

## MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ,

On **Wednesday, June 7**, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, Centre Church will host the 'Who's Who' of leaders in Brattleboro to an **'asset-mapping event'**. I ask for your prayers leading towards this special day. As much as we have 'planned' for this special day, it is a day in which we desire the **Holy Spirit** to intervene.

A year after I began my ministry at Centre Church, we began with the Vermont Conference's financial assistance a **Vitality Coaching** initiative that lasted approximately one year. This coaching began of what has come to be four years of **long-range planning**. The leadership of our church attended numerous workshops, received weekly vitality newsletters, and was a part of a broader collective of churches that sought to implement 'best practices' for local churches in an era of secularization and modernity whereby the Christian church no longer has numerical, governmental, nor societal privilege. In addition, the church seeks a means by which to proclaim the gospel in a community and nation that is characterized by the breakdown of the nuclear and extended family and hyper-personal mobility. Paul Nickerson mentored us as a coach.

About the time of the COVID pandemic began, we began the second phase of our long-range planning: **consultancy**. Rather than collective coaching, we hired Paul Nickerson to be our church's consultant. Paul helped our church identify its strengths and weaknesses and led us through the long journey, lasting almost two years, of defining our church's vision and mission. Under Bob Pu and April Harkness' capable leadership, we discerned well! Yet, the identification of our church's vision and mission was primarily macro and aspirational. We needed to take the next step after deciding to be a church that fostered 'belonging, believing, and becoming'.

The third and last step, lasting about a year, has been our work with **Partners for Sacred Places**. The Sacred Places initiative relates specifically to the capacity of the church to carry-out its vision and mission. Our church has diminishing human and financial resources to carry-out *any* vision or mis-



sion. Our partnership with the Sacred Places is a resurrection of a previous one that began and ended (2014) without substantive result (accessibility) before I became the minister. The Sacred Places initiative enables our church to assess our physical building and campus and the community's needs and priorities. Sacred Places seeks to partner the church with the community so that cooperative efforts will enable our historical and iconic 'space' on Main Street to be a relevant and vital presence in Brattleboro and for our church to continue to proclaim the Christian message to a world that desperately needs it.

On **Wednesday, June 7**, local government, health agencies, social welfare organizations, the arts community, and other faith traditions will tour our building and campus, engage in a plenary forum, and enjoy food and drinks. We pray that there will be a meeting of minds and hearts. We pray the intervention of the Holy Spirit will foster, through collaborative relationships, fruitful brainstorming and discernment leading to a catalyzation of an exciting mission-focused way forward for our church and community. We pray this event will enable our church to continue to be the 'Jewell on Main Street'. Please pray for our special day, the culmination of our four-year long-range planning journey.

