

Zwingli
United Church of Christ

MAY
2026

ZWINGLI HILL NEWS
MAY 2026
Volume 64 No. #4

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A Letter From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in this season of transition.

I write with both gratitude and hope as we prepare to welcome our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Joslin Kears. Transitions can stir a mix of emotions—excitement, uncertainty, even a bit of grief for what has been. All of that is natural. And yet, this is also a sacred moment in the life of our church—a time when God is not finished with us but actively shaping who we are becoming.

Rev. Kears comes to us with a particular calling for seasons like this. Their role is not simply to “fill in,” but to walk alongside us as we listen more deeply for God’s voice. Together, we will engage in important questions: Who are we as a church right now? What is God calling us to in this moment? What kind of community do we hope to become for the sake of the world? This work will help prepare us to welcome our next settled pastor, whoever that may be, with greater clarity and shared purpose.

As we begin this journey, I want to invite us into a posture of intentional welcome. One important way we do that is by honoring Rev. Kears’s use of “they / them” pronouns. For some, this may feel new or unfamiliar. That’s okay. Like any practice of hospitality, it takes attention and care. What matters most is our willingness to try, to learn, and to respect one another. Using the names and pronouns someone shares with us is a simple but meaningful way of saying: you belong here.

We also prepare to welcome not just a new pastor, but the changes that inevitably come with new leadership. Change can be challenging, especially in a community rooted in deep relationships and traditions. But it is also where growth happens. I

encourage you to remain open—to listen, to participate, and to trust that God is at work even when the path ahead isn't fully clear.

In the weeks ahead, there will be opportunities to meet Rev. Kears, to share your stories, and to take part in shaping our shared future. I hope you will engage fully in this process. Your voice matters.

Let us step into this season grounded in grace, guided by curiosity, and committed to the kind of welcome that reflects the wide and generous love of Christ.

Peace Be with You,
Pastor Alan

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

On May 3rd Rev. Joslin will be leading their first service as our interim Senior Pastor. Also, on the 3rd there will be a small reception/luncheon after Sunday School for a meet and greet session with Rev. Joslin. Sign up for the luncheon at the Shepherds board to let us know how many to expect.



👩‍👧‍👦 CIRCLE OF SISTERS: “PAINTING WITH A SIS”

Join us Saturday, May 2nd at 2 PM in the Family Life Center for a fun afternoon of painting and fellowship! We will be creating a simple, step-by-step painting. So, no experience is needed. Enjoy wine and cheese while we paint. You're welcome to bring a bottle of wine or a favorite cheese to share. Sign up on the Shepherds Board. A small fee for supplies may apply.



ADULT ELECTIVES

May 3

Joint Adult Bible Study

Join Jonathan Widgins in the Parlor at 10:30 am to discuss today's Bible lesson.

May 10

Native Plants in the Landscape

Native plant landscaping is a growing trend in yards, commercial sites, and public gardens. Come to hear more about the importance of incorporating native plants into our landscaping.

May 17

Intergenerational Sunday School

We invite you to join us for a Meet and Greet with Rev Joslin Kearse—a wonderful opportunity to welcome her and learn more about her. There will be a brief question-and-answer session, so think about what you'd like to ask. Afterwards, we'll create crafts to thank everyone who has volunteered their time during our transition. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mother's Day Flowers

Are you seeking a thoughtful gift to express your gratitude to your mother?

Mother's Day floral arrangements will be available for purchase on **Sunday, May 10th** at a price of \$20 per bouquet. Please refer to the sign-up sheet or contact the church office to place your order by **Thursday, May 7**.

Teacher Appreciation Sunday

We invite you to join us in acknowledging our dedicated teachers on **Sunday, May 17th**. We extend our sincere appreciation for

their commitment and effort. Their invaluable contributions have greatly supported the educational growth and faith development of our congregation.

Graduation Sunday

June 14

Is graduation on the horizon for you or a family member? We want to celebrate this accomplishment during the church service on June 14. If you or someone you know is graduating, please email Lisa at the church office.

Hearts and Hands for Jesus

From May to July, we will collect funds for shipping school supplies to Costa Rica through Mission Hearts and Hands for Jesus. Donations will be accepted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. School supplies will also be collected by Missioners this summer.

For more information about Hearts and Hands for Jesus please visit: hh4j.org

THE CIRCLE OF SISTERS BOOK CLUB!

