

# GREEN TREE TIMES

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## Everyone Can Embrace January as it Offers Fun Both Indoors and Out



There's nothing quite like the facial expression of someone sledding!

As you read this it's officially 2026. Happy New Year!

There's just no denying that January in Pittsburgh usually means cold temperatures, snow, and shorter days. That may sound daunting but actually, those things can be a change that's welcomed as a resident of a city with all four seasons! Just pull out the winter wardrobe and stay bundled.

The great outdoors beckons millions of people each spring, summer and fall, but far fewer individuals spend as much time outside in winter.

However, spending time outdoors can help to improve mood just as much when the mercury drops as it can when temperatures are warm. There are scientific reports that nature helps to generate positive emotions such as calmness, joy and creativity. Also, connectedness with nature has been linked to lower levels of poor mental health, particularly depression and anxiety.

With that said, you are in the right place for winter fun!

Pittsburgh is within a couple of hours from four different ski resorts. There are even more if you travel up to 2-3 hours. The closest to home are Boyce Park, Seven Springs Resort, Hidden Valley Resort, Laurel High-

lands, Wisp Resort, and Nemacolin Woodlands.

All of these places offer equipment rentals, lessons and fun for all ages. In addition to skiing and snow boarding, most offer snow tubing, which requires no skill at all, other than the ability to laugh and scream as you fly down the hill! If you want



A sunny day of skiing is the best kind!

to just watch others in your group, you can sit in the warm lodge and watch through the windows while enjoying some food and drinks.

Another favorite is ice skating. There are indoor rinks for all year long but in the Pittsburgh area you can skate outdoors during the winter season! Four outdoor rinks nearby are North Park, South Park, Schenley Rink, and UPMC Rink at PPG Place. You can rent skates and most offer facilities to head inside to get warm periodically. More information at

[alleghenycounty.us](http://alleghenycounty.us), [therinkppgplace.com](http://therinkppgplace.com) and [pittsburghparks.org](http://pittsburghparks.org).

During the winter season, Western PA does not disappoint in the way of festivals. The Annual Fire & Ice Festival in Somerset is being held on Jan. 16-18 and will feature over 50 ice sculptures, ice sculpting contests, an ice slide, ice games, an artisan market, food trucks, festival scavenger hunt, bake sales, fire pits, fireworks, great music and more! Info at [somersetinc.org](http://somersetinc.org).



An amazing ice sculpture.  
~photo courtesy Somerset Inc.

Visit Frick for many fun activities at Winterfest 2026 on Jan. 17-18, 10 - 5 p.m. and then explore Clayton, enjoy treats and beverages from the cafe and much more for all ages!

Another fun event is Winterfest at Moraine State Park on January 31, 11 - 3 p.m. Enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride, dog sleds, live music, ice carving, chainsaw carving, hiking, cross-country skiing, food, bonfire and more! Info at [visitbutlercounty.com](http://visitbutlercounty.com).

There's always free outdoor fun like sledding on a nearby hill, building a snowman, making a snow angel, taking a nature walk or a city walk. Options are endless if you are looking for fresh air and January temps in the 'burgh!

Indoor activities are in abundance as well. If going outdoors is not your cup of tea, there's plenty to do while staying warm.

Head to the movies. There are many big movie theaters in the area with the newest releases. We also have a few small independent theaters that are worth visiting. The Row House



Theater in both Dormont and Lawrenceville offers both new movie releases as well as older classics and other fun options. The Manor Theater in Squirrel Hill shows quality new releases. The Harris Theater, located downtown, shows art films almost daily.

Enjoy a bit of nature while staying warm. The *Annual Orchid and Tropical Bonsai Show: Blooming with Love* will start at Phipps Conservatory on Jan. 10 and will offer new romantic displays and vibrant colors that will not disappoint! Info at [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).



Beautiful flowers at Phipps.  
~photo courtesy Paul G. Weigman

Pittsburgh Restaurant Week 2026 will be held this year Jan. 12-18. The theme is "New Dishes for the New Year" and highlights the many different and unique dining options in Pittsburgh and all of the surrounding areas. Special menus and meals are offered at discounted prices. Go to [pittsburghrestaurantweek.com](http://pittsburghrestaurantweek.com) and preview the menus, prices and reserve online.

Amazingly, there are still seats available to see *Wicked* this month at (Continued on page 3)

# MUSINGS... SAVOR



**Editor's Note:** *Sharon Eakes is a personal and executive coach, who is a regular columnist for our paper as well as for the Huffington Post. She is the author of Fresh Views on Resilient Living.*

*To savor something means to enjoy it thoroughly, appreciating its full flavor, scent, or significance, often by lingering on the experience to make it last.*

~Dictionary

If you have followed me for awhile, you may remember that instead of New Year's Resolutions, I choose a word each year and try to live into it. My word this year has been

savor. What a wonderful word, and a great theme. Savoring has been both inside me and outside. I have welcomed more experiences into my life, embracing them.

