

ISSUE 7094-SEPTEMBER 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE
United Church of Christ

Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

Another Program Year

Well, it's that time of year to begin another program year. We are a programmatic church. That means we engage in a quasi academic calendar cycle. We offer programming in community building, faith formation, discipleship training, and a myriad of other areas.

We might be tempted to think, "ho-hum," we're going to make a trip through another liturgical and lectionary year. We're going to consider the life of Jesus from birth to death once again, though the overall theme may be different and the graphics have changed. We could also be cynical and say we'll have Women's Fellowship meetings, Men's Prayer Breakfasts, Youth activities, etc. on the same schedule with pretty much the same people. What's new, what's innovative about that? Are we making a difference?

Oscar Romero, a prelate of the church in El Salvador once said,



"We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise...
We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

That last line has always stuck out to me, "we are prophets of a future not our own." It can be hard to see when we are so used to linear thinking. We only usually see time going forward. We can't always see where our habitation in time has placed us between what was and what is to come. My dear colleague and fellow UCC Board member, the Rev. Darrell Goodwin, recently posted this as an interpretation of Romero's

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85 Heritage Dr. Tallmadge, OH 44278 Phone: 330.633.4931

quote. "This is the sacred work you are doing every time you chair a meeting, pray over a budget, welcome someone new, or ask your church, "What's next?" You are planting seeds in faith, even if the harvest comes after you. You are helping to birth a church that is more just, more generous, more Spirit-led than we've known before. I know the work can be heavy at times. But don't let the weight of what still needs to be done overshadow the glory of what is already becoming. You are not alone in this labor. God is with you. Your conference and associations are with you. And the cloud of witnesses, past, present, and future is cheering you on. Together we are one church In many locations.

So I urge you: Keep going. Keep dreaming. Keep leading. You are helping to shape a church worthy of our deepest hopes and holiest callings."

I couldn't agree more. Please take time to think about each meeting you attend, every worship service you are present in, every faith formation activity you undertake as a way of nurturing a seed. These activities are not mundane nor rote. You are working on "helping to birth a church that is more just, more generous, more Spirit-led than we've known before."

Daniel Doty

Grace for the Journey,

Pictures & Pies

Join Rev. Dan on Tuesday, September 9, for the 2025 installment of Pictures and Pies. Dan will present pictures from his summer travels. This meeting will take place at noon in the Fellow-



ship Hall. Bring a sack lunch but no dessert! The Elder's Ministry will be making pie available for our dessert at this presentation.

Plan to join Rev. Dan for this presentation. There will also be time for questions/answers/etc. AND pie!!!!!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AUG 24 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-7

Message: There and Back Again: Spiritual Glean-

ings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Passing

Out of Time

AUG 31 PICNIC SUNDAY @ LION'S PARK

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-42

Message: There and Back Again: Spiritual Glean-

ings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Violence

Doesn't Accomplish Anything

SEP 7 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Message: There and Back Again: Spiritual Glean-

ings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Strength in

Diversity

SEP 14 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

Message: "Growing in God's Love"

SEP 21 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Message: "Prayerful Living"

SEP 28 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Message: "Surprising Investment"

THE HERALD

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WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for the individuals listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley

Sharon Bible

Margarete Boschert

Zander Boyd

Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)

Steve Burr

Patti Calvarese

Jim Caplinger

Jim Collinson (friend of Connie Mason)

Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)

Debbie Fickes

Eleanor Hall

Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna Atwood)

Alleen Hilbish

Sandi Hughes

Jim Jackson (Bonnie Fordham's son-in-law)

John James

Suzi Klush

Zell Lambert

Roberta Lewis

Ellen McKee

Ron Mitchell

Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)

Lynn Norton

Bob Poff

David and Jackie Parker

LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)

Bonnie and Matthew Rains

Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)

Roger Riddle (friend of Wally Atwood)

Sara Rooks

Alice Sheeler

Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)

Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)

Jeff Sullivan

John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)

Richard and Karen Thomason

Anne Varian (friend of Barb Dolensky)

Kim and Noel Walters

Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter (Kesters' granddaughter)

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COVERED DISH DINNER September 4th | 5:30 PM

Join your friends for a covered dish dinner on Thursday, September 4th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. After the meal, Sarah Ickes will be doing a class on using essential oils. Please sign up in the atrium to join us and bring a friend!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPAGHETTI DINNER September 18th | 4:30—7:00 PM

Our Women's Fellowship Spaghetti Dinners will resume on Thursday, September 18th, from 4:30-7:00 PM. Mark your calendars now and plan to join your church family for dinner.



OUR CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences to Donna Atwood for the loss of her twin sister, Darlene Ries, who died on August 3, 2025.

SOCIAL ACTION CORNER

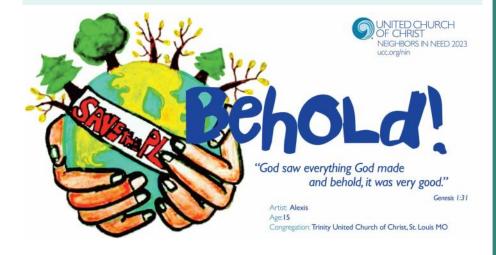
Social Action is collecting items for SWAG, Students With A Goal.
SWAG is an exceptional Out-of-School Time Academic Mentoring
Program located in Akron's Summit Lake Community Center. SWAG



provides students with the resources and tools necessary to achieve their academic goals, develop leadership skills, and build lasting relationships. We are collecting the following items:

Applesauce, Sliced Peaches, Corn, Green Beans and gallon bottled Fruit Drinks

We will have a bin in the atrium beginning Sunday, August 24th, and will collect through the end of September.

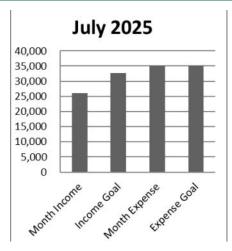


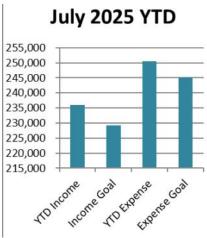
SUPPORT SPECIAL OFFERING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service. Please donate today! Twothirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM. www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!

The Neighbors in Need Offering is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ. Your gifts support ministries of justice and compassion, the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and Neighbors in Need grants. Thank you for your generosity!

MONTHLY FINANCIALS





July 2025 operating income of \$26,015 was \$6,635 **below** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$35,115 resulting in a deficit of (\$9,100) in July, and a YTD deficit of (\$14,425). We are continuing to see the summer decline in Faith Offerings, while expenses were about on budget in July. We look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we Contact the move through the year. Church office to find out how to sign up for automatic monthly giving. Offerings may also be made online through a link on our website, mailed to the Church or sent from your bank's online system.

"We Gather Together"



FCC Stewardship Campaign 2025

In every season we are called to consider the many gifts God grants us in our lives. This fall, in a series of sermons during our Stewardship Campaign, we will use the hymn "We Gather Together" to focus our giving energies.

This hymn was originally a Dutch patriotic song, written around 1600 to celebrate the freedom of the Netherlands from Spanish rule. However, we know that God's kingdom transcends national and ethnic boundaries. When the Church sings this hymn, she is reminded of the words of the apostle Paul: "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil ..." (Ephesians 6:12, NRSVue).

When we look out on our world today, we can still see these oppressive powers. We are also reminded that our "stewardship" is not just about our financial resources. We are to steward the liberating message of God's love. We are all invited on this journey to claim our part in furthering the mission of FCC through our financial resources and our participation in the vital ministries here at FCC. Then we can join the church universal and sing, "from the beginning the fight we were winning: the Lord was at our side all glory be Thine."



