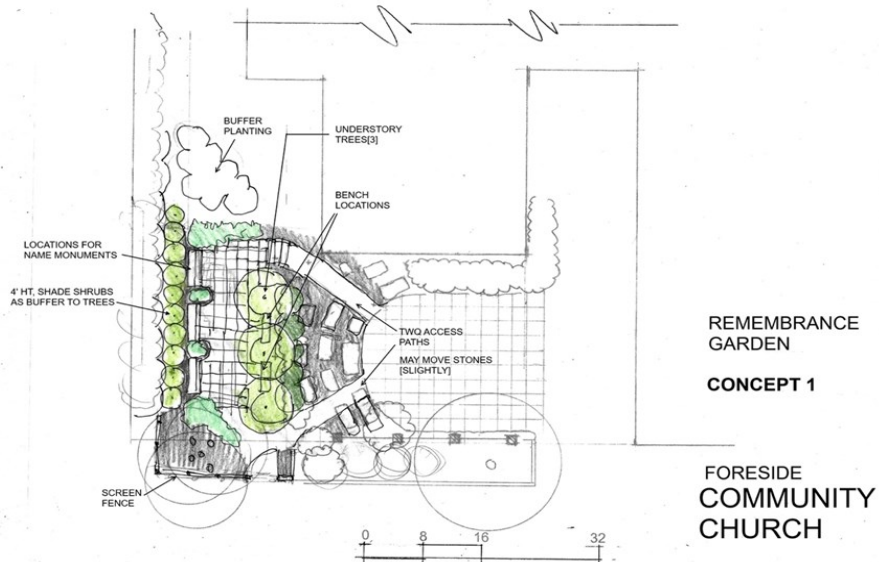
The physical plant is in pretty good shape (furnace and roofing are not old, and big trees that interfered with drainage and gutters that have been removed). We do need to do some serious painting in the office and side entry, and also paint some windowsills outside the kitchen. The pews also need freshening.

At some point in the not too distant future, a capital campaign is on the horizon – when we could tackle a big rehabilitation of the kitchen, fellowship hall and maybe the elevator, which is finicky but basically sound. Losing the elevator is what keeps Geoff up at night.

The Green Team has asked us to consider an **energy audit**, to see if there is any way we can use less fossil fuel and save heat, while we maintain fresh air to minimize exposure to communicable viruses. That is being mulled over.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY UPDATES/REPORT OUTS (cont.)

The **MEMORIAL GARDEN** meetings have begun – We have a landscape architect who has offered his initial ideas. This area is between the “apostle rocks” and the neighbor’s fence – just enough space for a quiet contemplative space that we can all engrave our names upon, so that we might be gathered indefinitely. The funding for this will be separate from the budget, says Pastor Geoff. **An important question for the congregation: If you wished to be remembered there, would you want your ashes kept all together there in one spot, sprinkled, or disbursed elsewhere?** Apparently “cremains” are very alkaline, and in bulk, can kill plants, so they need to go under a rock if buried in one place.



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Foreside friends, Some of you may have heard that as of the May 2023 meeting, I am stepping down as clerk. I have been clerk for 4 or 5 years (I also did a stint as clerk several years ago), but it is time for new blood. I am not going anywhere, I intend to stay involved in many FCC activities. FCC is my home!

Therefore, the Governing Board is looking for a new clerk. It is not a difficult job, or particularly time consuming. The consistent monthly activity is to attend, record, and write up minutes from the GB meetings. You are an active board member, and your input and thoughts are welcome. Twice a year, we have “annual” meetings where you would record minutes. Beyond that, to work with Christina, in the office, helping to record accurate membership and other changes or additions i.e., baptisms, weddings, confirmations, deaths, and funerals.

Call, or email me if you have questions, and are interested. We will set up a time to talk together with Christina. Thanks, Carrie carriepenrose@gmail.com or call 207-415-5513



“Four Ways to Love the Earth” Educational Series to Continue February 2, 8 and 15

Please join us **Thursday, Feb. 2, Wednesday, Feb. 8 and Wednesday, Feb. 15** for three hour-long programs highlighting a variety of climate solutions for everyday living and ways to become an effective advocate for climate and eco-justice.

Hosted by the Green Team the series — ***“Four Ways to Love the Earth”*** — will feature Andy Myers of Efficiency Maine, speaking on Feb. 2 about home alternative energy choices. We’ll learn about efficient and cost-effective options for heating, cooling and insulating our homes and various ways to reduce emissions while saving money while taking advantage of government rebates.

Compelling stories and wisdom of Maine climate justice activists will be presented on Feb. 8 in a showing of one of Anne D. (Andy) Burt’s Down to Earth Storytelling films, with a discussion to follow.

Sue Inches, author of *Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather Your Power and Take Action*, will discuss the upcoming agenda for environmental legislation and her empowering work to build hope, resilience and effective agency for change on Feb. 15.