Here's some of what it has meant to me:

#### I have savored many moments:

The feel of a brush on my back in the shower

The first sip of coffee in the morning  
Watching gold finches at the bird feeder

Walking in the neighborhood, the cemetery, the woods

The glorious sky of a sunrise or sunset through my bedroom window

The sound and feel of a train passing my house (it is loud; my house vibrates)

Waiting....in line, on the phone, for people to arrive

Many yummy meals, including this new favorite dessert: whipped cottage cheese with nut butter topped with fruit and whipped cream.

#### I have savored relationships

Sunday night catch-up calls with my daughter, Lisa

Regular devotional gatherings for learning, healing and uplift

Sitting in silence with a troubled friend

Deep friendships, meaningful conversations

The magic of staying in touch with grandkids as my great grandkids grow and change

Completing a large glorious paper bead project with a friend

3 good friends died: Janet, Astrid and Joanie. I have soaked in memories of them....gone back in time to shared conversations and experiences. Savored the feeling of our friendships. Savored grieving them.

The wonderful feeling of loving and being loved by family and friends

#### I have savored thoughts

Sometimes enough to let them grow and change

Sometimes enough to let them go

Sometimes enough to share with others

This year, savoring has meant slowing down, melting into my experience and treasuring it. Fine tuned noticing. Recently, I looked out

the window and the sun was glistening on the Ohio River that runs past my house. The water looked alive. It sparkled. And then a tugboat lumbered through the sparkle. Life slowed down. I was rooted to the spot. Mesmerized. For just a moment, I WAS the glistening water, then the slow boat. I smiled, then laughed out loud. I was in love with that moment.

Sometimes I have savored the unexpected. For example, usually when I say something stupid or share too much, I regret it and try to erase it from my mind as quickly as possible. But this year several times I've savored these painful moments, which, surprisingly, allowed me to accept my humanity and let go of them more quickly.

Savoring is the doorway into softening. It asks us to trade anticipation for appreciation, striving for sensing, and the idea of life for the actual experience of it. The inner noise quiets. The outer pace slows. The moment expands.

#### COACHING QUESTIONS/TIPS:

1. What have you savored this year?
2. What can you savor today?

**Note from the Publisher:** If you enjoy reading Musings, Sharon has gathered them together in a book, titled "Fresh Views on Resilient Living." It would make a great holiday gift! It's available on Amazon or you can scan the QR code to go to the link.



## Community News and Events

The **Catholic Singles of Greater Pittsburgh** invites singles 21+ who are looking for a new way to meet people and have some fun. They offer a variety of activities including dinners, cultural, mini golf, hikes, biking, community service, volleyball, sports leagues, trips, and more. For more info, visit website at [cacpittsburgh.org](http://cacpittsburgh.org), email [CAPittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:CAPittsburgh@gmail.com) or call 412-341-4070, #1.

The **South Hills Women's Club**, 80+ years strong, will not be meeting in January and February 2026 due to the unpredictability of the weather. The next meeting will be March 9, 2026. If interested in attending, please contact Diane at 412-965-4714. New members and guests are welcome.

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## Green Tree Times



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## A Great Start to a New Year

Much like money, time does not grow on trees. That reality is all too familiar to busy adults juggling multiple responsibilities at work, at home and other places where they spend their time.

A time crunch can make it hard to commit to a New Year's resolution. But many resolutions can be fun, worthwhile and not require a lot of time.

Resolutions that focus on improving social connections might be something to consider this year. Expanding your social life can prove beneficial, as strong social connections are important to maintaining cognitive health and emotional well-being. There are many socially-minded resolutions.

One of the best ways to meet new people is to engage in activities that attract like-minded individuals. Volunteer activities are one avenue to explore. Volunteerism can start in schools, community centers, houses of worship, and elsewhere through the community.

Whether it is to meet new friends or potential romantic partners, now may be the time to put yourself out there. Social apps that promote personal relationships help people vet individuals so they're not walking into situations completely unaware. Re-

search suggests that 53 % of people under the age of 30 report having used a dating site or app, and the popular app Meetup boasts 60 million members.

