The Weathervane

RAYMOND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ Newsletter March, 2020

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From the Pastor...

"What It Means to Say Goodbye"

When people ask me how it feels to be on the brink of retirement, I have been telling them that it is both exciting and terrifying. It is exciting in the sense that I have a whole list of things I intend to do – from rejuvenating my beehives to completing a book my father and I worked on together before his passing to editing my sermons to traveling to India in October to watching my son and daughter-in-law take on the role of new parents with my first grandchild this spring. It is terrifying in the sense of entering uncharted territory and so being challenged to journey into the unknown.

In a way, you and I will be on parallel journeys. I hope you too will allow yourself to know the excitement of entertaining the possibilities and opportunities that come with new perspectives, new leadership styles, and new energy. I hope that delving deeply into the questions of where God is leading you and how you discern your role as a church in the community of Raymond and beyond will ultimately bring you joy. In a way, too, it is comforting to know that we are both a bit terrified by it all because change and uncharted territory is always discomforting – if not, at times, downright scary.

Yes – we will soon be on parallel journeys – each of us surrounded by the love of God and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit – each of us in our own way stepping out more deeply into the waters of faith.

There is a part of me that would love to still be a part of your journey. However, there is a bigger part of me that intuitively knows that it is a journey that you need to make with someone else – a new leader, a new pastor. And I know in my heart that you will make the journey – wherever it leads you - well!

Continued next page . . .

The Weathervane is published monthly for distribution at the first of each month. Articles may be submitted as paper copy, electronically via disk or email by the 15th of each month preceding the issue for it to be included in. Computer files should be submitted as MSWord (.doc) or rich text format (.rtf). If you have any questions contact Debbie Feagans or Judy Munson. Articles can be dropped off at the church office, mailed or emailed to: Raymond Village Community Church, PO Box 285, Raymond, ME 04071- office@rvccme.org or to Judy Munson, 23 Lawn Ave., Gorham, ME 04038 – cmmunson24@yahoo.com – Thank you for reading our newsletter!

This Month at RVCC...

| March 1, 2020- | 10:00 a.m. – Worship |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| March 8, 2020- | 10:00 a.m. – Worship |
| | 11:15 a.m. – Council Meeting |
| March 10, 2020- | 2:00 p.m. – Knitting |
| | group |
| March 15, 2020- | 10:00 a.m. – Worship |
| March 17, 2020- | 4:30 p.m. – Free |
| | Community Meal |
| | 6:00 p.m. – RAA |
| | SLUKES concert |
| March 22, 2020- | 10:00 a.m. – Worship |
| March 24, 2020- | 2:00 p.m. – Knitting |
| | group |
| March 29, 2020- | 10:00 a.m Worship |

Please join us for the Fellowship Café Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The Café is hosted this month by the Council/office.

-Lenten Book Study will be every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
-Rehearsals for Godspell will be every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Scouts, BSA Troops 800 & 851 meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
-A.A. meeting is every at 7:00 p.m.

Fuller Center Volunteers Needed

The Fuller Center will soon be looking for volunteers for projects beginning this summer. However, in the meantime, **the Board needs two board members from RVCC**. Along with our financial contribution, our commitment was to help as best we could fill the Board. Our current Board members are Rev. Nancy and Sheila Bourque. Rev. Nancy can no longer represent our church when she retires, and Sheila feels that she is best suited as an at-large board member.

The Board meets the last Monday of the month from 5:45 – 7:15 P.M. and is very disciplined about meetings remaining within that timeframe. It is a high energy, positive, and committed group. If you are interested in serving in this way or would like more information, please be in touch with Rev. Nancy.

From the Pastor, continued . . .

And so we have come to a fork in the road, and we will part. What that means on a day-to-day basis is that I as a pastor am bound by clergy ethical boundaries.

You will not see me at pot roast suppers or community meals that are sponsored by this church. I cannot provide you with pastoral care or visit with you in any way that would inhibit your ability to forge a relationship with your new pastor. I cannot officiate at weddings or funerals or baptisms that involve you or your family or significant community members. I cannot accept a guest preaching gig here. I will not be attending regular Sunday worship or any special services, and in time I will be transferring my membership to another church. All that being said, you do not need to run away from me if you see me in the grocery store, but when we chat, it can be about anything except the church.

