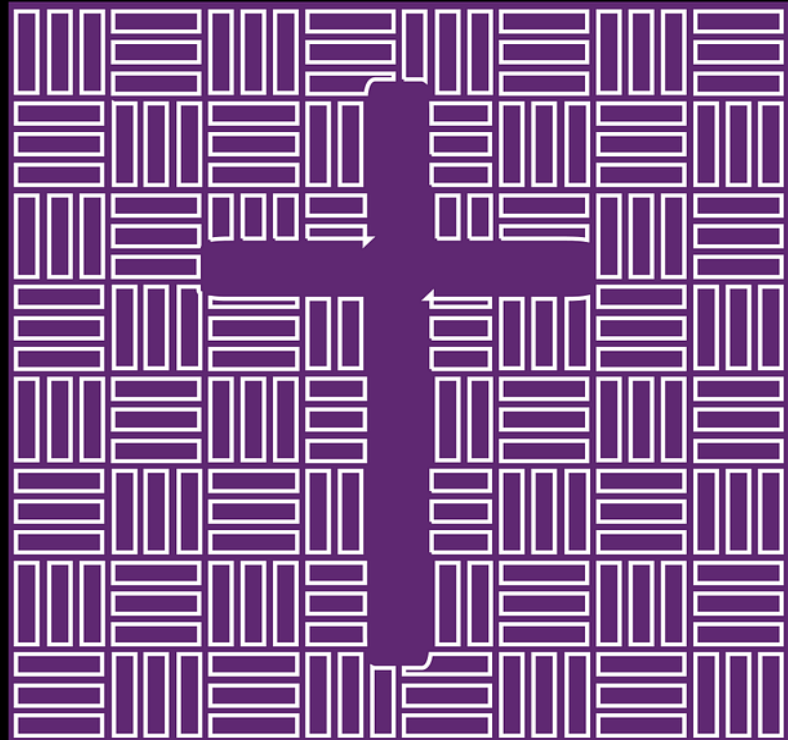
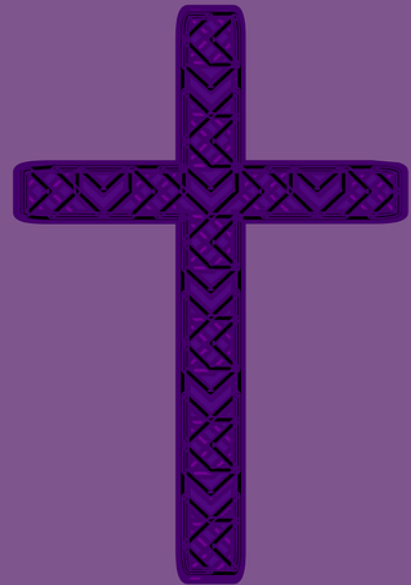
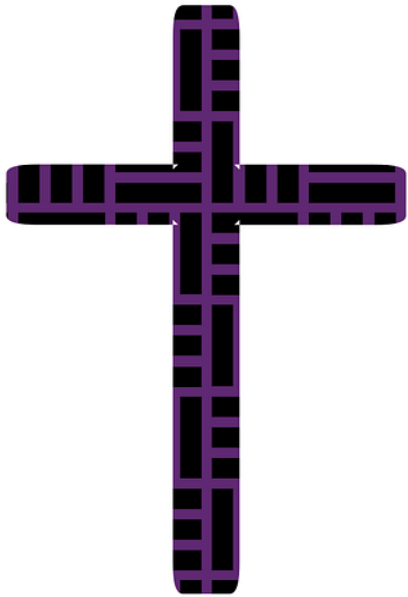


FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

THE SEASON OF LENT



PRAYER - FASTING - ALMSGIVING
A TIME OF RENEWAL



Hello & Welcome

The Church is not a building. It is a gathering of people brought together to experience God's love and purpose.