Explore and try new activities. If you've been meaning to learn how to brew your own beer, create acrylic art craft projects, or just go to Bingo night, now is the time to dive in. Engaging in new hobbies and activities puts you in touch with other people, which can help foster new friendships. Resolving to make established relationships more secure may come down to listening better. Resolve to improve your listening skills. Too often people are harried and rushed and may miss key signals a partner or friend is giving them. By slowing down and listening, while also trying to see the situation through another's eyes, you can strengthen connections. Suggest a meet up or host a gathering. Make time on the calendar to hang out with others. If you don't make an effort to get together, you can't expect others to want to do the same. Sometimes you have to take the lead to create social situations and gatherings.

New Year's resolutions to revitalize your social life can make for a great start to a new year.

## Everyone Can Embrace January



Comfy like a hibernating bear can be good!

the Benedum Center. Info at [trustarts.org](http://trustarts.org).

Pittsburgh is home to many museums that offer so much. Sometimes we take for granted where we live. You could visit the Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Museum of Illusions Pittsburgh, Moonshot Museum, Mattress Factory, Heinz History Center, Andy Warhol Museum, Aviary, Kamin Science Center and more. Visit websites for specific events and ticketing information.

If you are more of a hibernating bear in the winter, that's fine too. There are amazing shows available to watch while at home, or grab a good

(continued from front page)

book, bake something, do a craft, make art, sit and chat on the phone with a friend. Again, the options are unlimited.

No matter what you decide to do to enjoy your days, I hope you have nice reflections on the past year and are looking forward to filling this year with great moments and more memories will be made. The cycle of life continues!

I'm grateful for each day, even when I'm complaining! My number one resolution for this year is to try to NOT complain but to find the gratitude before the complaint leaves my mouth. Will I succeed? Only time will tell!

Happy New Year to you and yours!



## Green Tree Rotary Serving the Community During Holiday Season

Sunday, December 7 was a merry, merry time at Juniper Senior Home in Green Tree as Green Tree Rotarians and their friends sang Christmas carols to the residents there.

Lyrics were passed out to everyone, but many of the seniors knew the songs by heart, and joyfully sang along, some tapping their feet to the rhythm.



Since early fall, Green Tree Rotarians were also collecting warm coats for those in need. Over 200 coats, hats and gloves were collected and donated to an organization that helps mothers and children at risk, and to a senior home for low-income residents.

Green Tree Rotary meets every Thursday at noon at Unity Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in joining Rotarians serving the community, the country, anywhere in the world, stop by or email [rapnd1@aol.com](mailto:rapnd1@aol.com)

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# The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

Reeling in the New Year by sending best wishes for a healthy and happy 2026 to all the avid readers of the Fishin' Hole!

They say the winter temperatures will be getting colder soon, but after the many above freezing days we've had, there is not going to be safe water for ice fishing for a while in our local area. While that is maybe a bummer for those of you who love the hard-water, it does mean more fishing for the folks who prefer the liquid version.

The Erie tributaries have been producing a tremendous amount of

steelhead for anglers this fall and early winter. I fully expect that to continue. As always the weather is the main concern when planning a trip to Erie. You want to find a time with at least a decent amount of rain or snow-melt but, not so much that it blows the streams out making them unfishable. It is a roll of the dice, but keeping a close watch on the forecast will help you make a more informed gamble.

Remember if you are trout fishing, the season remains open until February 28th but your creel limit is reduced to three combined species of trout through that time as well.

As of now, North Park Lake is less than two months removed from a full stocking of Rainbow Trout. There are reports of fish being caught at Canonsburg Dam in Washington County and, on Raccoon Lake in Beaver County. Yes, there are plenty of fish out there for you to reel in at this start of 2026.

Do your best to stay warm and dry when fishing in the coming months. Ice fishing or open water fishing can quickly become very little fun if you find yourself miserable and

uncomfortable. A little planning goes a long way. One other safety note in case there is a sudden cold snap in the next week. Remember, four inches of clear, solid ice is the safe amount of ice to support you and your fishing gear. Never fish on less than four inches of any ice!

Maybe your fishing equipment is away until springtime. For many that is true. For many, these next couple of months are about whiling the time away by dreaming of the warmer weather and springtime fishing. For those I would say, hang in there. It will seem longer than it truly is. Remember on the very first full day of winter we immediately start to gain an extra minute of daylight every

single day. That's right, spring's approach can literally be measured in minutes. It will be April in 90 extra minutes of daylight. That is a very positive thought. That is one of my New Year's resolutions, to try to stay more positive. What are your resolutions? Send me your pictures and stories to [samdhall@comcast.net](mailto:samdhall@comcast.net) and keep those lines tight if you are using them. If not, we will see you back on the stream when the weather breaks.



A beautiful summer small-mouth!