Be well. In Christ, Scott

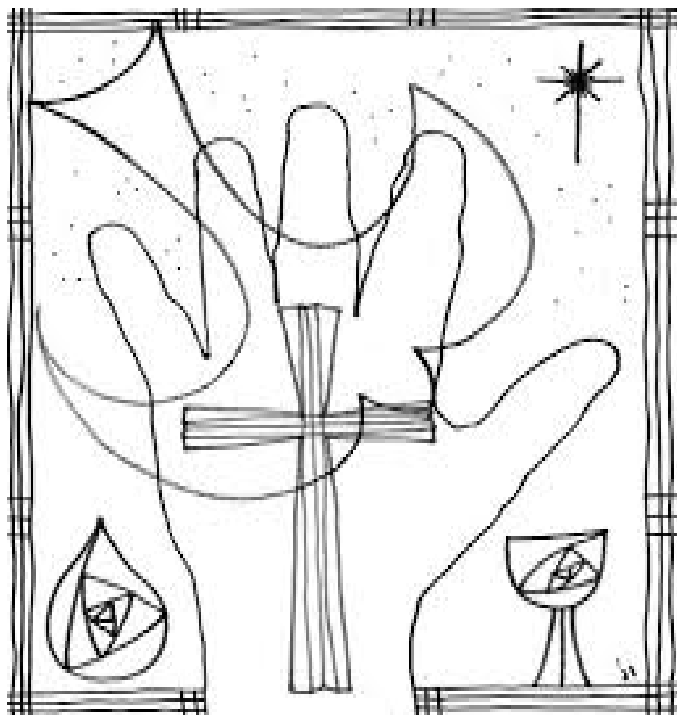
## CENTRE BELLS — JUNE 2023

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

## Council Chair, LYNN HERZOG

It has been wonderful to welcome the Spring this month (except for this morning when it was 32degrees). Like the trees and plants bursting into bloom, Centre Church is also bursting into bloom – with three important events coming up in a one-week span. The Annual Program Meeting is June 4 (after church), the Community Asset Mapping with Partners for Sacred Places is June 7 (Wednesday afternoon), and the Annual Church Picnic is June 11 (after church). We hope you will be able to attend all these events.

We started our Council meeting this month on a cheery note from our treasurer – our finances are good. The discussion of restructuring our Boards and Committees was postponed until the Autumn because there is too much going on right now. No other bad news arose, and we were even able to talk about hymns amicably. (I have heard that congregations have broken apart over which Hymnal to use). The questions were: Three hymns or two? All verses or only some verses? (These questions were asked in the interest of shortening the worship service). Since we couldn't agree on two hymns or three, Council came down in favor of fewer verses. If you have strong feelings about this, be sure to talk to the Deacons, Scott, or Mary Milkey-May. But remember – you can't please all of the people all of the time. Let us continue to worship together in love, regardless of the number of hymns or length of the service.



## From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

The choir will be wrapping up the season on Sunday, June 4, having provided weekly anthems since last September. Many thanks go out to the following singers: Peter Abell, Marion Abell, Jenifer Ambler, Joanne Clark, Dart Everett, Alison Hale, Lisa Keller, Matt Kennedy, Roger Miller, Mindy Nadolski, Sue Rowell, Eric Strickland, Greg Sweeney, and Rennie Washburn. Though we haven't had all the singers on many occasions, we have managed to have a SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) quorum most of the time. We also enjoyed having Bill McKim pop in on occasion as he rotates area churches each week and we appreciated Priscilla Svec helping us out at Christmas.

We will be switching to the summer music schedule which involves finding folks to play or sing on Sundays through Labor Day weekend. Please let me know if you'd be willing to cover a Sunday. Also, please remember that our Union Service at Centre will be on July 30! We will need folks to sing with the combined choir on that Sunday.

Meanwhile, don't forget to thank a choir member!



## DEACONS

As the Spring wreaths lovingly made by Heidi Mario and Carlene McCarty adorn the sanctuary for the Spring and Summer, it would be wonderful to have flowers from members' gardens to be displayed on the chancel every Sunday. There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board in the hallway, or you can contact Bruce if you are able to supply flowers and how you would like to dedicate them.

The Deacons are very appreciative of those who agree to do the Welcome and Local/Global Concerns and read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. This is an important way to share your gifts and serve your church!

A reminder of our Union Services:

**May 28**, First Congregational Church, 11:00am

**June 25**, Guilford Community Church, 10:00am

**July 30**, Centre Congregational Church, 10:00am

**August 27**, Dummerston Cong.Church, , 10:00am

Please attend and get to know our neighbors!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The children and leaders of Christian Education (CE) have come through a lovely year of community and friendship building and growing. We have added two new children to our roster and they seem to be attending regularly. This is a great thing for us. We have been wanting to grow the program and now it is starting.

After Priscilla Svec's wonderful message on Easter about bringing the light from the candles back out into the world, the children who performed as the acolytes each Sunday are enjoying coming back from our nursery time into the service early in order to close the circle and snuff out the candles and carry the light out of the sanctuary. Sometimes even a child or two who were not the acolytes follow along and it's a whole group of wonderful children participating in the closure at the end of worship. What a gift.