God designed the church for YOU – you belong here. Are you ready to experience a community of people doing life together? **To find out, come worship with us on Sunday mornings.**

Our Mission: To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

Our Vision: To provide an inviting and welcoming church home that attracts people of all ages and encourages positive growth, while creating an exciting and dynamic approach as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for worshipping with us! We are happy to welcome you into this household of God.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Ancient Arguments

Pastor Robbie Carnes

During the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian the Christian Church suffered greatly (A.D. 303). Socially and civilly, Christians were persecuted by the Empire most notably by the demand of church leaders to hand over their scriptures as a symbol of rejection of their faith and therefore avoid mistreatment by the state. With the death of the Emperor, the persecution of Christians ended, and Church leaders who initially succumbed to the pressure of the government repented their abandonment of the faith and took up their positions of leadership once again.

It was a time for the Christian Church to heal and recover, however a dispute soon erupted. A bishop was to be installed in the North African city of Carthage. This bishop was rejected by some Christians who simply chose their own bishop. The reason that they did this was an issue of purity. The fellow who ordained this new bishop of Carthage had been one of the church leaders who had abandoned his faith in order to avoid the wrath of the government just a generation before. This prior sin was grounds for rejecting the standing of the bishop's leadership and therefore the new bishop of Carthage was illegitimate. In short, any sacrament that the tainted priest performed wasn't effective and therefore forgiveness of sin and the ordination to the priesthood wasn't effective either. Logically, this resulted in a line of ineffective priests and impure churches.

While this dispute was convoluted with political and social complaints (and Emperor

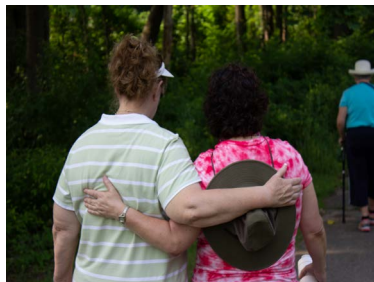
Constantine was highly involved with the resolution), at the core it is about loyalty to the faith, purity of purpose, and the reconciliation of Christians who responded to persecution differently. It is clear that some Christians betrayed their faith and ordination vows to avoid oppression; it is also clear that some Christians suffered greatly because they held to their beliefs and practices in spite of persecution. While the church as a whole reconciled with each other and found effective means to be the church into the future, the sad truth is that a small schismatic church called the Donatists existed in North Africa until the Islamic Empire (A.D. 632).

What does this bit of history have to do with the modern church?

In our age of divisive politics and social media snark, Christians have a tremendous opportunity to witness to the Love, Mercy, and Goodness of God. How shall we do this? By being loving, merciful, and good, especially to other believers. The world would expect that the church would divide just like everything else. It is expected that social media memes and rants would raise our hackles and we would vehemently respond and visibly unfriend each other. The world expects us to abandon each other and redefine our social groups by our social and political values rather than our spiritual ones.

What would it look like if we didn't do that? What would it look like if we chose to remain connected even when we disagreed and didn't understand? What would it look like if we hung on to that which united us?

We might look like the church.



Augustine of Hippo wrote a powerful critique of the Donatists. Whereas they would justify their actions with concerns over purity, Augustine contends that the shattering of the fellowship of Christ to be the larger concern. Christ is the head of the church and therefore should supersede all others, politically or otherwise.

The Book of Order of the PCUSA says,

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ God reconciles all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross (Col. 1:19–20). In Christ's name, therefore, the Church is sent out to bear witness to the good news of reconciliation with God, with others, and with all creation. In Christ the Church receives its truth and appeal, its holiness, and its unity.

Let us consider together how we might be church together, pursuing Christ, calling each other to faithfulness to Christ, and seeking the lost in the name of Christ.

It's Been Awhile

Several months ago, the Session of FFPC chose a statistical benchmark to help make the decision of when to return to in-person worship services. It was decided that if Genesee County had less than 10 daily cases out of 100,000 residents for two weeks (as reported on www.covidactnow.org) we would open the sanctuary for in-person worship. As of today, we have met that benchmark.



