THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

June 2023

JUST THE NEWS

by Interim District Minister Pete Kaltenbaugh

Almost every evening I sit, watch and listen to a small amount of local and national news. Unfortunately most of the news is the reporting of violence, catastrophes and hatred running rampant. Once in a while a comforting, good and uplifting story is shared.

In our District, Western PA Church of the Brethren there is good news! We have a number of Ordinated and Licensed Ministers sharing profiles with congregations that are searching for part-time Pastors. We have 5 congregations who have profiles completed and are seeking to find a part-time Pastor. Yes we still have a number who want nothing more than a person to speak on Sunday mornings, but that is another matter all together.

Some of our congregations are discovering ways to serve the communities and the world around them with Jesus and His love. They offer food, fellowship and activities that invite others to be part of the offerings to the community. They do not just have a dinner or activity just for themselves. There are children's programs that reach out to all or any child wishing to participate and sharing Jesus as well as a hot meal is being done. There are still choirs practicing and singing, Love feasts and feet still being washed and Youth Sunrise services at the break of dawn. Camp Harmony is preparing to kick-off their 100th summer for they are the oldest Church of the Brethren Camp in the denomination. And some day in the future we can splash in the new swimming pool replacing the other that has been there since Scotch Tape was invented and held things together, like camping, singing, swimming, campfire stories and teaching about Jesus.

However in the midst of positive, uplifting items there is some sadness. Two of our beloved congregations have closed. Their light of witness to their community has been extinguished and Jesus will need to be shared by others in those communities. The congregation at Nanty Glo closed their doors and hopefully we have the building sold. The congregation at Connellsville has closed and we will be listing the building for sale.

Three other congregations have chosen to become independent and they include: Maple Grove, Maple Spring and Middlecreek. We pray, each will discover ways to serve Jesus Christ in their communities of faith. Please keep them in your prayers.

Just around the corner in July we will have our Annual Conference in Cincinnati. Ohio. This should be on your list of prayer concerns as we go forward.

Here in Western PA we are calling forth a number of individuals seeking to enter the Set-Apart ministry and others seeking educational materials to consider entering the process. That's Good News! We have offered Continuing Educational Units for Pastors, and Ordinated Ministers. All active, full and part-time Ordinated Ministers need to complete so many every five years.

As District Staff and District Team members continue to strive to do their best we always need your helpful, prayerful suggestions and names of individuals who might serve on District positions to serve and share Jesus Christ. Send us a note or e-mail sharing a name and their congregation.

Recently I shared with a searching congregation:

"If you have a part-time Pastor you must be a Full-Time
Congregation/Church!"

Serving Jesus is a 24/7 Responsibility!

Together - Let's Get it Done!

Remember you are loved and watched over every day!

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **July 2023** issue is

June 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

Peter Kaltenbaugh, Interim District Minister

Amy Bowman, Financial Clerk

Tina Lehman, District Secretary and Highlights Editor

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Financial Clerk is in

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

CONTACT US:

115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935
814-479-2181
866-279-2181 toll free
www.westernpacob.org

REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

It is very helpful to the District Office staff to have <u>updated</u> information from all the churches we serve.

If your congregation will be making a new directory for **2023** please send one to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935 Thank you!

2023 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2023 District Directory has been sent out via email and postal mail.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2023 District Directory, please contact, tlehman@brethren.org or 814-479-2181

Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please keep the District
Office Staff and the Interim
District Minister as well as
District Leadership Team in
your prayers as they
continue to work in the
district during this time of
transition.

Please also be in prayer for the District Search Committee in their search for a permanent District Minister.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your information appears in the District Directory, please be sure to send me any updates that may happen (when they happen) during this year.

I plan to finalize the 2024
District Directory by December
31, 2023 in order to send out
the new directory early in
January 2024.

I need your help to keep the information current and appreciate it greatly. Thanks!

Tina

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Uniontown– Henry Novak, Spencer Novak, Kaden Umbel, and Kenneth Reese

WITH SYMPATHY

To the family of **Pastor Bertha Hironimus** as she passed away on May 17th.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

The following congregations looking for part-time pastors:

Plumcreek, Robinson, and Pike Run

Interested pastors please contact the District Office at 814-479-2181.