Scan to watch  
my fishing videos



## Did you Know?

Come New Year's Eve, it's customary to count down the last 10 seconds until the clock strikes midnight and the new year officially begins. It seems like the 10-second countdown is as old as time itself, but the tradition actually is much more modern. According to Alexis McCrossen, a history professor at Southern Methodist University, prior to the twentieth century, New Year's Day was celebrated rather than New Year's Eve. And even up until the mid-twentieth century, countdowns were not associated with the holiday. However, the tides turned on countdowns with the Apollo moon launch in 1961. After that, countdowns for radio hits and other fun activities began. Although some TV announcers in the 1960s began counting down to the new year, it wasn't until 1979 that the crowd at Times Square in New York City began joining in. This was despite the first New Year's Eve ball drop being held in 1907. That final year of the 1970s was when it became fashionable for a crowd to gather and participate in shouting out the 10-second countdown, a practice that is now tradition.

## Free Throw Championship!

All boys and girls ages 9 through 14 are invited!

The Knights of Columbus St. Raphael the Archangel Council #11143 Free Throw Competition will be held on Sunday, February 1, at the Green Tree Borough Municipal Gym at 10 West Manilla Ave., 15220 at 2 p.m.

There will be awards for each age group. No pre-registration necessary. No Cost.

Proof of age is required at the time of competition (birth certificate preferable).

Any Questions? Call Bill O'Connor at 412-716-5577.

## LIBRARY INFORMATION

### Ask a Librarian!

Check out the many programs for all ages offered at most libraries!

#### GREEN TREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 Manilla Ave., Pittsburgh, 15220  
[greentreelibrary.org](http://greentreelibrary.org), 412-921-9292

#### SCOTT TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

301 Lindsay Rd., Scott Twp., 15106  
[scottlibrary.org](http://scottlibrary.org), 412-429-5380

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH MAIN - OAKLAND

4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, 15213  
[carnegielibrary.org](http://carnegielibrary.org), 412-622-3114

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH MT. WASHINGTON

315 Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, 15211  
[carnegielibrary.org](http://carnegielibrary.org), 412-381-3380

#### CRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

140 Bradford Ave., Pittsburgh, 15205  
[craftonpubliclibrary.com](http://craftonpubliclibrary.com), 412-922-6877

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH WEST END

47 Wabash St., Pittsburgh, 15220  
[carnegielibrary.org](http://carnegielibrary.org), 412-921-1717

#### THE ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY AND MUSIC HALL

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# Fun and Games for Kids

*(Answers on back page)*



Page created by Matthew Hall

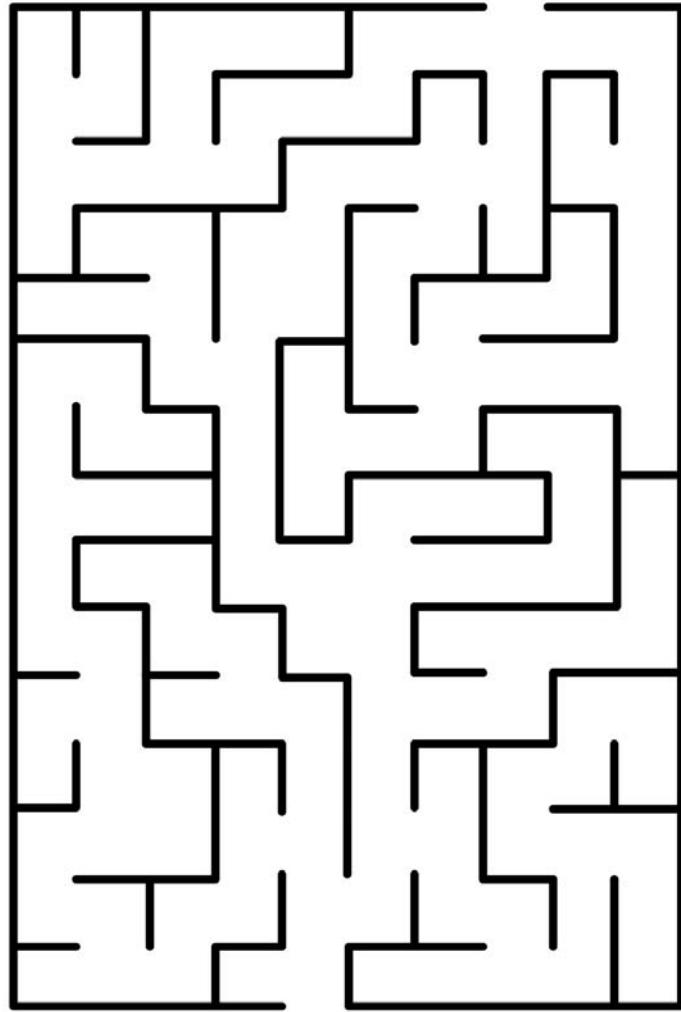
## More puzzles and fun!