We invite you to in-person worship on February 28th and for the foreseeable future.

We will be meeting at 10am. Masks will be required in order to create a confident atmosphere for everyone. Distanced seating will be provided. If you have been exposed to COVID or feel ill, please be considerate and stay home.

If this isn't the right time for you to be gathering with other people, please remember that we will continue to have the worship services streamed online via Zoom, Facebook, and Youtube.

We hope that this is the beginning of a return to normal life and look forward to worshipping our Risen Lord with you in-person or online.

In Christ,
Pastor Robbie Carnes

March Sermon Series

Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit

During this season of Lent we are called to reflect on Jesus' presence in our lives and how we might respond to it. This makes sense because everything that Jesus has done and is doing is drawing us into a deeper relationship with himself. This month we are continuing our focus on the Fruits of the Spirit. These qualities not only serve as evidence of the Holy Spirit indwelling us, they are also virtues that we can nurture in our lives so that we might respond faithfully to God's goodness. Let us discover what God is doing in our lives together and respond in joy!

March 7th - Communion Sunday - Kindness; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Isaiah 63:7

March 14th - Patience; Psalm 103:8-10; Micah 7:18-19; Matthew 23:37

March 21st - Peace; Psalm 85:8-10; Matthew 6:25-34

March 28th - Palm Sunday - Joy; John 15:11; Luke 14:12-14; Habakkuk 3:17-18

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Mission



Souper Bowl of Caring donations totaled 275 food items and \$100 – All of those items were picked up by St. Jude's for the weekly food distribution!

The Shelter of Flint received:

- 40 dish towels
- 38 bath towels of various sizes
- 19 personal care items
- 17 bottles of shampoo and lotion
- 13 packages of baby wipes
- 11 laundry soap
- 10 laundry baskets
- 10 cleaning supplies
- 9 bottles of dish soap
- 4 packages of toilet paper
- 3 packages of paper towels
- 3 pillows
- 1 twin sheet set

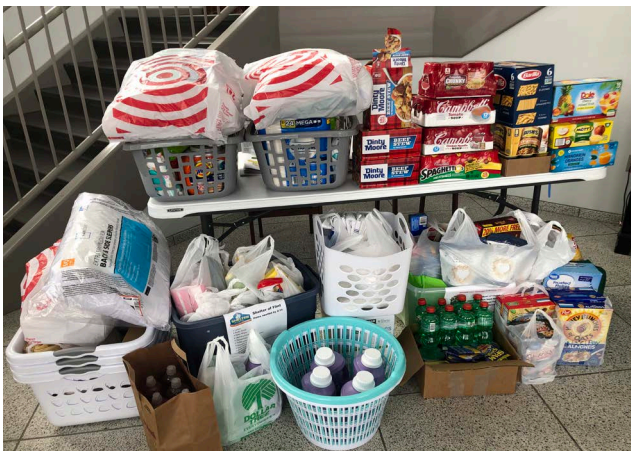
Thank you for your continued support of our various ministries!!!

Samaritas, our partner organization for working with refugees, is looking for volunteers who would like to tutor school-aged kids. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has a little bit of time to make a very big difference in the life of a new American! All of the tutoring is done virtually. If you are interested, please email Vicki Huff, the Samaritas volunteer coordinator, at vhuff@samaritas.org. If you have a subject or age group preference, please indicate that in your email to Vicki.

All volunteers who will be working with children will have to go through a background check. It's a fairly straightforward process, and Vicki can get you all taken care of!

If you have any questions, you can email myself or Vicki, and we will do our best to help.

Peace,
Sarah (Sarah.martinfanone@gmail.com)





St. Jude's Update Weekly donations and volunteers continue to be extremely helpful to this valuable mission. We expect this effort will continue for the next 3 months or more. After that, St. Jude's is planning on distributing less food (hoping the pandemic will ease a bit and recognizing that the existing food pantries may serve the continuing need). They will, however, continue to distribute non-food items (that are not included in SNAP) as well as food items that are not normally available in the food pantries.