HELP WANTED

THE DISTRICT IS IN NEED OF A TREASURER

SUMMARY and ACCOUNTABILITY:
The Treasurer is the custodian of all the funds administered by the District Board and reports to the Stewards Commission and to the District Board.

The Treasurer instructs the Financial Clerk on any necessary functions that need to be handled and will also have close contact with the Financial Clerk. There are no set hours for this position, only as needed.

The treasurer will attend CORE Team meetings along with the Stewards & Finance Team Chair. The Treasurer will be an authorized signee one all banking and saving accounts.

If you are interested or feeling God calling you to this Treasurer's position, please contact Donna Smith at (814) 535-1102.

TO ALL MINISTERS

Reminder to be sure to update your clearances if you haven't done it already. Once you receive your updated info, please send a copy to the District Office, thanks!

Western PA District COB 115 Spring Road Hollsopple, PA 15935



DISTRICT LIBRARY

Did you know the District Office has a Library and Resource Room?

Have you ever checked out the District Library and Resource Rooms? They are packed full of useful information.

The district resource room can be a place to look for small group bible studies, teaching books for helping kids make friends or facing fears and helping to grow in their faith in the Lord. There is also a curriculum books for teaching kids and adults with developmental disabilities.

A short walk down the hall you walk into our district library. Are you in charge of teaching the youth and need some creative bible studies ideas. Do you need some literature on how to recruit some help? Books are available for you to read. You teenagers that have to do book reports maybe you can find an interesting book here.

We have books on minsters who were influential in the world like Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Billy Graham. If you want to know the history of Christianity or the history of our Church of the Brethren denomination. You can find that in our library too! There are also multiple pastoral resources available on these shelves as well.

I have only touched on the list of books and teaching resources available to borrow. Be sure to check our district resources!

Respectfully submitted by Katie Coughenour, Western PA District Spiritual Formation Team Member



VIRTUAL SERVICES

Arbutus COB Sunday Services are streamed at 9:00 am https://arbutuscob.org/

Geiger COB Sunday Services are on

Facebook at 10:30 am

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633

Hostetler COB Sunday Services are on

Facebook at 10:30 am

https://www.facebook.com/HostetlerCOBMeyersdalePa

Meyersdale COB Sunday Services are on

Facebook at 10:30 am

https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-

Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?

eav=AfZ hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69 LKf8aq-

ZM8lDlo0J v6FfXuzfhRJn8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py c&paipv=0

Rummel COB You can listen to podcasts of services on their church website at https://rummelchurch.com/sermons/

Salisbury COB Sunday Services are on

Facebook at 10:30 am

https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-

Brethren-211422968870314

Walnut Grove COB Sunday Services are on

Facebook at 10:00 am

https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob



ACROSS THE DISTRICT



YARD SALE

The **County Line COB** will be having a yard sale in the church fellowship hall, June 10, 2023 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Many used items including clothing for all ages and sizes. There will also be a bake sale.

The money is used for the projects of the Witness Commission of the church.

Rain or shine!

EVENTS AT THE PENN RUN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

(located directly across the street from the Penn Run Church of the Brethren)

Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3, 2023 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Call 724-463-0420 for event info.

FREE HYMNALS

The County Line Church has some old Church of the Brethren hymnals to give away.

They are red cover and published in 1968.

The front says, "The Brethren Hymnal."

We have over 100 plus copies.

If anyone is interested, contact

Pastor Barry Conn at 814-443-4656.

The District Office has 50 copies of "Hymns for the Family of God" from Brentwood-Benson Publishing from the Connellsville COB.

They are in excellent condition, please call the District Office at 814-479-2181 if you are interested.













CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the life of these graduates
Thank you for seeing them through school
We dedicate their lives to you now,
We pray that you will continue to be their
guide and protector

Help them to live a godly life that will bring glory and honor to your name

Open up their hearts and their minds to you, so they will know you and please you

Fill them with hope and confidence for the

Order their steps and lead them to the future that you have planned for them
In Jesus' name.



CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

We can all use some good news now and again right?

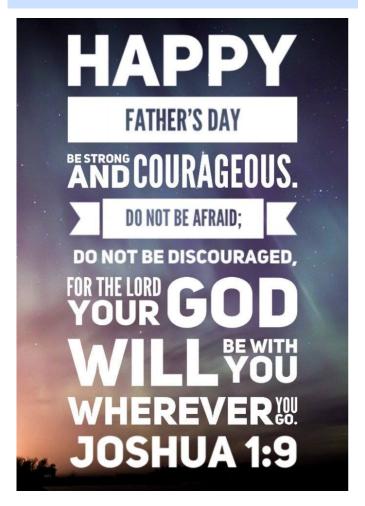
Milestone birthdays, milestone anniversaries, academic achievements, etc.

I look forward to sharing more good news from the District!

tlehman@brethren.org

KEEP CALM I HAVE GOOD NEWS

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

From Herb Ewald, District Disaster Coordinator

It is becoming increasingly more difficult to secure a crew of eleven volunteers via telephone, so I will be using email to communicate with churches and individuals to line up enough people to make this program work.

This system, I hope, will streamline the process and eliminate missed calls and phone messages that sometimes go unanswered. Once you receive an email from me, please check the printed schedule and consider giving a day or a week out of your busy schedule toward this very rewarding, worthwhile ministry.

Contact your church coordinator to volunteer and, if your church does not have one, please contact me at <a href="mailto:hierarm.hiera

New Windsor Trips

No Trips Scheduled Yet

Week-long Trips

7/9/3/23 to 7/15/23 ½ group needed, S. Ohio/KY 10/1/23 to 10/7/23 ½ group needed, A.N.E. 10/29/23 to 11/0/23 ½ group needed, location TBA 12/10/23 to 12/16/23 ½ group needed, S. PA

FOOD PANTRIES

Walnut Grove Food Pantry https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob/

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/

Please consider donating food to these or any other groups in our area.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



El Hogar De Ninos Enmanuel Shoe Project

Thanks to everyone who has continued to support the district shoe project! Our last shipment took place at the end of January, and with many generous donations, we are already half way to our minimum shipment goal. Please keep the project in mind this summer, if you collect shoes and can't deliver them because of a busy summer schedule, please hold onto them for the next collection day this September. The collection day date will be announced in the July newsletter.

For those who like to deliver shoes, the district office accepts shoes during regular office hours, a delivery appointment may be made by calling the Westmont Church office at 814-255-2154, or please contact any of the committee members listed below.

Your donations are helping the folks at El Hogar to continue furnish the new chapel building, and also with the development of post graduate educational programs at El Hogar. Thanks again for your super support!

The shoe committee members are: April Mackell - 814-536-1811 Karen Nagyvathy – 814-244-6977 Marie Camut – 814-266-3010.

Thanks to everyone who has been able to donate to this project, together we can help make a difference!

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

ORDAINED

ABRAHAM, FARREL - 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / sharingpearls@comcast.net BEACHLEY, LINDA—PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / Irbeac@atlanticbb.net BEACHLEY, RONALD - PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / rondbeachley@gmail.com BROADWATER, KEVIN—475 Keystone Street, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 / 814-442-5684 / pastorbroadwater@verizon.net DERR, AMELIA – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / iamameliaderr@yahoo.com DERR, HORACE - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / pastorbutch@gmail.com HOUGHTON, SALLY - 124 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-3019 / 814-243-6448 / smh124@atlanticbb.net KABLER, ERIC—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-266-2734 / eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com LONGWELL, ERIC— 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / kb3ttx@gmail.com MADER, RUBY—2101 Cambria Avenue, Windber, 15963 / 814-467-5265 / redhatvicar@yahoo.com (June, July and August only) MANGES, JOHN - 137 Catskill Lane, Johnstown, 15904-7523 / 814-539-3332 / manges@atlanticbb.net MARSHALL, HOMER - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.net MARSHALL, PATRICIA - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.net MOSORJAK, GARY - 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / wendel05@aol.com PERUSO, RUSSELL - 151 Blackner Road, Johnstown, 15905 / 814-242-0549 / russperuso@gmail.com PISARSKI, STANLEY - 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / spisarski1017@gmail.com STEIN, ROBERT - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 / 724-438-2226 / crid@verizon.net SWICK, MICHAEL - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / preachmike101@comcast.net WALKER, JUDY — 425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette 15644 / 724-522-5260 / larryewalker1@gmail.com