The Board is changing leadership this month. Laura Slate will join Council as the liaison to CE and Nan Mann will step down from that role. However, Nan will still participate on the Board, as will Kate Weeks, and handle the childcare. There is still discussion to be had as to whether we will offer childcare weekly all summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Mann, out-going Chair



### **The Green@Centre...**

...is looking forward to a very exciting and active season. June Gallery Walk on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> will kick off the month with several artists. The Nitro Cats will keep us happy and hopping with their great cover music.

The Fundraising Committee will have yummy offerings to enjoy while we hang out or even have a dance or two. A prize goes to the first person that can get Pastor Scott to dance - that means really dance.

Towards the end of June there will be a music jam on the Green to celebrate the end of the school year. Let's get ready for a great summer of music and outdoor fun.

Love to All,  
Bonnie Girvan: [girvangardens@gmail.com](mailto:girvangardens@gmail.com)

*Women's Spirit* is starting a new book this week - *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The subtitle is *Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. The book is readily available at Everyone's Books.

Women's Spirit meets weekly from 4:30-5:30pm in the Heritage Room.

Women are always welcome to join us!



Dear Friends in Christ,

Please support **Windham World Affairs Council** and our minister, Scott Couper, by attending a lecture by his uncle, **Dr. Jack Jewell** and partner, **Tina Boniface**, on **Thursday, June 22, 6:30pm** at 118 Elliot St.

Jack and Tina will present on:

### **Antarctica: Axis of Ocean Currents, Climate, and Exploration**

Jack Jewell is a mostly-retired scientist and entrepreneur. In a quest to develop computer logic devices based on optics instead of electronics in the 1980s at Bell Laboratories, he spearheaded a collaboration that demonstrated over one million lasers on a chip smaller than a pinky-nail. That ignited the field of vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs), which are used in high-speed communications within data centers and supercomputers, laser mice, facial recognition and lidar in smartphones, and handheld atomic clocks. Frustrated by his company's lack of interest in develop VCSELs, he started two companies to do such. Jewell has 79 issued U.S. patents. In college, Jewell studied Physics, Astronomy, and Optics, receiving a Ph.D. in Optical Sciences from the University of Arizona in 1984.

The presentation will have mostly photos, but also videos from multiple sources about climate change (as the expedition measured ice-melting acceleration), wildlife, international relations, and a 'travelogue' with a special human interest story about a rescue at sea involving a Ukrainian and a Russian surgeon.

# FREEDOM TO SLAVES!

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Whereas, the President of the United States did, on the first day of the present month, issue his *Proclamation* declaring "that *all persons held as Slaves in certain designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free,*" and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authorities thereof, would recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons. *And Whereas,* the county of *Fredrick* is included in the territory designated by the Proclamation of the President, in which the *Slaves should become free,* I therefore hereby notify the citizens of the city of Winchester, and of said County, of said Proclamation, and of my intention to maintain and enforce the same.

I expect all citizens to yield a ready compliance with the Proclamation of the Chief Executive, and I admonish all persons disposed to resist its peaceful enforcement, that upon manifesting such disposition by acts, they will be regarded as rebels in arms against the lawful authority of the Federal Government and dealt with accordingly.

All persons liberated by said Proclamation are admonished to abstain from all violence, and immediately betake themselves to useful occupations.

The officers of this command are admonished and ordered to act in accordance with said proclamation and to yield their ready co-operation in its enforcement.

R. H. Milroy,



## MISSION & SERVICE

June is Pride Month throughout our country. It is celebrated in many ways including parades and events to raise awareness. At Centre Church we will honor that we are an Open & Affirming church and celebrate the LGBTQ+ artists from our local community for the month in our hallway and parlor. During Gallery Walk, our music will also help us celebrate. Our Second Sunday Offering will be going our local AIDS Project of Southern Vermont. Hopefully some of you also were able to walk on May 20 during the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life sponsored by the Southern Vermont AIDS Project, which started and ended at our church.

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Look for flyers re: Gallery Walk and The Green@Centre for the artists and music. And know that your presence and support makes the events more special and more easily run. Set-up and clean-up help is always needed. Let Bonnie Girvan know how you are able to help!