Each program will be held in the large classroom, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The program on how to plant a pollinator-friendly garden — postponed due to snow — will be rescheduled in April.

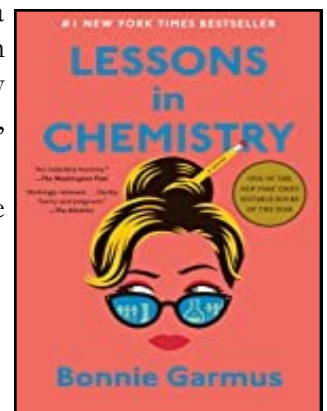
For more information, contact Green Team member Sue Clark, susannmannclark@gmail.com.

The Foreside Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom ([click on this link](#)) for its next book discussion. We will be talking about *Lessons in Chemistry* a debut novel by Bonnie Garmus. This book has become tremendously popular and won several awards. Please join us for what promises to be a fun filled and rewarding conversation.

An Amazon Best Book of April 2022: If you’re looking for delicious hilarity, characters filled with competency and quirk, and pure entertainment, then read Bonnie Garmus’ exuberant novel. Elizabeth Zott is an ambitious and accomplished scientist and is determined to be just that—and only that. But as we all know, life has a way of upending plans, and that’s exactly what happens to the inspiring (and at times, hilariously infuriating) Zott: Cupid’s arrow hits and the next thing you know she’s a mother and a TV cooking star. But in changing the kitchens of 1960’s America, Zott also challenges the status quo and that’s not exactly welcome in some circles. *Lessons in Chemistry* is a lot of fun to read: giddy laughter will bubble up but so too will your respect and admiration for a fearless and strong-willed woman who dares to be herself, in any circumstance. —Al Woodworth, Amazon Editor

As always, everyone is welcome to join in. Don't miss this one.

FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)



~ An Invitation for Lent To Reflect on Friday Mornings with the Seekers Group

We will gather for an hour weekly on Fridays during Lent to share our reflections on the week's **Richard Rohr Daily Meditations**, which are emailed from the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) each day, as we did during Advent for just two weeks. Whether you are a regular reader of these or have never read them before, you are welcome to join us. While attending every week is good for the bonding of the group, please do feel free to come when you can, even if not every week. The first meeting will be on **Friday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m.** In the large classroom upstairs. We will then continue to meet same time and place every Friday **through March 31.**

We will begin each time together with a brief time of silent meditation. The focus for our discussion following the meditation, will be on what each of us brings from reading the daily meditations during the week, including what especially resonated, what was challenging, and what questions the readings raised for you. There is a theme each week, which is introduced on Sundays and continues through Saturday with Saturday being a review of the week. You can also click on the following link to sign up and receive the daily meditations from the CAC website by going to <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>. There is no charge for these, and it is easy to unsubscribe, if you want to do so in the future. Joan Murray will convene the group. Please feel free to contact her at murray.joanb@gmail.com or at 781-540-4503 with any questions.

Please Consider teaming up with a friend or two and **host a Sunday coffee hour.** Supplies and coffee making instructions are provided. There are many among the Sunday service attendees who look forward to this additional social time with the congregation. FMI Carrie Penrose @ carrie-penrose@gmail.com.



What are Prayer Shawls and who makes them?

Prayer shawls are wraps/lap blankets/shawls that are given by YOU to anyone who is in "need" of comfort. The reason for the need is very broad, and is simply up to you to decide. The gift or the reason is not public, unless you want it to be. I do have a book to record shawl info, but the sole purpose is to count the number of shawls given out. Simply say a friend to a friend!

Who makes them? So many people will either knit, crochet, or quilt either at home, or in our group on Tuesday afternoons from 12-2pm. If you are a weaver..... think about it!

I realize the "group" is named Prayer Shawl knitting, but we really don't discriminate. Join us for a chat and work on your own project, a shawl or none at all. Carrie. FMI carriepenrose@gmail.com or 207-415-5513



(left) A blast from the past! Blessing of the Shawls, photo taken over ten years ago. Recognize these young folks?

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

The Sunday Volunteer Sanctuary Arrangement sign-up sheet ...

...is located on the main table in the narthex.

These floral additions to the service are greatly appreciated and enhance the mood.

Please consider a special person or occasion in your life that you would like to publicly acknowledge.



The Men's Breakfast...

Will be gathering on

Saturday, February 4, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.

at the church

An enjoyable repast and
lively discussions are always on the menu!

FMI John Bischof

jegbischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

February Birthday Greetings

Aquarius ~ Innovative, progressive, and shamelessly revolutionary, Aquarius is represented by the water bearer, the mystical healer who bestows water, or life, upon the land. Accordingly, Aquarius is the most humanitarian astrological sign.