LICENSED

BURNEY, OYANGO—111 Hillcrest Drive, Indiana, PA 15701 / 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com
COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellowersent@gmail.com
SHAULIS, TRAVIS—608 Second Street, Meyersdale, 15552 / 814-442-8626 / tanbadaner@gmail.com

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA—102 Franklin Drive, Greensburg, 15601-1305 / 724 836-0594

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Upcoming Continuing Education Events (updated May 2, 2023)



Dear Friends of Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center: Below are our current continuing education events that are open to all, no matter your district or denomination.

<u>To register, click on the event title and follow the registration links for each event</u>, or contact us at <u>SVMC@SvmcCob.org</u>, or 717-361-1450. Check or online credit card payments are accepted.

Grief Literacy

Julie A. Guistwite, Leader Tuesday, June 6, 2023, I PM – 4 PM, Zoom

The nation's grief-denying mentality and limited community-based grief interventions is concerning to societal well-being. This interactive and case-based workshop examines the grief literacy movement in connection with Christ-centered ministry leadership. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills applicable to enhancing the well-being of congregational members and vulnerable persons in their community. This is part of a wider initiative to advance best practice and professional competence in bereavement care.

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs; \$25.00 for no CEUs.

Neurocognitive Disorders: Supporting Parishioners

Kimberly Korge, Leader

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, (originally May 9), 9 AM - 3 PM, Cross Keys Village

Understand what dementia is and how it differs from Alzheimer's disease; discuss tips to manage difficult situations and conversations with parishioners; describe the significance of trauma and how it might present in those living with a neurocognitive disorder; identify strategies to support parishioners impacted by trauma.

\$60.00 for .5 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. (No Zoom option for this event)

Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message for Today

Steve Schweitzer, Leader

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 9 AM - 3:30 PM, Juniata College

The book of Deuteronomy is a central text containing key themes that shape the Old Testament and its relationship to the New. In this study, we will explore the historical, literary, and theological contexts for understanding the message and content of Deuteronomy.

\$60.00 for .55 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. Zoom option: \$40.00 for .55 CEUs or \$30.00 for no CEUs.

Walter Brueggemann's prophetic imagination: Reviewed, Recovered, and Restored

Conrad Kanagy, Leader

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Elizabethtown College

In this seminar, we'll begin by addressing current challenges facing the church, its leaders, and its mission. We will then review the theological contributions of Walter Brueggemann to these challenges over the past five decades. We will consider how the recovery of these contributions may lead to a church that finds itself newly restored and reoriented.

\$60.00 for .5 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. (No Zoom option for this event)

More events are in the planning stages. Visit our website at: <u>www.etown.edu/svmc</u> and click on "Continuing Education"

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS



FaithX announces its summer theme and service trips

"Have you heard? FaithX registration opens on Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. (central time)!" said an invitation from FaithX staff Marissa

Witkovsky-Eldred. "The FaithX Office invites you to join them this summer to put your faith into action!"

FaithX Summer 2023 registration is open! A total of 12 service trips are planned for junior high, senior high, adult, and we are able participants. Join a FaithX trip to put your faith into action, examine your beliefs, build friendships, and explore a new place! View the full schedule and complete your registration at www.brethren.org/faithx.

