

9:00 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING

"Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone"

WELCOME

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

LENGTHENING OF LIGHT

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Happy are those who are honest with God.

All: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

One: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the Lord in times of distress.

All: For God is our refuge and protects us in times of trouble.

One: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

All: Let us shout for joy! Let us worship God!

†"MORNING HAS BROKEN"

Gaelic Melody

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Holy God, we confess that we keep silent when we should speak. We see iniquity and the injustices of the world, yet are content not to call them out. We withhold kind words, yet are quick to speak in judgement. Forgive us, O God. Direct the way we should go and help us to use our voices to spread your grace and truth...(silent prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

†SUNG RESPONSE

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

REFRAIN TO HYMN 192

†TIME OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Laura Sherwood

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

PNC UPDATE

PSALM 32

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

MESSAGE

Oddny Gumaer

"Coming Back to Life: Ambassadors of Reconciliation" Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

†"SPIRIT SONG"

John Wimber

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

SHARING OUR GIFT'S (See back for other giving options.)

"What the World Needs Now"

Burt Bacharach

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

†"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

Philip Bliss

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

SENDING

"How Great Thou Art"

Music: Bruce Blanck, piano; Dick Daugherty, reeds; Gordon Johnson, bass

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, X, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again. Please scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.

CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am – 11:45 am).

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS

Activity bags for children are available at the Sanctuary and Chapel entrances. Please put used bags in the basket after worship.

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins, and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word** @ **First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

SOURCES FOR WORSHIP

All liturgies are from *Call to Worship Year C*, PC(USA); scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE).



QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL

Please scan the QR code to access our online giving portal. Please select "General Fund" or other offering option. You may also text 11855 to 73256 to give. Thank you for your generous support!

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Organized in 1855



LENTEN SEASON 2025

"For God's Spirit—always sweeping over everything, helping new life to rise from the ashes—makes all things new!"—from the Lenten Devotional Coming Back to Life

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 30, 2025 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights 302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



Please stand as you are able.

10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

"Méditation from Thaïs"

John Eckhardt, violin

Jules Massenet

The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

LENGTHENING OF LIGHT

†CALL TO WORSHIP

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One: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the Lord in times of

distress

All: For God is our refuge and protects us in times of trouble.

One: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

All: Let us shout for joy! Let us worship God!

†HYMN **475** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we keep silent when we should speak. We see iniquity and the injustices of the world, yet are content not to call them out. We withhold kind words, yet are quick to speak in judgement. Forgive us, O God. Direct the way we should go and help us to use our voices to spread your grace and truth...

SILENT CONFESSION

(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time) ...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven. Be glad and rejoice, for in Christ, we are a new creation.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE (Refain: Hymn 377)

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

†TIME OF GREETING

COMMUNITY LIFE

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

PNC UPDATE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Laura Sherwood

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32

(Pew Bible, p. 440) Rev. Laura Sherwood The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

John Williams

"We praise you, we give praise! Exult, you just, in the Lord; Exult in the Lord. Praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! The Lord is Savior, Savior of the world: You who take away the sins of the world."

"Exsultate Justi"

Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(Pew Bible, p. 940) Oddny Gumaer The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Oddny Gumaer

"Coming Back to Life: Ambassadors of Reconciliation"

♦Hymn **774**

"There Is Now a New Creation"

STUTTGART

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Sherwood

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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 (See back for other giving options.)

Offertory

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Paul Sjolund

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine; For Thee all the follies of sin I resign, My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now. I love Thee because Thou has first loved me, And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree. I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now. In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright; I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now." Chancel Choir; John Eckhardt, violin

 Φ RESPONSE (Hymn 662, vs. 1)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use our lives—to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

♦HYMN **7**4

"When God Restored Our Common Life"

RESIGNATION

♦CHARGE **&** BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE "The Lord Is My Light"

Frances Allitsen

"The Lord is my light, and my salvation. Whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom, then, shall I be afraid?"
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

"Chaconne"

Louis Couperin

Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)