Picnic Sunday

We continue our 5th Sunday tradition of holding worship in alternate spaces. On Sunday, August 31 (a 5th Sunday), we will have a worship service and a potluck picnic. In order to facilitate both a gathering space and a place for the meal, we will be holding this service and picnic at the Cherry Tree Pavilion in Lions Park, at the end of E. Garwood Drive in Tallmadge. The service will start at 10:00 am as usual. The church will provide a hot dog bar and beverages. Please bring a salad/side/dessert for the picnic and your own table service. Games for all ages are planned! See you there!

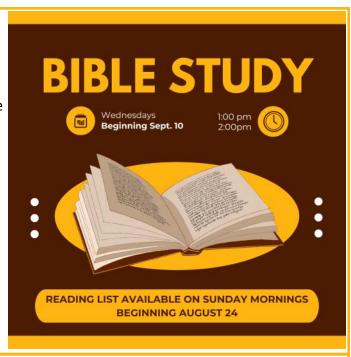






Bible Study Fall 2025

The Fall 2025 Bible Study will begin a study of the Christian Scriptures in chronological order. While we have studied the gospels and some of the epistles, this study will help us see the developing cannon of scripture of the early church. The study will begin with what is believed is the earliest piece of scripture from the Christian cannon 1 Thessalonians. We will also study Galatians, 1 Corinthians, and Philemon. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the David Bacon Room. A reading list that will allow you to prepare for each class will be distributed on Sunday mornings beginning August 24. See you there!



Join Us For The Study of the General Synod Resolutions Wednesdays Beginning Sept 10 12:00pm 1:00pm David Bacon Room READINGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BEGINNING ON AUG.24

"Book" Study Fall 2025

The 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ was held this past July in Kansas City, MO. The delegates to the synod considered 11 resolutions, a By-Laws change, and some Constitutional amendments. What were these resolutions, and what will their impact be on the church, what do they mean to FCC, are all questions we will grapple with in the Fall 2025 Book Study. The study will begin on Wednesday, September 10 at noon in the David Bacon Room. These ten sessions will end on November 26. The resolutions for the first class will be available on Sunday mornings beginning August 24. Subsequent resolutions will be passed out at the end of each weekly class in preparation for the next class. Bring a lunch and bring a friend!

A WORD OF THANKS!

Thanks to Carol Dowey for dropping off all the treats and water for the staff. We really appreciate you! Blessings— FCC Staff

Thanks to Jane Huffman for leading the cards class every month for the past several years. We appreciate all of the time and energy you put into this group. We Love You! — The Card Girls

To the Prayer Chain, Feeling Blessed! Thank you so much for all the prayers and the Beautiful prayer shawl during my surgery, Suzi Klush.

Faith In Action

We are ready to start the fall session. We will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Rm 207 Roberta Nehrenz for ages 4 to 2nd grade

Rm 204 Dianne Drummond for grades 3rd-5th

Rm 102 Kyle & George Herron for grades 6th- 12th

Confirmation will be also be meeting this year after worship. This is for students 8th grade and older who would like to learn more about our church, our history, the traditions and the foundations of



Worship Art Ministry (WAM)

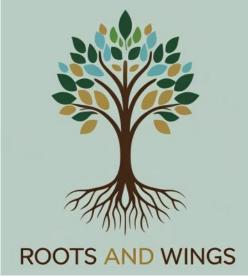
We have started meeting weekly for WAM, where children 5th grade and younger will discover the weekly scripture through art and activities. We will head to the Fellowship Hall most Sundays following the Children's

Message.

We would love for your child to bring his or her bible to WAM if they have received it.



Root and Wings



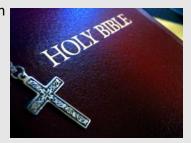
Roots and Wings is a new fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. Inspired by Colossians 2:6–7, we seek to be "rooted and built up in Him" as we share activities, stories, and time that strengthen family bonds and create lasting memories. This is open to all children, but our activities will be geared for elementary-aged grandchildren. If your child wants to come and doesn't have a local grandparent, we can find an adoptive grandparent that would like to participate. Our first gathering will be a Bunko night (a wild game of dice). Please sign up on the welcome center. Bring a snack to share.