Financial Review - January 2021

<u>Profit/ Loss</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$23,851.74	\$55,750.10	\$55,750.10	\$339,859.36
Expense:	<u>\$22,955.97*</u>	<u>\$24,277.78</u>	<u>\$24,277.78</u>	<u>\$311,863.34</u>
Net Income:	\$895.77*	\$31,472.32	\$31,472.32	\$27,996.02

***this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. Such as: Board of Deacons, Faith & Femininity, Organ Fund, HVAC Fund, etc.**

Statement of Cash Flows	January
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$100,783.08
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$101,797.89</u>
Net Cash Change:	\$1,014.81

Respectfully Submitted February 9, 2021
Debera J Bard
Treasurer

Building Fund Report January 31, 2021

Building Account Balance: \$9,201
Mortgage Remaining: \$156,806

Our monthly mortgage payment will be paid using (1) designated building fund contributions as they are received and, if needed to make the payment, (2) money from the operating budget. If more designated money is received than is needed to make the required mortgage payment, overpayments will be made to reduce interest costs and retire the mortgage as soon as we can.



Stewardship
a way of life

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Bible Study -
from 11:15 –noon Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes

We continue to explore topics in Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit through March. *No class on communion Sundays, Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586041549?pwd=dXdsSUR3cUdocGJCRDRR eEhPUnd3UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 8604 1549 **Passcode:** 229105

Sunday Evening Small Group, 5 – 6:15PM:

Led by Larry Zimbler. Beginning February 21st, we will take a deep dive into Romans. Bible & Commentary, meditation and discovery. **Join us in person at 4square Tax AND also on Zoom.**

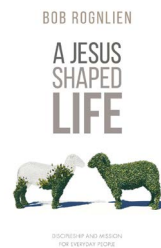
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?pwd=M0lPMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Z1phdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6124 1969 **Passcode:** 017303



Spring Women's Study
She Smiles Without Fear:
Proverbs 31 for Every Woman

A Joy-Filled Invitation to Move the Weight of the World from Your Shoulders to God's by Katy McCown



Wednesday Evening Lenten Journey on Discipleship,

Feb 24th- March 24th. 6:30-7:30
'A Jesus Shaped Life', Bob Roglien

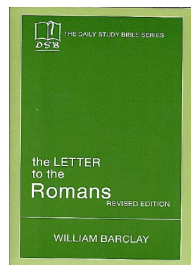
What kind of shape are you in? How about your marriage? Your family? Your job? Do you ever feel like you're missing something of the life you are meant to live? Jesus came not only to show us the way we are meant to live, but to invite us to follow him into that life of ultimate meaning and purpose. This Lent, you are invited to consider with us your way of life in the light of the life Jesus lived. Come Join us on Zoom!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222598633?pwd=cnpMWWQ0ZnMxYmRRK1N3ckNZWVdUZz09>
Meeting ID: 882 2259 8633 **Passcode:** 151415

Monday Evenings, April 12 – May 17 from 6:30 – 8pm or **Wednesday Mornings**, April 14 – May 17 from 10am – noon

Participant workbook \$15 Register to tina@ffpc.org by March 21

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTZVZWkvV0WHRUbk1HNlZFWjZQT09>

Meeting ID: 315 965 2381 **Passcode:** 384661



Tuesday Bible Study from 11am – 12:15pm:

Study of Romans from William Barclay's New Daily Bible Study Series continues. Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=cldCTEJoUFB5Y1RaUnJpQytDdGNtdz09>

Meeting ID: 983 542 300 **Passcode:** 066220

Visit

WWW.FFPC.ORG

for More

Information on Current Offerings

YOUTH GROUP

CREATING SPACE FOR YOUTH TO ASK QUESTIONS, ENCOUNTER GOD AND LEARN TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST. ALLOW, MEET, AND GO!