. Spain is the destination for this year's international trip for the adult age group. The theme for FaithX 2023 is "Voices for Peace" (Romans 15:1-6, *The Message*). Find a theme statement at www.brethren.org/faithx/theme. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2023/faithx-summer-theme-and-service-trips

Viviendo el amor de Dios Viv Lanmou Bondye A Rayuwan Kaunar Allah Living God's Love

Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

Annual Conference 2023

Duke Energy Convention Center Cincinnati, Ohio July 4-8 (Tuesday-Saturday)

Registration is open now!

https://www.brethren.org/ac2023/ registration/

Additional information is available at:

https://www.brethren.org/ac/



National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)

September 4-8, 2023 Lake Junaluska, NC

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

"God is Doing A New Thing"

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." —Isaiah 43:19

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st.
PAST PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL
SOON WITH UPDATED INFORMATION.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 4-8, 2023

Viviendo el amor de Dios Viv Lanmou Bondye A Rayuwan Kaunar Allah Living God's Love

Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

The Exhibit Hall: A Place to Gather and Connect

Game Night

Program and Arrangements Committee is hosting a game night in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday evening following worship. Come make new friends and connect with old friends while playing your favorite game. While you are there take a stroll around the Exhibit Hall to meet and greet the exhibitors.

Ice Cream Social

Eder Financial will be providing ice cream treats at their booth in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday evening following worship. Come meet the Eder Financial staff and pick up an ice cream treat to enjoy as you play a game or browse the exhibits.

Coffeehouse Stage

A small stage in the Exhibit Hall will feature short musical performances, storytelling, and other presentations throughout the week. Hear presentations by Brethren Volunteer Service, New Community Project, Two Preachers Talking, and Dunker Punks. Come enjoy singing your favorite hymns during the hymn sing. A number of musicians will also be featured during the week. Grab a cup of coffee or tea at the coffee kiosk and sit for a few moments to enjoy one of these performances.

Silent Auction

The Program and Arrangements is holding a silent auction at Annual Conference in Cincinnati this summer. The idea emerged during a discussion about how we could intentionally increase traffic in and contribute to the vitality of the Exhibit Hall. However, it also offers us an opportunity to raise some additional funds. Two-thirds of the proceeds will support Brethren Disaster Ministries. The remaining one-third of the proceeds will be used to offset Annual Conference expenses as we continue to face challenges brought on in large part by the pandemic.

Worship - a time of renewal and reflection



"Gather us in, all peoples together"...to worship in Cincinnati!

Services of worship have been planned to inspire and engage us with our God. There will be elements of surprise and even humor at times, reminding us that God is a creative God of variety! How wonderful to anticipate gathering again as the Church of the Brethren to lift our voices in harmony as we sing new and familiar hymns, to absorb scripture and sermons to rouse us, and to be sent home with thanksgiving and a charge to be more like Jesus!

The worship team of David R. Miller, Don Mitchell, Laura Stone and third-year Program and Arrangements Committee member Beth Jarrett have been working hard to bring you a variety of worship experiences including multi-cultural leadership, a dramatic retelling of scripture, several multi-cultural focuses, a communion service and more. Kyle Remnant, is serving as the music coordinator and will fill the hall with music along with *pianist* Becca Miller, *choir director* Marty Keeney, and *children's choir director*, Pam Hoppe.





EVERY THURSDAY 9 AM - 4 PM 1414 PLANK ROAD, HOOVERSVILLE

As a thank you: Coffee and pastries at 8:45 am; lunch at noon

Contact us at 814.798.5885 or harmony@campharmony.org

www.campharmony.org #spreadtheHarmony

2023 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

If your congregation, committee, or group would like to have information listed on the District Calendar, please send it in to the District Office by the 10th of each month. Thanks!

JUNE 2023

4 - Annual Conference Briefing, 3:00 pm, Ligonier

18 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

JULY 2023

4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY

- ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins, Cincinnati, OH
 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends, Cincinnati, OH

AUGUST 2023

- SVMC Class- SVMC Class

SEPTEMBER 2023

4 - LABOR DAY

7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office

9 - SVMC Class

16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, Penn Run COB

OCTOBER 2023

1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

14 - SVMC Class

21 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony

28 - SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2023

5 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)

9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office

11 - SVMC Class

18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

2023 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2023

3	- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10	- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
17	- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24	- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24	- Christmas Eve
25	- MERRY CHIRSTMAS!!
31	- NEW YEAR'S EVE

Western PA District
Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

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