I take these boundaries seriously because the United Church of Christ has put them in place in order to create the best possible environment, so that you and your new pastor can more easily develop a close working and pastoral relationship. In a way, I think adhering to these ethical professional boundaries is the best way for me to say how much my relationships with all of you have meant with me, the best way to say that I love you all, the best way to say goodbye, and the greatest gift I can give you.

Mission Corner

Passing along to you the thanks that have been pouring in for our recent mission projects!

- Rev Elmer Young sent a thank you note for the cash donation in December
- Maine Seacoast Mission thank you for handknits and personal care products
- Thank you from Scout Troop 851 for the donation which they will use to purchase camping equipment
- Raymond Fire and Rescue sent a thank you and recently submitted an article to be published locally about our joint effort to provide CO detectors to people who are eligible

Prayer Concerns



Our prayers of concern go out to:

In our Church Family:

Louise Doyle, Polly Dyer, Margo Fournier, Arthur and Deborah Lafond, Bev Lindell, Joan Morton, Frank Sullivan, Tom Wiley, Adma Willis

In our Extended Family:

Michael Cadotte, John Keimel

In our Community:

Janet Cairns, Tommy Keith, Bill N., Dan Tibbetts

March Musicians

Even as we incorporate scenes and songs from Godspell into worship, we will continue to host special musicians.

Here's the line-up for March:

| | - |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| March 1 | Gary Wittner |
| March 8 | Hugh Maynard/Kate Gray |
| March 15 | Patrick Martin |
| March 22 | Sigrid Sibley |
| March 29 | A couple of Patrick's friends (!) |
| | |

Become a hospice volunteer and make a difference

Hold a hand, lend an ear, run an errand, or provide a comforting presence. If you are a compassionate, reliable individual with a sincere desire to help, we encourage you to join our team of valued Northern Light Home Care & Hospice volunteers. Volunteers are needed most to help hospice patients in Cumberland and York counties. Healthcare experience is not required, and you will receive the necessary training and support needed to help you enjoy a positive and rewarding volunteer experience. Call today to learn about this opportunity and sign up for our upcoming training session! Beth Simmons, LSW, Northern Light Home Care & Hospice Volunteer Coordinator - 207-400-8852 Spring Schedule: Dates: Tuesday, March 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:00am -

1:00Pm | Tuesday April 7, 4:30pm - 6:30pm Location: Suite 1, 50 Foden Road, South Portland, ME

Songs and Scenes from Godspell

Patrick and Rev. Nancy are excited to incorporate selected songs and scenes from the musical, Godspell, into worship during Lent. We will be following Jesus' ministry from the time of his baptism by John the Baptist, culminating on Palm Sunday with Jesus' crucifixion. On Easter, we will reprise some of the songs as we greet and celebrate the resurrection with the second part of the Godspell finale.

We will highlight a number of the parables that Jesus told along the way to Jerusalem – and hope that people will plan to come every week during Lent in order to realize the full impact of the songs and scenes. The writers of Godspell gave overt permission to local productions to make the scenes relevant to modern day situations – so some of the parables are told with a twist or reference to current circumstances.

Though many churches have done full productions of Godspell, it appears that we are unique in incorporating scenes and songs into the context of worship and incorporating traditional elements of worship into the songs and scenes.

It will be a spirited and joyful interpretation of Jesus forming his first community of followers based on compassion and being a good neighbor. Please tell your friends and neighbors – and invite them to come along.

Looking for Godspell Extras!

Rev. Nancy and Patrick are looking for "extras" for many of the Godspell scenes during Lent. All involve either no lines – or very, very short lines. No theatrical experience necessary – just a desire to have some fun with others in our church community!

If you would like to help out with one or more scenes and can be at Sunday worship as well as at the rehearsal the Thursday before (5:30 - 7:00 P.M.), please join us! All are welcome to be part of the fun!