5 youth, 6 adults, and 1 child had a great time sledding at Clover Beach! The weather was perfect!!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

For 6-12th graders and friends. Events and dates are tentative – watch your emails and texts for current information!

March 21, 1-3pm: Easter Egg Hunt and Outdoor Broom Ball

April 18, 1-3pm: TBD

May 16, 1-3pm: TBD



Valentine Project sponsored by Deacons and Youth Group: Thank you to our youth and adults who made valentine cards for

several members, to Jan Jacobs for making heart pins, to Terrie Fisher for putting the treat bags together, to our Deacons who made deliveries, and to Nancy Berger and Jennifer MacLean for coordinating the project! It is a JOY to coordinate efforts and bless others!!



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EASTER EGG HUNT

WHO: CHILDREN & YOUTH AGES 2 THROUGH 12TH GRADE

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 21 FROM 1-1:30PM

WHERE: THE MACLEAN HOUSE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: BRING YOUR OWN BASKET AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER AS WE WILL BE OUTSIDE!

CONTACT TINA | TINA@FFPC.ORG WITH QUESTIONS



Teen Girls' Bible Study:

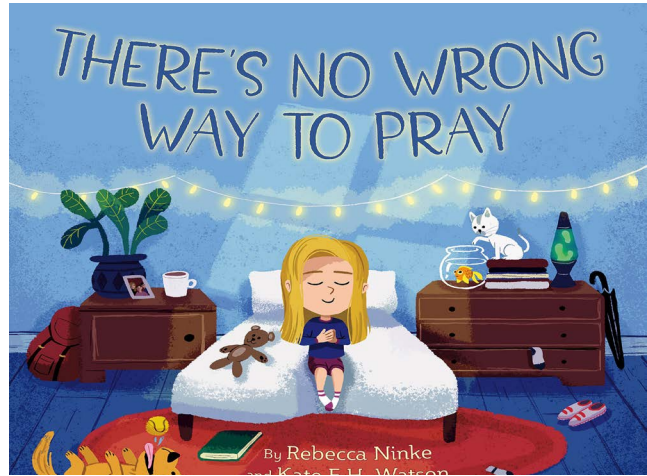
Led by Jenny Gibb and Kelsy Hoerauf, the girls are studying Matchless by Angie Smith.

Participant books are \$14. Meeting via zoom, contact Jenny Gibb at 248-765-0834 for more information.

Who is Jesus? Why did He come to earth? How can I know Him?

We live in a world where there's a lot of confusion about Jesus. Too often people want to shape Him and His message to fit their personal needs or agendas. So how can we know the truth? This study will deepen your understanding of Jesus and help you see Him less as an iconic figure and more as an intimate friend.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



Dear Families,

I hope you are having fun with the "Moment for Household Worship" videos each week. If you'd like to revisit and discuss them, they can be found on YouTube by searching Fenton First Presbyterian Church. If you know of a family who might enjoy and benefit from the video messages, please forward each video link along; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckBa-DrcqSECxjAyeaiC4bg>. This is one way to be church and share Jesus' message!

Looking for simple and free faith formation activities at home? Visit our website under the Education tab and click on the Illustrated Ministry button, or use this link <https://ffpc.org/illustrated-ministry/> to find coloring pages, weekly Lectionary lessons, and questions to consider. Use them for personal devotion time or family faith discussions. For more information, contact tina@ffpc.org.