Join us on Wednesday, May 27 @ 7pm in the Bright Space to discuss the book “Theo of Golden” by Allen Levi. The story takes place one spring morning; a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn’t explain much about where he came from or why he’s there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person’s story. And so, portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered. A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, “Theo of Golden” is an unforgettable novel

about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.

TOP BRASS QUINTET 5/17 2PM



Top Brass
QUINTET

Join Us for a
Recital May 17, 2026
2pm
Zwingli Church
350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA
www.zwingli.org office@zwingli.org



Featuring many different styles of entertaining music, including Jazz, Ceremonial, Broadway Show and Folk music.

FREE CONCERT

SWAG STORE

The Zwingli Swag Store is LIVE!

Items available for purchase are T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, hats, baby items, stuffed animal friends, water bottles, mugs, stickers, buttons, bandanas for you or your pet, and so much more!!!

Pay online and have items shipped directly to your house, visit zwingli-ucc-souderton.myspreadshop.com or scan the QR code and buy your swag today!



Not comfortable with going online to order? See Jason Burns at one of the tables after service with your debit or credit card, and he will assist you in showing off your Zwingli pride!



Healthy Moment
Melanoma Awareness
By Kristie Lowery – Faith Congregational Nurse

*The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
Psalm 121: 5-6*

The month of May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month. The focus is meant to put a spotlight on how to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer, how to find skin cancer early when it is highly treatable, as well as the fact that people of all skin tones develop skin cancer.

Fast Facts About Skin Cancer

- Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States.

- Unprotected skin can be damaged by the sun’s UV rays in as little as 15 minutes
- Even if it is cool and cloudy, you still need protection. UV rays, not the temperature, do the damage.
- Anyone can get skin cancer, but some things put you at higher risk.
- The most common signs of skin cancer are changes on your skin, such as a new growth, a sore that doesn’t heal, or a change in a mole.

A part of Skin Cancer Awareness Month is to provide an awareness devoted to educating people about melanoma, the most serious skin cancer. The American Academy of Dermatology encourages everyone to begin a lifelong habit of checking their skin for signs of skin cancer. Melanoma can develop anywhere on the skin, including skin that’s had plenty of sun exposure and skin that is usually protected from the sun. It can develop under or around a fingernail or toenail. If caught early, melanoma is highly treatable. You can find melanoma early by examining your skin for the **ABCDE’s** of melanoma and checking your nails.

ABCDE’s to identify potential signs of melanoma:

- *Asymmetry* A: One-half of the mole does not match the other.
- *Border* B: Irregular, scalloped, notched, or poorly defined borders.
- *Color* C: A mix of colors such as brown, black, tan, red, or blue.
- *Diameter* D: Usually greater than 6 mm (roughly the size of a pencil eraser), though they can be smaller.
- *Evolving* E: The spot changes size, shape, or color over time. It may also begin to itch or bleed.

May is often the startup of the summer season and holidays. It is a time when we tend to spend more time outdoors and in the sun. And so it is a time to pause and consider sun protection. Most people consider applying sunscreen when at the beach or at the pool. However, it is important to protect the skin with more than sunscreen anytime you are outside. Sun protection is important all year round, and it is best to use several different kinds. When you are working in the yard, watching a ballgame, or taking an afternoon walk, make sun safety an everyday habit so you can avoid getting a sunburn and lower your chance of getting skin cancer.

In a Center for Disease Control article titled “*Skin Cancer Awareness*”, they make a suggestion to help make sure that you and your family stay sun-safe. The suggestion is to get ready for summer with a tote bag full of different ways to protect your skin. Keep the tote bag handy so that you can grab it whenever you head out for summer fun!

Some important things to include in the backpack:

- A lightweight long-sleeved shirt or cover-up
- A hat with a wide brim that shades your face, head, ears, and neck
- Sunglasses that block both UVA (ultraviolet A) and UVB (ultraviolet B) rays
- Sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and both UVA and UVB (broad spectrum) protection

More sun safety tips:

- Stay in the shade, especially during late morning through mid-afternoon.
- If it is not possible to stay in the shade, then wear a long-sleeved shirt and pants to protect your skin.

- Reapply sunscreen at least every 2 hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.

Enjoy your fun in the sun while taking precautions to protect your skin!!