Contact Patrick or Rev. Nancy with questions or for more information!

RVCC Council, Family, & Friends,

Thanks so much for all your kind & generous gifts throughout the Christmas season! From greeting cards to calendars, lip gloss to lotions, candy and gift cards, I love every one of them and all of you. These thoughtful gestures, as well as your visits to the office to share Christmas cheer, made what could have been a very difficult holiday season not just bearable, but down right merry and bright! Blessings to you all in the coming year. Lori

| Summary of February 5, 2020 Coordinating Council |
|--|
| Meeting |

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 by Tom Wiley. Present were Tom, Rolf, Brenda, Nancy Yates, Caryl, and Judy. Darren Morgan, the conference minister assigned to guide us through our transition process also joined us.

Caryl offered the opening prayer.

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved as printed.

Staff Transition: Darren Morgan was welcomed to the meeting. He is the Associate Conference Minister for the Maine Conference UCC. His expertise is working with small churches. He warned us that the time between now and Rev. Nancy's retirement will go very quickly. He also warned us that there are not a lot of interim pastors available within the conference. There are several forms to fill out to start the process: a Prospectus, an Interim Leadership Form, a paragraph describing us and our needs, which Darren will use to advertise the position, and the agreement between us and the Maine Conference, UCC. We are looking for someone to lead us in the transition period, grieving the loss of Rev. Nancy, and moving forward. The Church Council will hire the interim. There are two types of interim, a normal interim would stay for only 12 to 18 months, by the end of that period we would have found a permanent minister. This interim can not be considered as a candidate for a permanent position. The other option is a Designated Term Pastor. A designated term interim can be a longer term solution, they can be contracted with for 3 to 5 years. They can also be considered for the permanent position. A good interim will guide us through a difficult time of loss, work with us according to our goals, and also challenge us/ask difficult questions as we look to the future. A question raised at the annual meeting and also at this council meeting was if it is possible to hire someone from another denomination. There are ways that this could happen.

Plans for the congregational meeting on February 16th were discussed. It was suggested that choir members be urged to attend this meeting. There will be a discussion on how to proceed with filling Patrick's position, whether to have guest musicians, and how much the choir will sing.

Caryl feels it will be helpful to show the interim minister vs. Designated Term minister video. The plan/outline to find the next pastor will be presented.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda presented the Treasurer's

Report for January. There are still a few pledges not received, that she had hoped would come in. She will follow through on these. Budget estimated pledges at \$55,850, we have currently \$48,035. Pledges to cover cleaning are \$220 under hoped for amount. Total expenses for the month or \$6,003 is under budget by \$2,191. Excess income over expenses of \$441 is better than budgeted excess expense of \$1,750. Brenda will be redeeming \$30,000 from American Fund investments to pay off loan on siding.

Judy made a motion, seconded by Rolf, and passed, to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to year end review.

Trustees: Rolf urged us to be more diligent about locking doors and making sure they are shut tight. There have been doors left ajar and/or unlocked recently.

Pastor: Rev. Nancy announced that Chan Roach will lead a Lenten study on the book "Gifts from the Dark Wood." Rev. Nancy announced that it is critical that we find someone to take over website management. There is nothing that looks worse than a website that is obviously not kept up to date. Sheila Bourque will continue to do it until Rev. Nancy leaves, and will train someone to take over the job. Nancy also announced that we need to find 2 new people to represent us on the board of the Fuller Center. She cannot continue to represent RVCC on the Board because of professional ethical boundaries that prohibit her continued association with the church after she retires. Rev. Nancy, however will continue to serve on this board as a community member at large. Sheila Bourque feels it is a better fit, if she also continues to serve as a member at large, she will not represent RVCC after April 12. The board meets monthly for 90 minutes. Rev. Nancy will write up something for the next Weathervane about this.

Caryl informed the council of when she will be in town for the next couple of months. The council will hold a brief meeting after the congregational meeting on February 16. We will hold our regular March meeting on March 8, about 12:30, after choir rehearsal.