Bonnie Girvan: 908.307.1623 / [girvangardens@gmail.com](mailto:girvangardens@gmail.com)

Groundworks is operating again. Our next date is Sunday, June 18. To sign up on-line, use this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dada82da6f9-groundworks#>

You can also sign up on the Church Life bulletin board in the hall opposite the parlor. Food can be dropped off by 5:00pm (or brought to church that morning and given to someone who will be going at 5:00pm). Dishes should be fully heated and in disposable containers.

Questions? Contact

Priscilla Svec: 802.505.8925 / [svecpriscilla4@gmail.com](mailto:svecpriscilla4@gmail.com)

or Jenifer Ambler: 802.380.2805/[amblerj@sover.net](mailto:amblerj@sover.net)

Please consider a donation.

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We have been called into service for our El Salvador brothers and sisters. As the government tries to regain lost revenues, they look to new ways to gain funds. Francisco, pastor in Cabanitas, has informed M&S through Jenifer Ambler, that he has been billed for back taxes on property his house is on, all dating from the previous owner. We are finalizing ideas for a fund raising event in July to raise some of these funds. We have also reached out to other churches who have been connected with Cabanitas in the past through the Sister Parish program. We hope to support Francisco and our sister parish collectively. Stay tuned for our special fundraising event—a cocktail party on July 22 at Centre Church.

## The Sacred Places Planning Team



is busy inviting community businesses, nonprofits, social service agencies, and other partners to our upcoming asset mapping event on **Wednesday, June 7** from 3:00-6:00pm in the parlor.

We'll have many representatives from the church in attendance as we continue to discern our future and invite other voices to the table. Stay tuned for more information and reach out to Lynn or April with questions:

[April-Harkness@comcast.net](mailto:April-Harkness@comcast.net)

Please note the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. It contains current information about climate change and some of the implications for us. Comments and further information are welcome. -Margo Neale

## MEMBER CARE

### Annual All Church Picnic



**Sunday, June 11**  
**on the front lawn**  
**after Sunday morning worship**

(What to bring will be printed in church eNews)



# PEOPLE



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by members and friends of our church who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or are housebound as of March 26.

**Karen Getty Peter**—Pine Rock Manor  
3 Denny Hill Rd., Warner, NH 03278

**Alice Stockwell**—Vernon Hall  
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 05354  
802.254.8091

*Please let the Administrator know if we've missed someone.*

## BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Jack Bixby
- 10 Roger Miller
- 12 Carolyn Smith
- 13 Jenifer Ambler
- 19 Marion Abell  
Patty Neubauer
- 27 Mary Hawkes



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Arnold & Marilyn Young
- 26 Peter & Marion Abell
- 20 Rennie & David Washburn



## NEW FRIENDS OF CENTRE CHURCH

**Tyler & Jess Noyes**  
448 Pond Rd., Vernon, VT 053543  
724.799.7708 / [tyler.noyes@hotmail.com](mailto:tyler.noyes@hotmail.com)



Correspondence from the family of Gary Carrier

Thank you very much for the homily, Scott. We were very pleased with the whole day and felt that the service was a very fitting tribute to Dad's well-lived life. The Centre Church family took very good care of us all the way around. All our best and have a great day, Allison

Correspondence from the Mann family

Dear Scott,

I want to thank you for giving such a lovely service for my Mother on Saturday. I had every intention of catching up with you once the service ended, but found myself wrapped up in the moment with people leaving and knowing I needed to get to the lake house in order to take out food and prepare for all of the guests. I am sorry I didn't see you back at the house but again, very much wanted to thank you for such a nice service. It is what Mom would have wanted and the day couldn't have been better. She always loved the days that were sunny and 65-70 degrees, and that is exactly what God gave her as she was laid to rest next to my Dad. She will be truly missed by all.