BUNKO

September 14 @ 4-5 PM

Confirmation and 3rd Grade Bibles

The Board of Christian Education will be giving bibles to our 3rd graders and Confirmation (grade 8 or older) students in worship on Sunday,



September 21. Please let Wendy or Anne know if your child will be joining us that morning.

Treehouse Preschool

We are ready to start the school year on September 2. Classrooms are decorated, files are checked, paper towels and tissues stocked, and rooms are sparkling. We would like to welcome Jennifer Scherer to our 3-yr-old class. She comes to us with experience from her in-home care center.

Please remember, the kitchen door entrance will be LOCKED at all times when school is in session.

GOD SAVED US THROUGH THE WATER OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLV SPIRIT. TITUS 15

CONFIRMATION



FCC Confirmation 2025-2026

We are now forming a new Confirmation class for 2025-26. If you have a student in 8th or 9th grade (or an older student who has not yet gone through Confirmation) please contact the church office to let us know your student will take part in the class this year.

This year, the Confirmation Class will meet as a group once a month (date/time TBD) for the next nine months. These will be extended times of interaction between our confirmands and their mentors. We have also scheduled a retreat for January 9-10, 2026. Plans are also underway for our Confirmation trip to Boston! More information will be given out at the Sept. 21 meeting at 11:30am following morning worship.



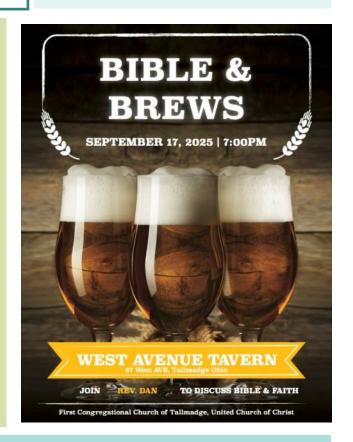
CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 11TH

The first choir rehearsal will be September 11th, followed by dessert in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in joining the choir is invited to join us in the choir room at 7:00 PM. The Chancel Choir will be back in worship on Sunday, September 21st.





Please join the Trustees for a work day at the church on Saturday, September 13th at 9:00 AM. We will be cleaning up tree branches on the church grounds. It should hopefully only take a couple of hours, and we will provide pizza and drinks for all volunteers afterward. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Dan Drummond at (330) 715-7542 for more information.



UNITED YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grades 6-12

SEPT. 2025

SUN

UM AT FIRST SERVE DAY OF SERVICE

(\) 7:45 AM-1PM

915 N. Main St. • Akron

SUN 14

SUNDAY IN SERVICE Lunch & UM Yearly Planning

(I) 11 AM

Youth Room

SUN

FAITH IN ACTION CLASS

(9AM Youth Room

UM PARENTS OPEN HOUSE Coffee & Breakfast with Ms. Anne

(9AM R David Bacon

CONFIRMATION CLASS Parent & Student Informational Meeting

(\) 11:30AM

Q David Bacon

SUN

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

(1) 6:30-8PM

₽ FCC

UNITED IN CHRIST

Welcome Back, United Ministry Youth!

We are thrilled to welcome back our United Ministry youth as we begin an exciting new program year filled with opportunities for faith, service, and fellowship. Open to all youth in grades 6–12, our ministry is designed to nurture spiritual growth, build community, and encourage active engagement in both church and the wider world.