Brenda Olsen announced that our next community meal will be on St. Patrick's day, followed by a concert by the "SLUKES". Menu will be corned beef, cabbage, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judith T. Munson, Clerk

Lenten Book Study

Once again, Chan Roach will be leading our Lenten Book Study. The study will be Wednesdays at 1:00 beginning on February 26th and ending on April 8th.

The book is "Gifts of the Dark Woods:Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (and Other Wanderers)" by Eric EInes. Here's what Amazon said about the book:

> A guidebook for spirituality in an uncertain world. Though commonly understood as a place to be feared and avoided, the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God, writes Dr. Eric Elnes (author of The Phoenix Affirmations and Asphalt Jesus). It is a place where you may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted, and alone. Yet these feelings - these gifts of the Dark Wood - can be your greatest assets on your journey. According to the ancients, you don't need to be a saint or spiritual master to experience profound awakening. You don't even have to be "above average."

All you really need to be is struggling.

In clear and lucid prose that combines the heart of a mystic, the soul of a poet, and the mind of a biblical scholar, Dr. Eric Elnes demystifies the seven gifts bestowed in the Dark Wood: the gifts of uncertainty, emptiness, being thunderstruck, getting lost, temptation, disappearing, and the gift of misfits.

This is a book for anyone who feels awkward in their search for God, who seeks to find holiness amid their holy mess, who prefers practicality to piety when it

comes to finding their place in this world.

Books cost \$14.00. Please let Rev. Nancy know if you need financial help.

Sign up in the Vestry or contact Rev. Nancy ASAP if you plan to attend!

Window Build Update

Help Us Spring into Springtime!

Surely we are all eagerly awaiting some springtime weather. However, alas! Winter is still very definitely upon us. Not a hint of green or a garden flower to be found outside! So - we need YOU to bring some springtime into our sanctuary and make our altar area beautiful! Please consider bringing a bouquet of flowers or even another sort of artistic arrangement. No need to sign up – there is always room for any number of arrangements that may arrive!

And Speaking of Flowers.....

Our church always looks so beautiful on Easter with the many flowers and plants that **YOU** contribute! Watch for details in the upcoming weeks about purchasing and donating a variety of Easter flowers!

Fundraising for the Fuller Center

The Fuller Center depends solely on monetary and in kind donations. The Board is planning a Bike Around Sebago Ride in September with all proceeds going to Lakes Region projects. In addition, the Board is thrilled to have Bill Turner an active fundraiser. Bill is a member of Faith Lutheran Church and has participated in several long bike rides and builds. This summer he plans to participate in a ride from Florida to South Dakota. Along the way, the group will participate in several Fuller Center builds.

Bill has committed to donating the first \$10,000 he raises to our local Fuller Center! IF you would like to contribute to his efforts (and so to our local Lakes Region chapter), check out his webpage at

https://my.fullercenterbikeadventure.org/turnerwilliam87

In addition, check out our new facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Sebago-Lakes-Region-Fuller-Center-for-Housing-

105821907676500/?modal=admin_todo_tour) and website (<u>https://fullercenter.org/sebagolakes/</u>)

What's Going On at the Fuller Center

We partnered once again this year with Window Dressers and St. Joseph's College and Elissa Kane, their Americorps volunteer and hosted a window build the last week in January. Thanks to many community volunteers, 238 custom fitted insulated window inserts were constructed and distributed. Over 20 Raymond families will be warmer this winter and in winters to come because of their efforts. Thanks to all who helped to build, brought food for meals, etc. It's just an example of neighbors helping neighbors – and our church being instrumental in making it so!

The Board at the Sebago Lake Region Fuller Center for Housing has been hard at work getting up to speed on recruiting volunteers, family selection, and publicity. Perhaps you saw the articles in the <u>Windham Eagle</u> and the <u>Lakes Region Weekly</u>. We are a founding covenant partner along with St. Joseph's College, Windham Hill UCC, North Windham Union UCC, Faith Lutheran, and the Unity Church. The Center will focus primarily on rehab projects that will assist the seniors in our community be able to age in place.



Moderator Musings



Change. Change doesn't always mean times have been hard or even times will be hard. What change really means is we need to do and look at things differently now.