Flowers: Cynthia Goldsberry—In loving memory of my husband, Bill

Preaching: Oddny Gumaer

Liturgists: (9:00 am) Revs. Laura Sherwood & Barbara Gorsky

(10:30 am) Rev. Laura Sherwood

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Bill Dillon Mario Alberico Carole Anderson Don Johnson Judy Ayers Nancy Johnson Denise Beihoffer Connie Leach Sally Blaseck Mollie Lumsden Carl Burklund Stu Olin Laura Carlson Patty Richard Mary Clarbour Bea Sonderegger Margie Conner Terry Wade Lin Willour Nancy Conning

Friends & Family

Sheila Hall

Kiepura Judy — family of Mark Bishop Monica Kotas — sister of Mario Alberico Bradford Leach — brother of Jeff Leach Lisa — daughter-in-law of Launa Ismail Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia

Iim & Nancy Robinson — friends of

John Hayes — friend of Mary

Betty Sanders — friend of the congregation Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields

James Vasiliades — brother-in-law of Carolyn Nunley

Dave Weiss — brother of Rev.

Barbara Gorsky

Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

Serving in the Armed Services

MU2 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson

Lt. Col. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen

About First Pres

STAFF

Today

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff: **Business Administrator:** Debbie Walter Laura Sherwood **Interim Associate Pastor: Senior Administrative Assistant:** Barbara Gorsky Mary Fino Associate Pastor of Children, Youth Administrative Assistant / and Families: Rebekah Anderson Receptionist: Carol Vega Director of First Pres PDO & Associate Director of Music and **Organist:** Christopher Urban Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Director of Children's Choirs: Nick Pulikowski

Worship Technicians: Amy Senior, Jonah White Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Custodian/Facility Monitors: Joe Webb (mornings) Iden Jajou (evenings)

Save the Date

Guest Preacher, Oddny Gumaer

April 2	Wednesdays@Noon
April 6	New Member & Visitor Lunch
April 8	Restaurant Walk
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 13	Concert Series: Haydn's Creation
April 13	Restaurant Walk
April 17	Maundy Thursday at St. John UCC
April 18	Good Friday
April 19	Easter Egg Hunt
April 20	Easter Sunday Worship: 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
April 27	Children's Musical (One worship service 10:30 am)

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or 847-255-5900, extension 225 or Rev. Laura Sherwood, at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, extension 229 or call the office to share your pastoral needs.

LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS — Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for The Word @ First Pres. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons. If you need help with technical problems, please send an email to webcasting@firstpresah.org.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/ firstpresah; X, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. We look forward to connecting with you!



Choose love. Be the light. Change the world

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org

Church Life

March 30, 2025

We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit.

SHADOW PRAYER BOX — We invite you to write down a personal prayer and place it in the Shadow Prayer Box. These prayer cards are a place where you can share a prayer for yourself, for others, or for the world, that may be difficult to speak. You can tell the truth about a hurt or wound, ask for forgiveness, and allow hurt, grief, and concern to pour out of you freely. The prayers in the box will remain private and the pastors will hold all in their weekly prayers during Lent. You can find a Shadow Prayer Box near the Welcome Center and in the Chapel.



GUEST PREACHER, ODDNY GUMAER — Today — Oddny is from Norway and co-founded Partners Relief & Development and the Novi Community with her husband, Steve. These humanitarian organizations have provided emergency aid and development work in Myanmar's ethnic areas, the Middle East

and Ukraine. They have assisted thousands with emergency relief, education, healthcare and mental health support. She is a sought-after international speaker and her speeches often draw from her experiences, her leadership role in a growing organization, her life as a mother and humanitarian, and her reflections as a questioning Christian and a woman striving to be compassionate but often falling short. Her talks are typically humorous, personal and filled with wisdom and principles that resonate universally.