[pittsburghjuniortimes.com](http://pittsburghjuniortimes.com)



Check out the most recent  
Big Kit Lil' Kaboodle issue!

Help the boy get to his snow tube!



Find the 10 differences between the pictures below.



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ststephenpittsburgh.org  
412-279-5868  
Pastor Maurice C. Frontz III, STS  
Facebook.com/ststephenpittsburgh

## 1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights

50 Stratmore Avenue  
412-921-6153  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Live and in person Worship  
on Sundays at 10 a.m. and on  
Facebook.com/Dave.Carver  
All are welcome!  
Pastor: Dave Carver

## All Saints Polish National Catholic Church

500 Fifth Street, Carnegie  
412-276-2462 Fax: 412-276-9677  
[www.allsaintspnccpa.org](http://www.allsaintspnccpa.org)  
allsaintspncc@outlook.com  
The Rev. John Dinello  
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Contact regarding services.

## Unity Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 412-561-2431 Fax: 412-561-0696  
[www.unitypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.unitypresbyterianchurch.org)  
[facebook.com/unitypresbyterianchurch](http://facebook.com/unitypresbyterianchurch)  
Sundays 10:30a.m. -Live and Streaming  
Rev. Dr. Karen Claassen

## Bible Baptist Church

412 Old Washington Pike  
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[bbcpittsburgh.com](http://bbcpittsburgh.com)  
Sunday Services:  
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[Facebook.com/bbcpittsburgh](http://Facebook.com/bbcpittsburgh)  
Rev. Phil Golden Jr., Pastor

## First Christian Church at Carnegie

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Carnegie, PA 15106  
Minister Robert W. Hale,  
412-279-5030  
carnegiechristianchurch@gmail.com

## Saint Philip Parish

St. Philip Church, 50 W.Crafton Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Ascension Church, 114 Berry St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
412-922-6300  
Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor  
Call church for any service updates.

## United Presbyterian Church in Ingram

30 West Prospect Avenue  
412-921-2323

Website: [ingramupchurch.org](http://ingramupchurch.org)  
Rev. Wayne D. Meyer

## Pittsburgh Baptist Temple

112 W. Sycamore, Mt. Washington  
412-431-8396  
[pittsburghbaptisttemple.com](http://pittsburghbaptisttemple.com)  
pastor@pittsburgbaptisttemple.com  
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Premillennial-Soulwinning  
Rev. Ray G. Cunningham, Pastor

## Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

2350 Noblestown Rd.  
Noblestown Shopping Center  
Pgh, PA 15205  
412-921-8444  
Sunday Live Stream  
Worship at 9:45 am  
Go to: [mtpisgahgreentree.org](http://mtpisgahgreentree.org)  
Rev. Tom Ribar, Pastor

## St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Steuben St. & Lincoln Ave.  
412-921-1125  
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Pastoral Office Hrs. by Appointment  
Jin Kyung Ko, Pastor

## Carnegie Presbyterian Church "New Hope Worship Center"

1100 Washington Ave. #104, Carnegie  
412-279-3223  
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Rev. Dr. Colleen F. Molinaro  
[www.carnegiepresby.org](http://www.carnegiepresby.org)



## Church of the Nativity (Episcopal)

33 Alice Street, Crafton  
412-921-4103  
[www.nativitycrafton.org](http://www.nativitycrafton.org)  
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## Carnegie Primitive Methodist Church

640 Dow Ave., Carnegie, 15106  
(Corner of Fountain St. & Dow Ave.)  
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[carnegiepm.com](http://carnegiepm.com)  
412-207-2233  
Todd Pastorius, Pastor

## Crafton United Presbyterian Church

80 Bradford Avenue  
412-921-2293 Fax: 412-921-0348  
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Office: 9-1 p.m., T, Th, Fri  
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## Hawthorne Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Crafton, PA 15205  
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[www.hawthornechurch.org](http://www.hawthornechurch.org)

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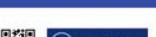
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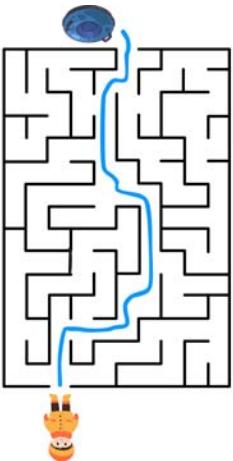
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