Maybe it is because of a great triumph that we need to celebrate or a terrible tragedy, but change is inevitable.

Change keeps you current. Change requires us to look at ourselves. We need to have that selfassessment to keep going. It will help keep our church going.

We have seen change throughout our lives. From no television, to black and white and now 24-hour broadcasts on 6-foot-wide surround sound systems. Remember going to Blockbuster to get your movie videos? And when supermarkets were closed on Sunday? Remember reading the morning paper and looking forward to picking up the Evening Express on the way home from work at night. What about waiting for the percolator on the stove before you got your morning coffee?

Now not all of the changes we are a part of; are good in nature. But that does not have to be that way in our church. We are responsible for what we want to change. Society will dictate some norms but for the most part we are our own entity. Each person who walks through the door whether it be on a Sunday morning, a church supper, an RAA event or scout meeting becomes part of the change of our church and our community. We have developed a vision of where we want to be in becoming a key part of the Raymond community. Romans 12 urges us to not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

We can do this. Think about a library. They continue to evolve and keep up with the times. This is not your mother's library or library where you went to work on a report for your social studies class back in high school. It's not the same church either.

Jeremiah 29:11 Tells us that the lord has plans for us to prosper and not be harmed. And also plans to give us hope and a future. That sounds like a change worth trying.

Let's take a CHANCE with CHANGE!!!!

-Tom Wiley Moderator

Aloha!

Raymond Arts Alliance (RAA) is proud to present the Lakes Region Ukulele

St. Patty's Day celebration and singalong!

The SLUKES are quickly gaining a reputation for bringing lots of fun to young and old alike; come enjoy a chance to sing, tap your foot or get up and dance. Wear your green and join us for a fun evening!



Tuesday, March 17th at 6 PM

Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main Street in Raymond.

Light refreshments will be served after the show. Free. Suggested donation of \$5 for those wishing to contribute to future RAA events.

February 16th Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 16 there was a congregational meeting as a follow-up to the annual meeting. The results, in brief, are

- Music next steps
 - We will seek a musician/pianist to play at Sunday worship (hymns, responses and offering). Five people offered to work on this
 - Brenda Olsen will look and then share with the congregation information about potential upgrades to the audio-visual system and what it would mean to the ambiance of the sanctuary.
- Pastor Search next steps
 - The Council is functioning as the search committee
 - We will submit a request to the Maine Conference for a 2/3 time designated term (3 year) pastor, which is a form of interim pastorate with more stability and less pressure to push through transition and seek a settled pastor. A video from the CT UCC explains the difference: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDB</u> <u>SiMt43rU</u>
 - Maine Conference will post our ad on a website of pastor opportunities open to pastors across the country. Please note: Our agreement with the Conference says we will <u>not</u> seek out pastors on our own. Pastors who are interested will contact Maine Conference. Their profile or resume would be sent to RVCC if deemed reasonable for us to consider.
 - Interviews will be done by 1-2 members of the Council and 2-4 members of the congregation. Based on the input and recommendations from the interview group, the Council will make the final decision and issue a call to the candidate.
 - The job posting documents were sent to the Maine Conference on 2/16 (via email) and the job was posted on 2/17.

We will keep you informed along the way. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Council.

Sunday, Feb 23, Sharon Beckwith will join us to talk about Daisy's Children, our Lenten project this year. The mission of Daisy's Children is to provide sustenance, education and medical support to the disadvantaged children of Honduras. Sharon founded Daisy's Children in memory of Deysi Suyapa Madrid Chavez Deysi (Daisy), a 24-year-old mother of four who died on May 5, 2008 of starvation because she made the selfless decision to feed her four children rather than eat herself. Come Sunday to hear Sharon's story which has spanned more than 10 years! Each week during Lent, there will be a reminder of some way YOU could help Daisy's Children:

- Money to feed children
- The Day Care Center, which provides a safe place for children in the village to go to for care, hygiene, and regular nutritional support. In most cases, the daycare center is the only opportunity these children have for food, social interaction, education and healthcare during the week.
- The Nutrition Center being built on their own land. Underway is the initial phase of building the structure that will house the current program, with some expansion to develop a more substantial preschool nutrition program. The foundation was dug with pick axes and eager hands in July 2019 by a team of volunteers from the states, shoulder to shoulder with parents of some of our children, Mormon Elders, and a core of hired, experienced locals. Work will continue as funds allow.
- Future projects such as a food bank, clean water for all families, vocational center, a play space and more

Please think about how you can help during Lent and beyond. daisyschildren.org

Help Wanted

We are in need of someone to take over website management. There is nothing that looks worse than a website that is obviously not kept up to date. Sheila Bourque has been maintaining our website and will continue to do it until Rev. Nancy leaves. Sheila will train someone to take over the job. If you are interested, please let Rev. Nancy or a council member know!

Lenten Mission – Daisy's Children

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL



Join us for a free community friendship meal on Tuesday, March 17th from 4:30 – 6:00 P.M. Come in out of the cold and join us for a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner and good old-fashioned friendship. Please spread the word, tell your neighbors and friends – and perhaps even invite them to come along with you. This is a great chance for us to just gather as a community here in Raymond – to greet (or maybe meet for the first time) our neighbors, to see old friends, and to welcome SPRING



Raymond Village Community Church 27 Main Street in Raymond

Please stay after the meal for an entertaining Irish singalong provide by the Sebago Lake Ukulele Society (SLUKES) – sponsored by the Raymond Arts Alliance

Opportunities for Prayer During Lent

Many people find private devotions and times for prayer to be important in deepening their spirituality and creating a more fulfilling relationship with God – especially during the Lenten season. During Lent, often one takes on the discipline of regular personal devotions. Here at church, we offer several opportunities help you to remember people and events in prayer.

- 1. **Prayer Chain** We maintain a Prayer Chain . If there is someone that you would like prayers for during the week, simply call or e-mail Rev. Nancy with whatever information you care to share. Rev. Nancy will notify those on the Prayer Chain, who will remember the people YOU care about in their individual prayers. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, please contact Rev. Nancy (650-7845 or revnancy@rvccme.org) . The only requirement is that you commit to remembering those for whom special prayers have been requested.
- 2. Lenten Prayer Banner Our Lenten Prayer Banner will soon be displayed in the Vestry. The names of everyone on our Prayer Concerns List will be written on a small cross that will be displayed on the banner. You are encouraged to write down the names of people you want to remember in prayers on the small paper crosses as well and pin them to the banner. The prayer banner can be a meaningful way to reach out to and remember those you care about who are in need.
- 3. **Prayer Shawls** We have a supply of prayer shawls. If you know of someone who might enjoy having a prayer shawl and would like to bring them one, please see Rev. Nancy. A prayer shawl can be a deeply meaningful gift from our church to someone in need or to recognize a joyful occasion or transition.
- 4. **Prayer Box** There is a small box on the table at the back of our sanctuary with paper and pencil for writing down the name of someone in need of our prayers. Those names will be sent to the people on our prayer chain to remember during the week, and Rev. Nancy will add them to our church family prayers on Sunday morning.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to following people with March Birthdays!

March 2 Jeri Keane March 12 Frank Sullivan March 14 Vicki Gordan March 29 Jeff Morris March 30 Bob Yates March 31 Dick Putscher P.S. Be a good church friend and remember these people with a card or note!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

We will collect our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 22 this year. The theme of this year's offering is "Invest in Futures". We are planting seeds of new life. We are investing in communities in need world-wide, providing everything from clean water and sanitation systems to education and vocational training that empower communities to support themselves.

Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrating Maine's Statehood

We will be joining other Windham area churches in a bell-ringing celebration of Maine's statehood on Sunday, March 15th. Churches have been asked to ring their bells for one minute at 12 noon that day. So listen for the bells - and be proud that you are a Mainer!

Knitting Group Donations to Maine Seafarer's Mission

The knitting group received the below note and photo:

Brenda,

Thank you so much for the hats. The guys I was able to gift these to were very thankful. Please share this picture with your group.





Raymond Village Community Church

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