All the Best,

Patti, Bill, Susan and Andrew  
(family of Isabelle Mann)

Correspondence from our Afghan family in Washington, DC

Good morning, Debbie (Gassaway-Hayward),  
*Eid Mubarak!*

I hope you and your family are fine. Long time since I haven't heard from you. We celebrate Eid after one month of fasting. I and Aziza had positive Covid at the beginning of Ramadan and recovered. On the first day of Eid, I was busy with my job. Yesterday, on the second day of Eid I visit two friends who recently relocated from Missouri and Kentucky. One is in Maryland sixty miles away the other one is in Virginia twenty-five miles away. Kids enjoyed a lot celebrated Eid with their kids. We are home now trying to make a plan to go out and celebrate the event. Asra is now four months plus kids are very happy with her. We all miss you and miss all co Sponsor families, please pass our regards to all families and tell them they are not forgotten, Especially the beautiful Brattleboro. Dr. Lynn came to our apartment we enjoyed being together after four months. I hope she arrived safely back home.

Have a wonderful spring. I hope to visit you soon. Please pass my regards to both Peter.

Thank you.

Abdul Masoudi

# JUNE 2023

**\*\*ZOOM events**  
**\*Holy Communion**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal	2 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 5 <sup>00</sup> Gallery Walk/ Green @Centre 7 <sup>00</sup> Shabat service	3
4 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship*/Dahlia Kack baptism 11 <sup>15</sup> Annual Program Meeting	5 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 5 <sup>00</sup> Sacred Places 7 <sup>00</sup> Christian Theology 7 <sup>00</sup> Deacons	6 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 12 <sup>30</sup> BAILA event 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	7 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 3 <sup>00</sup> Asset Mapping Event 7 <sup>00</sup> VT Humanities First Wednesday	8 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 3 <sup>30</sup> BCC Board 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit	9 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes	10
11 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>15</sup> Church Picnic	12 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 7 <sup>00</sup> Pub Theology	13 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 5 <sup>30</sup> Unsung Hero Award Ceremony 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	14 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Mission & Service	15 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit	16 <b>CB DEADLINE</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes	17 9 <sup>00</sup> Buddhist 1/2 day Sitting 11 <sup>00</sup> Adelaide Minott Memorial
18 <b>Father's Day</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Hospitality Time 5 <sup>00</sup> Groundworks Meal	19 <b>Juneteenth</b> 1 <sup>00</sup> Compassionate Brattleboro 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 7 <sup>00</sup> Christian Theology	20 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	21 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Church Council 6 <sup>30</sup> NAACP  Scott on leave	22 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal 6 <sup>30</sup> WWAC event Scott on leave	23 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes	24
25 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Pride Sunday Union Worship Guilford Church	26 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion 7 <sup>00</sup> Pub Theology	27 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	28 <b>MAIL CB</b> 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> WWAC Salon	29 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit	30 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes	

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website: [www.centrechurchurchvermont.org](http://www.centrechurchurchvermont.org) -or-  
 facebook page: <http://www.centrechurchurchvermont.org/audio-video.html> -or-  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT-632678343519640/notes/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT-632678343519640/notes/?ref=page_internal) -or-  
 From the website Welcome page, click Audio & Video in the top list (or click More or Other on the top right).



JUNE LECTIONARY TEXTS
<b>Sunday, June 4,</b> 1st Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday Gen 1:1-2:2a; Ps 8; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20
<b>Sunday, June 11,</b> 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Gen 12:1-9 and Ps 33:1-12 or Hos 5:15-6:6 and Ps 50:7-15; Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26
<b>Sunday, June 18,</b> 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 or Ex 19:2-8a and Ps 100; Rom 5:1-8; Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
<b>Sunday, June 25,</b> 4th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 21:8-21 and Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 or Jer 27:7-13 and Ps 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Rom 6:1b-11; Matt 10:24-39

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 802.254.4730 / [admin@centrechurchurchvt.org](mailto:admin@centrechurchurchvt.org)



# JUNE



# 2023

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

**Office Hours:** M – F / 8:30am–12:30pm

**Scott's days off:** Friday and Saturday

**Church Office:** 802.254.4730 / [admin@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:admin@centrechurchvt.org)

**Website:** [www.centrechurchvt.org](http://www.centrechurchvt.org)

**Facebook:** [Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT](https://www.facebook.com/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT)

**Current news/information in the larger UCC Community:**

VT Conference: [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) / National: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**

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**Treasurer:** Anne Fecto

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