This year's schedule includes Faith in Action class with Ms. Kyle and Mr. George on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:00 AM. On the second Sunday of each month, we will participate in a service project that puts our faith into action. On the fourth Sunday evening of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, we'll gather for Youth Fellowship—a time for fun, connection, and reflection. To kick off our program year, we're excited to take part in the First Serve annual day of service on Sunday, September 7th from 7:45am -1pm. This event brings together more than 500 volunteers from across the area to serve the North Hill community of Akron. We'll begin the day with donuts and fellowship, followed by an interfaith worship service. Then we'll head out into the community for a hands-on service project, working side-by-side with people of all ages and backgrounds to make a difference. Any youth interested in participating should sign up with Ms. Anne by September 1st. We also invite parents to join Ms. Anne for a special Parent Breakfast and Info Session open house on Sunday, September 21 at 9:00 AM in the David Bacon Room. This will be a great opportunity to hear more about the upcoming year, ask questions, and connect with other families in our United Ministry community. We look forward to a meaningful and memorable year ahead! To

join our mailing list or have any questions about United Youth Ministry, please contact youth coordinator Anne Pertick at anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org. See you in September!





FIRST SERVE ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Join over 500 volunteers to work on transformational projects in the North Hill community of Akron.

8:30-9am Interfaith Send-Off Service

915 N. Main St. Akron

9:30am-3pm Volunteer at Project Sites

Lunch Provided

PROJECTS FOR ALL **AGES & ABILITIES**

Painting sidewalk murals

- Washing pre-school toys
- Making teacher appreciation goodie bags
- Garden clean-up
- · Preparing frozen meals
- Organizing closets
- Repairing residential decks
- Weaving sleeping mats
- Patio project

& More!

*Choose from half or full-day projects

Register at joinfirstserve.org beginning on August 1st

Worship Attendance

 July 20
 130
 Aug 10
 120

 July 27
 136
 Aug 17
 109

Aug 3 116



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Aug 24 Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan

Altar Flowers

Aug 24 Ann and Patrick Hagan

Aug 31

Sep 7 Margie Popio

Sep 14

Sep 21

Sep 28

Sign up in the hallway \$28 per arrangement

Ushers



Aug 24 Don Simmons, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson

Aug 31 Jim and Dee West, Joe Labay, Tom Labay

Sep 7 Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell

Sep 14 Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles

Sep 21 Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers

Sep 28 Don Simmons, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson



We are no longer changing our worship time during the summer months. Our worship service will remain at 10:00 AM all year long! Starting in September, our office will be open 9 AM—3 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9AM—12PM, on Friday.

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 LABOR DAY— CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 6:00 PM—Naranon	3 9:00 AM—Quilters 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	4 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 5:30 PM—WF Covered Dish Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	5	6 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
7 8:30 AM—First Serve Day of Service 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion	8 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees	9 6:00 PM—Naranon 12:00 PM—Pictures and Pies	10 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	11 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Choir/Ice Cream Social	12	13 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship 4:00 PM—Roots and Wings	15 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 2:30 PM—WF Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage	16 6:00 PM—Naranon	9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts 7:00 PM—Bible Brews	18 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 4:30—7 PM— Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Choir	19	20 7:30/9:00 AM— WW 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast
21 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 9:00 AM—UM Open House 10:00 AM—Worship/ Bibles	22 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	23 6:00 PM—Naranon	24 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	25 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Choir	26	27 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
28 10:00 AM—Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM 6:30 PM—Youth Fellow- ship	29 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM— Treehouse Board Meeting	30 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon				

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DATE: August 20, 2025

Rev. Daniel Doty

Cathy Cotter

Anne Pertick

Bill Hoover

Teresa Snyder

Gary Marlow

Wendy Brown

Senior Minister

Digital Minister/

Head Custodian

Sunday Custodian

Nancy Lynn Robinson Choir Director / Organist

Administrative Coordinator

Director of Family Ministries

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Finance Administrator

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Prayer Chain	Diana Caldwell	330.265.5723	scdcg@icloud.com_				
Yarning for Peace	Elaine Engle	330.633.0896	elengle@aol.com				

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