References:

1. "May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month". American Academy of Dermatology Associates. Noted on April 14, 2026. <https://www.aad.org/public/public-health/awareness-campaigns/skin-cancer-awareness-month>.
2. "Skin Cancer Awareness". Centers for Disease Control February 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/features/skin-cancer.html>



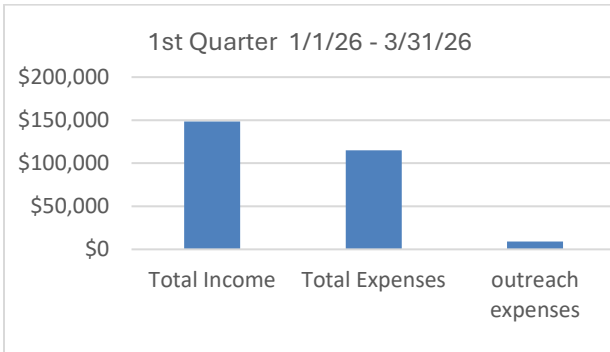
FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2026

Two missed Sundays for snowstorms and increased expenses for snow removal can cause havoc with a church budget. Despite those factors and due to the generous gifts of so many, the first quarter ended positively with a total income of \$154,790 as compared to expenses of \$124,256. Our donations to UCC outreach and other outreach organizations were \$9,231 for the quarter.

Looking ahead, the second quarter will bring staffing changes as we welcome an Interim Sr. Pastor and it's also the start of

summer vacation season. Our consistent giving will be more important than ever. **Have you ever considered electronic giving for your weekly offering?** This method of giving helps tremendously, especially when members are away as their offerings will still be here. Electronic giving also helps the church to know a portion of our income that is available for any given month.

Let’s make it a great second quarter!



How You Can Give: Place your envelope in the offering plate during worship or mail or drop off at the office during the week. Electronic funds transfer can be used to move your offerings from your bank account to Zwingli’s on a regularly scheduled basis (forms available in the atrium). Or you can use your smart phone camera or a QR scanning app to scan the QR code, below. It will take you to Zwingli’s secure, on-line giving page. You can make your one-time or a recurring offering to Zwingli right from your seat with a credit card. Any questions? See one of the members of the Ministry of Stewards: Sue Wack; Lois Johnston; Bradd Klausfelder; and Jessica Jalboot.



The national UCC has provided information regarding this year's Stewardship theme "Where Our Hearts Will Be" from *Matthew 6:21*, "*Where your treasure is, your heart will be also.*" Throughout the coming months and culminating with Stewardship Sunday in November, look for the logo in our church bulletins, z-news and newsletters with information and food for thought about this year's stewardship journey.



Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God's?

(UCC Stewardship Resources theme overview)



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH



The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. Please drop off your donation by Pentecost Sunday, May 24.



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

This year's Lenten Mission Project was a success thanks to the generosity of so many. Mitzvah meets people in crisis with practical support and respect. They provide ongoing assistance, referrals, coaching, and support by individually assessing and building personal relationships. We collected \$1,340 in addition to supplies specifically requested by Mitzvah Circle. Included were 562 diapers, 1514 baby wipes, miscellaneous feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes and toothpaste, toiletries, sets of towels and a few kitchen items.

Mitzvah Circle and the Missioners thank everyone for supporting this project so generously.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

DEI TEAM

(Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

MAY 30TH 2-5PM
ZWINGLI UCC
350 WILE AVE, SOUDERTON PA

Pride Season Kick-off!

**4TH ANNUAL
SAFA
PRIDE**
Picnic
soudertonareforall.org

**FOOD
TRIVIA
GAMES
CRAFTS
PRIZES
VENDORS
DJ
DOGGY PARADE
RESOURCES
& MORE**

ZWINGLI SUMMER SUNDAY SOCIAL



Once a month from June-September on a Sunday afternoon, join us for fellowship at local wineries/breweries. Join us for good conversation, live music, tasty wine/beer, and the great outdoors! Bring a snack to share and a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. No need to sign up, just show up. We will set up as a group. Look for the purple canopy!

This event is open to all ages. Friendly dogs are welcome at some of the venues. Food is offered at some of the venues. Please check their website for more information.

Cost: Whatever you choose to buy. There is no cover charge.