Theo Demetriou ~ 3

Christian Rodas ~ 7

Julia Tracy ~ 9

Sandy Cushman ~ 10

Pisces ~ The most intuitive, sensitive, and empathetic sign of the entire zodiac — and that's because it's the last of the last. As the final sign, Pisces has absorbed every lesson — the joys and the pain, the hopes and the fears — learned by all of the other signs.

Liz Ventre ~ 26

**The March *Steeplenotes*
deadline is Friday
February 17, 2023**

Let's do (a continental) Breakfast Ladies!

Women of the church, members and friends
are invited to breakfast on

Thursday, February 16 @ 8:30 a.m.

in the FCC coffee area,

we'll provide the food,

you bring your appetite.

~ good food, good conversation ~

it's a great way to start your day!

Please RSVP to deborah.gray48@gmail.com

or 952-4041 by February 13

so we can plan accordingly.

See you there!

Interested in playing handbells?



Handbells are not just for church! They are fun to play, a great opportunity to learn a new way to play music, while exercising your brain, and a wonderful social activity with other folks!

Bells of Casco Bay, a community handbell choir based at The Foreside Community Church, UCC in Falmouth, is offering a free handbell class that meets Thursdays from 9 to 10:00 a.m. Whether or not you have experience ringing or simply want to learn, all are welcome. The ability to read music makes it easier to learn, but is not required; there are other techniques for learning the notes.

If you are interested in giving handbells a try or have other questions, please contact Debbie Reifsnyder at gailekieh@gmail.com.

**AND
BEFORE
YOU
GO...**

**One more look,
one more nod,
to another
successful
Christmas Fair!**

**Hope to see all
of you again in
December 2023!**



February 2023

Be sure to check the calendar at The Foreside Community Church's website
www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers in the sanctuary	2 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (see pg. 9 on how you can join) 6:30 p.m. Green Team Series "Efficiency Maine"	3	4 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details)
5 9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 2 for details) 4 to 6:00 p.m. Foreside/ Falmouth Youth @ FCC	6	7 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	8 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers 6:30 p.m. Green Team Series (see pg. 6 for details)	9 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (see pg. 9 on how you can join) 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (see pg. 9 on how you can join)	10	11 9:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. "Why Church?" All Church Conversation Please register! See pg. 2 for link.
12 9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 2 for details)	13	14 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	15 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (see pg. 6 for details) 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers 6:30 p.m. Green Team Series	16 8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details) 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (see pg. 9 on how you can join)	17 Deadline for March Steeplenotes material into office	18
19 9:30 hybrid service 4 to 6:00 p.m. Foreside/ Falmouth Youth @ Fal- mouth Congo	20 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Monthly Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Mtg.	21 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers	23 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (see pg. 9 on how you can join)	24 10-11:00 a.m. Seekers Group (see pg. 7 for details)	25
26 9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 2 for details)	27	28 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal				

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Daily Lectionary Readings for February 2023

Wed., Feb. 1

Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
Luke 6:17-26

Thurs., Feb. 2

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Deuteronomy 4:1-14
1 John 5:1-5

Fri., Feb. 3

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:1-12
James 3:13-18

Sat., Feb. 4

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:13-16
Mark 7:1-8

Sun., Feb. 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Mon., Feb. 6

Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 22:3-20
Romans 11:2-10

Tues., Feb. 7

Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wed., Feb. 8

Psalm 119:105-112
Proverbs 6:6-23
John 8:12-30

Thurs., Feb. 9

Psalm 119:
1-8 Genesis 26:1-5
James 1:12-16

Fri., Feb. 10

Psalm 119:1-8
Leviticus 26:34-46
1 John 2:7-17

Sat., Feb. 11

Psalm 119:1-8
Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Feb. 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or
Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Mon., Feb. 13

Psalm 119:9-16
Exodus 20:1-21
James 1:2-8

Tues., Feb. 14

Psalm 119:9-16
Deuteronomy 23:21—24:4, 10-15
James 2:1-13

Wed., Feb. 15

Psalm 119:9-16
Proverbs 2:1-15
Matthew 19:1-12

Thurs., Feb. 16

Psalm 2
Exodus 6:2-9
Hebrews 8:1-7

Fri., Feb. 17

Psalm 2
Exodus 19:9b-25
Hebrews 11:23-28

Sat., Feb. 18

Psalm 2
1 Kings 21:20-29
Mark 9:9-13

Sun., Feb. 19

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Feb. 20

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
Exodus 33:7-23
Acts 7:30-34

Tues., Feb. 21

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 11:1-6

Wed., Feb. 22***Ash Wednesday***

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Feb. 23

Psalm 51
Jonah 3:1-10
Romans 1:1-7

Fri., Feb. 24

Psalm 51
Jonah 4:1-11
Romans 1:8-17

Sat., Feb. 25

Psalm 51
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 18:1-7

Sun., Feb. 26***First Sunday in Lent***

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Mon., Feb. 27

Psalm 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tues., Feb. 28

Psalm 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14—5:10



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

or unless otherwise posted

Office: 207-781-5880

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