NEW MEMBER & VISITOR LUNCH — Sunday, April 6 / 11:45 am / Boardroom — Our next new members class will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 11:45 am in the Boardroom. All recent visitors are invited to attend. Contact Pastor Laura Sherwood at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org with questions.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COLLECTION — through April 20 — Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-inneed around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

March 30—Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207	
	(Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing
9:00 am	Worship — Chapel
9:00 am	Lenten Study — Boardroom
10:00 am	Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium
10:00 am	Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
10:30 am	Worship — Sanctuary
10:30 am	Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year olds) — Room 206
10.30 am	K-5 Sunday School — Room 304

10:30 am Sunday School (Grades 6-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/303

10:30 am Confirmation (Grade 8) — Room 109/111

10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112

11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex 5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal — Bell Choir Room

5:45 pm Youth Handbell Choir/HSYG Dinner — Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm HSYG — HS Lounge, Gym

Upcoming Events

Family FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING — Wednesdays / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for children and youth.

Weekly Schedule:

6:00-7:00 pm: Drop-in dinner time for all ages 6:30-7:00 pm: Children's Choir (grades K-5) 7:00-8:00 pm: Classes and programs, including:

- ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
- Kids Connect (grades K-5)
- Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER CLASS: Spiritual Practices — Wednesdays, April 2 & 9 / 7:00-8:00 pm / Chapel / Instructor: Rev. Barbara Gorsky — During the season of Lent, we will explore "spiritual practices". In this class, we will sample different ways to connect with God and how these connections can deepen our sense of God's presence in our everyday lives. Be open, be willing and be prepared to see God in new and exciting ways!

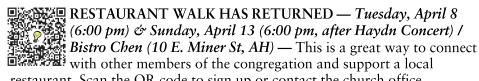
SIGN-UP FOR THE CHILDREN'S MUSICAL — Our children will perform a musical on Sunday, April 27, at the 10:30 am worship service (only one service this day). This time of music, drama and crafts is open to all children K-5th grade. Our rehearsals will begin during Family Night, April 2, and continue for four weeks. Contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson to register.

FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE NOTE — Family Night will <u>not</u> meet on Wednesday, April 16 (Holy Week).

WEDNESDAYS@NOON — Wednesday, April 2 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary — Join us for an afternoon recital featuring Matthew Doran, organ. Matthew is from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights.

SAVVY SENIORS: 69+ — Friday, April 4 / 6:00 pm / Arlington Ale House — Join us for two hours of fun, conversation, a trivia game and good food as we gather at the Arlington Ale House, 111 West Campbell Street, Arlington Heights. Take the elevators in the lobby up to the 3rd floor. To RSVP, please contact Susan Carroll by phone 847-956-4086 or email tcarroll60@aol.com. Please bring a dish to share:

Last name begins with A - H: please bring a dessert to share. Last name begins with I - Z: please bring an appetizer.



restaurant. Scan the QR code to sign up or contact the church office.

CONCERT SERIES: HAYDN'S CREATION — Sunday, April 13 / 4:00 pm / **Sanctuary** — The oratorio depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as narrated in the Book of Genesis. We'll also celebrate First Pres' 170th anniversary with an Illinois premiere of *Tributum*, for bagpipes and orchestra.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT — Saturday, April 19 / 10:00 am — Children of all ages are invited to join us for our annual Easter egg hunt! We will begin in Fellowship Hall and separate children by age groups. Join us to hunt for eggs and enjoy a light breakfast. Register at firstpresah.org/ experience/special-events/.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

LENT - SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY — Sundays, through April 13 / 9:00 am / Boardroom — For many, Lent is a time to "give up," or sacrifice something as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. This year, we invite you to ADD something for Lent. Put an extra hour a week on your calendar to read the Bible stories of the season and reflect on them. Together, see these familiar stories with fresh eyes. We can find new meanings for our lives today. There will be no homework and you are welcome to attend as many times as you can. Join us, and make Lent a time for new ideas and new hope.