Dates/Places:

June 14 – Bishops Winery, 2730 Hilltown Pike, Perkasie, PA 18944
<https://www.bishopestatepa.com/>

July 26 – Brass Collar Brewery, 100 South Front Street,
Souderton, PA 18964 <https://www.brasscollarbrewingco.com/>
Seating is provided.

August 16 – Branch Creek Taphouse, 30 W. Chestnut St.,
Souderton, PA 18964 <https://www.branchcreektaps.com/>
Seating is provided.

September 13 or 20 (tbd) - Adello's Winery, 21 Simmons Rd,
Perkiomenville, PA 18074 <http://adellowines.com/>

Time for all Dates/Locations: 1-4 pm

See Lisa Cinciripini with questions.

Souderton-Telford
Historical Society
presents



A Self-Guided Tour of
community treasures
May 16, 2026

To order tickets, please scan this QR code:



Ordering

On May 16, 2026, the Souderton - Telford Historical Society is sponsoring an event, "Art in Sacred Places" from Noon to 5pm. Zwingli is one of the six local churches participating in this self-guided tour. Tickets for adults are \$15 each. Children under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://soudertontelfordhistory.org/current-events/> or at Zwingli.

We are looking for volunteers to greet guests and answer questions about Zwingli. If you can do a two-hour shift, please sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F49AFA62CA02-63697553-artinsacred>

ZWINGLI NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Exciting news for families! Registration is now open for the 2026-27 school year at Zwingli Nursery School. We warmly welcome children aged 3 and 4 to join our nurturing and creative learning environment. Our preschool program is designed to inspire young minds through engaging activities and a supportive community.



ZWINGLI NURSERY SCHOOL
350 WILE AVENUE
SOUDERTON, PA

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Play-based learning
- ✓ Outdoor play
- ✓ Mon, Wed, & Fri 9 - 11:30 am
- ✓ State Licensed
- 215-723-1186
- www.zwingli.org/zns



Zwingli Nursery School is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Care Provider



HAVE YOU NOTICED THE GARDEN BEDS ON OUR BEAUTIFUL FRONT LAWN?

Zwingli is partnering with Keystone Opportunity Center to host a new Community Garden, an initiative designed to help local families grow fresh vegetables for themselves while also supporting Keystone's food pantry.

There are two ways for community members to get involved. Garden sponsorships help cover the cost of building and maintaining the garden, including soil, materials, water, and tools. Sponsored beds will be used by families in the community to grow healthy produce, and any extra harvest will be shared with the Keystone food pantry. You can also volunteer to help plant, water, weed, and care for the garden beds throughout the growing season. No gardening experience is necessary, just a willingness to lend a hand and help our community grow.

Email Kristine at kevina@keystoneopp.org or call 267-810-2424 to volunteer or with questions.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

If you want to be part of the Prayer Circle, please let the church office know, and we will send you the link. We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Butch and Pastor Alan *each Wednesday of the month from 12:00 to 12:30.* We feel that heartfelt communal prayer is especially needed consistently as we continue to deal with individual, family, and church concerns, as well as other societal issues and direction.



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU – KEEP US IN THE LOOP

If you are a loved one is admitted to a hospital, rehabilitation center, or any healthcare facility, we kindly ask that you reach out directly to the church office or one of our pastors. Let us know if you'd welcome a pastoral visit or prayer support. We deeply value the opportunity to walk alongside you during times of healing and uncertainty. Calling the church office is the surest way for us to stay connected and offer the care and comfort your deserve.



STAY INFORMED

If you want to stay current on what Zwingli Ministries and Council are doing, pick up a Pre-Council Report from the vestibule or contact Lisa in the office for an electronic copy. See the engaging ideas that your leaders are sharing!



PAPER RETRIEVER CONTAINER

Unfortunately, the paper recycling company has discontinued servicing our area. The company said that it was far and they only had one driver. Thank you to all those who participated in this program and helped our environment.



SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Purchase a grocery store gift card from Zwingli Church, and 5% of your purchase goes to Zwingli's General Fund. On Sunday mornings or through the church office during the week, you can purchase a \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift card to Giant Stores or Landis Supermarket for grocery shopping. This fundraiser supports the ministry of Zwingli UCC.

Thank you for participating in this program!



2026 FLOWER, BULLETIN AND POSTAGE SPONSORSHIPS

Would you like to sponsor the flowers on the chancel one Sunday morning or the printing of the bulletin or help us with our card ministry?