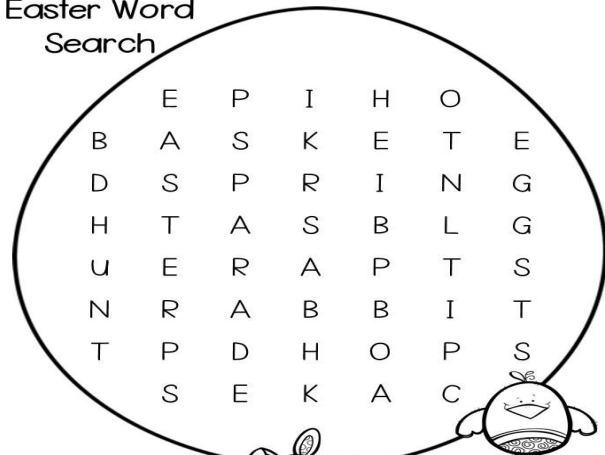
God's Peace and Love be with you,
Miss Tina

There's No Wrong Way to Pray by Rebecca Ninke and Kate E.H. Watson

Prayers don't have to sound holy to be holy! Author Rebecca Ninke teamed up with her ten-year-old daughter for this kid-friendly reflection on talking to God in the everyday moments of life. Sometimes funny, sometimes profound, and always genuine, the result is an honest book that will inspire kids of all ages and faith experiences and reassure them that there's no wrong way to talk to God.

[Click here for a free Family Discussion Guide.](#)

Easter Word Search



EASTER
EGGS
BASKET
CAKE



RABBIT
SPRING
HUNT
HOPS



DEACONS

The ministry of Deacons is set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service. Sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies of structure, or anyone else in distress.

2021 Deacon's Scholarship Application

The Deacons wish to encourage graduating high school seniors or post high school graduates of church members or their immediate family members seeking advanced education, to apply for the Deacon's annual \$500 scholarship. Applications are available online at <https://ffpc.org/deacons/> or you can pick one up from the table in the church lobby.

We need to have completed applications in by March 1, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

We are in the planning stage of our Annual Easter Project

This year, we will partner with FARR, the United Methodist Church, and our neighbor St. Judes. Current plans are that we will prepare Easter baskets. As details are known, we will notify you by announcements from the pulpit, Facebook, and our website. If you know that you want to participate, please contact Terrie Fisher at 810-845-3060, Nancy Berger at 810-701-6556, Fran Moore 810-458-4543, or the church office at 810-629-7801. STAY TUNED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday

Charmaine Thorley	Mar 1	Max Watters	Mar 23
Maureen Utt	Mar 1	Olivia Kirkey	Mar 24
Logan Kirkey	Mar 3	Sharon Cowing	Mar 25
Bob Browder	Mar 5	Scott Grossmeyer	Mar 25
Guy Cowing	Mar 5	Glenn Maxwell	Mar 26
Maggie Hodgkin	Mar 8	Madeline Davis	Mar 29
Phyllis Cmejrek	Mar 11		
Tony Grams	Mar 11		
John Maloney	Mar 11		
Rebecca Ruppert	Mar 14		
Jan Foster	Mar 16		
Judy Hope	Mar 16		
Patti Nelson	Mar 18		
Deborah Vanderlip	Mar 19		
Brian Coles	Mar 21		
Jack Allen	Mar 22		
Henry Glomski	Mar 22		
Pam Andersen	Mar 23		
Marta Watters	Mar 23		

Happy

Anniversary

Doug & Jan Jacobs	March 3
Richard & Debera Bard	March 23
Steve & Sharlyn Sutton	March 28
James & Jan Foster	March 29



Lily order forms will be available in the entryway of the church beginning this Sunday, February 28th.

Lilies are \$15 each. Completed forms & payment are due to the office no later than March 19th

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many different ways that you can give back to the Fenton First Presbyterian Church. **Together we can make a difference!!**



Online Giving: An easy and convenient way to give. Just visit the Presbyterian Mission Exchange link in the Giving section of FFPC.org website. A fast and SECURE way to give back.



Church Giving: You can give during one of our services by placing your check or cash in the Sunday offering plates. When giving cash, please complete a giving envelope so we can properly record your gift.



Automatic Bank Pay: You can set up payments through your financial institution by utilizing the bill pay feature. Simply use First Presbyterian Church as the payee and your name for your account information. Saves on postage!!



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



Mail offering to Church:
Fenton First Presbyterian Church
503 S. Leroy
Fenton, MI 48430

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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