LENT - COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — Sundays, April 6 & 13 / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110 — Coffee Grounds is a memberled study group open to ALL adults, of ALL ages. A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action: by George Hovaness Donigian. For anyone who dismisses Lent as a seemingly endless time of self-sacrifice and introspection, this study for Lent offers a breath of fresh air. It connects prayer and other inner spiritual practices with outward actions of mercy and compassion. George Donigian guides you to grow in your prayer life by praying about daily news reports, discovering the needs around you and responding with love and compassion.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: COMING BACK TO LIFE — The focus of the devotional is that in spring, after a long winter's nap, an amazing thing happens the world comes back to life! This devotional is full of ideas and activities that can help us wake up, too, preparing our hearts, minds and communities for Easter's great celebration. Available in the literature racks or online through our website.

WRITE NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CONFIRMANDS — As Confirmands embark on new journeys of faith, we invite you to share words of encouragement and love with each of them. Starting Sunday, April 6, decorated paper bags with the names of both our 8th grade Celebrants and our 10th grade Confirmands will be placed in the Parlor before and after worship and in Fellowship Hall during Family Night. We invite you to share words of encouragement, prayers and kindness to uplift our Confirmands. These will be given to them in worship on Celebration Sunday, May 4.

WE NEED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND MISSIONFACTORY **VOLUNTEERS** — We need volunteers of all ages—youth and adults—to make VBS and MissionFactory happen! VBS and MissionFactory will take place July 7-11. Youth in grades 7 through 12 are invited to help with VBS and youth in grades 9 through 12 are invited to help with MissionFactory. Are you a college student who is home for the summer? We'd love your help! Mark your calendar, VBS and MissionFactory training will take place on Sundays, June 22 and June 29, following worship at 11:45 am in the Boardroom, and on Tuesdays, June 24 and July 1, at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom. We appreciate your generosity and hope you can join us!

JOIN THE FIRST PRES GOLF LEAGUE — The First Pres Golf League is organizing teams for the 2025 season at Palatine Hills Golf Course. During May through August, we will have Tuesday evening tee-times for 9-hole rounds. Whether you are already a great golfer or just learning how to play, you are welcome to join the league. We also need substitutes! Please contact Arlene Bullerman at 847-670-0319 or abullerman@earthlink.net for additional information.

Worship Next Sunday

April 6, 2025: Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am — Worship (Chapel)

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)

Music: Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

Preacher: Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8 Scriptures:

Sermon Title: "Coming Back to Life: Healing Compassion"

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

> \$1,627.00 Bookmarks

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Dia Nuevo — Our first quarter bookmarks will go to the support of Dia Nuevo, a Spanish speaking, new worshipping community of the Chicago Presbytery in Hanover Park. Dia Nuevo is comprised of first generation immigrants from Colombia, Venezuela and Guatemala.

WEDDING & FUNERAL GUILD VOLUNTEERS WANTED — Please consider joining our newly created Wedding & Funeral Guild and be a part of something special. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org.



PADS NEEDS HELP! JUST ONE SHIFT! — On January 14, we opened our doors to clients. Now we need your help! We are a church that has supported PADS for over 30 years, and we need volunteers to step up and sign up to work the various shifts. If everyone agreed to

work just one shift, we would be set for the season. We need you! The QR code will direct you to the sign up page. Thanks! Pastor Barbara



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP TIME — Fellowship Time takes place after worship services for about 30 minutes. Anyone can host! Gather your family, a group of families, a group of friends, your book club, or your committee and scan the QR code to sign-up.

FAMILY NIGHT HELP WANTED — There are many ways to help support this vital ministry to church and community members. Please consider ways you could help:

- Sponsor the full or partial cost of dinner for one night (average cost is \$400 for 100 people). Contact Debbie Walter in the Church office or choose "Family Night" from the dropdown on our Giving page.
- **Bring Dessert**
- Wash Dishes & Cleanup
- **Attend!** Your presence is the best gift of all!!

FOOD BARREL COLLECTION — The Mission Committee has voted to direct the donation of nonperishable food items to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Please place items in the barrels located in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. The next time you are at the grocery store, why not pick up a few healthy nonperishable items to donate? Thank you for your past and continued support!