Chancel flowers are \$50.

Bulletins are \$15.

Postage Donation of \$30 or drop off a sheet of first-class stamps

Please pick up a form from the bulletin board next to the office to sponsor the above. Once completed, attach a check and drop it off in the office. You can also mail it in or place it in the offering plate. Our mailing address is 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964. We appreciate your support.

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

- May 3 Susie and Dale Woodland
 Dave and Carol Reiff
- May 10 Marissa Tice & Family
 Kristie Lowery, Mark Comden
- May 17 Jen Smeed, Miles Smeed
 Pam and Pete Myers
- May 24 Jessica and Mike Jalboot
 Laurie and John Reynolds
- May 31 Charlotte Kramer, Carol Wenger
 Rick and Missy Rogers
- June 7 The Chalmers
 Lee and Lois Hunsicker
- June 14 The Burns Family
 Joan Yeager, Gene Mattes
- June 21 Joanne and LaMar Kratz
 Jonathan Kratz

REFRESHMENTS

- May 3 Welcome Luncheon
- May 10 Youth
- May 17 Susie Woodland, Charlotte Kramer
- May 24 Sue Pro, Sandy Schuler
- May 31 Joey Bush, Lois Hunsicker
- June 7 Pam Myers, Toni Kramlik
- June 14 Kristie Lowery, Becky Klausfelder
- June 21 Ministry of Stewards

ACOLYTE

May 3	Alex Vogt
May 10	Adrien Tice
May 17	Caleb Jalboot
May 24	Callie Leake
May 31	Harrison Neff
June 7	Evan Chalmers
June 14	Alex Vogt
June 21	Adrien Tice

GIFT CARD SALES

May 3	Carol Wenger
May 10	Betsy Villareal
May 17	Lisa Cinciripini
May 24	Maureen Hartman
May 31	Pam Myers
June 7	Carol Wenger
June 14	Betsy Villareal
June 21	Lisa Cinciripini

MONEY COUNTERS

May 3	Charlotte Kramer, Carol Reiff
May 10	Erin Chalmers, Carol Wenger
May 17	Sue Wack, Bradd Klausfelder
May 24	Lois Johnston, Joanne Kramlik
May 31	Lee and Lois Hunsicker
June 7	Ed & Liz Bibic
June 14	Mike & Jess Jalboot
June 21	Kristie Lowery, Becky Klausfelder

NURSERY COVERAGE

May 3	Becky Klausfelder, Kristie Lowery
May 10	Nancy Hafler, Beth Burns
May 17	Monica Jalboot, Missy Rogers
May 24	Laurie Reynolds, Beth Algeo
May 31	Lois Hunsicker, Marissa Tice
No nursery coverage June - August	

TRUSTEE ON DUTY

May 3	Tom Cinciripini
May 10	Rich Hartman
May 17	tbd
May 24	Rich Hartman
May 31	Tom Cinciripini
June 7	tbd
June 14	Rich Hartman
June 21	tbd

FACEBOOK

May 3	Sue Wack
May 10	Erin Chalmers
May 17	Dale Woodland
May 24	Katie Farina
May 31	Flo Rutherford
June 7	Laurie Reynolds
June 14	Lisa Cinciripini
June 21	Tony Villareal

SOUND SYSTEM

May 3	Rick Rogers
May 10	Miles Smeed
May 17	Mark Comden
May 24	Ray Farina
May 31	Sue Wack
June 7	Diane Chinault
June 14	Sue Wack
June 21	Miles Smeed

***PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot participate on your scheduled Sunday, please call one of the other individuals on the list and arrange to switch dates.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAILING
ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE 2026 MAILING IS
MONDAY, MAY 18 !**

Zwingli UCC Staff

Joslin Love Kearse, MBA, MDiv, MAST, CSSC.....Interim Pastor
Alan Miles, M.Div..... Associate Pastor
Steve Emery.....Director of Music/Organist
Lisa Cinciripini..... Office Administrator
Kristie Lowery.....Office Assistant

Zwingli United Church of Christ, 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA

Phone: 215-723-1186 Fax: 215-723-5402

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office@zwingli.org

Office Hours

M- TH: 8:30-4:30, F: 8:30-3:30 Closed Daily 12-1

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At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges.

We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family, including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. Our commitment is that all members feel and be safe as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community, and daily lives.

9-12-21



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

