Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others

September 2019
Volume 52 No. 4

The Burden of Tension?

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14, NIV

So much about being a Christian floods our lives with joy and contentment.

But for every moment of contentment, there are corresponding moments of confusion, uncertainty and frustration. One might call it the burden of tension. It might well be one of the most challenging things about being a follower of Jesus.

If you are like me, you spend a great deal of time attempting to avoid or resolve tension. There is a sense in which this is good. Mediation is important. A good mediator is a gift to cherish with a skill to embrace. But I'm not sure that the purpose of life with Christ to see how quickly and fully we can eliminate tension.

When I am bemoaning tension, I often think of John's description of Jesus. I find it fascinating that John describes Jesus as *full of grace and truth*. We have a tendency to think of these two characteristics as polar opposites—to show grace can feel like it is abandoning truth and to commit to truth can feel like it is rejecting grace. So often we believe that in order to embrace one we must sacrifice the other.

We live in a world in which we see this happening every day. Perhaps one reason our world and our nation and even the church is becoming more polarized is because we think that the answer to life's struggles is to embrace one idea and reject the other. Perhaps this tendency is rooted in our desire is to resolve and eliminate tension. But is this God's desire? Is this God's plan?

As much as we might want to be rid of tension, if words dripping with tension is how John describes Jesus, then I suspect that the concept of tension will have something to do with what it means to be a follower of Jesus. It seems that God has a plan—an intended outcome—for the tension of our world, our lives and of our relationship with him.

This is the idea that I aim to address in the Sunday morning sermon series this fall. I believe that Jesus-like tension is challenging for us. I also believe that Jesus-like tension is a gift to us, and its purpose is bigger, greater and more beautiful than we could ever dream or imagine.

I hope that you will join me in this challenging and exciting journey.

In Christ,
Pastor Wes

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Have you considered becoming a member of Houghton Wesleyan? Do you have questions about what being a member of Houghton Wesleyan means? Pastor Wes is hosting a membership information class in mid-September. If you are interested in discovering more about membership, you will want to attend this class. Please contact Pastor Wes or the church office to indicate your interest.

Fall **invitation to** do something about…

DYNAMIC ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is a day by day and lifelong process of following Jesus -- individually, joining and inviting others.

SMALL GROUPS – Sundays and beyond – Start Sept. 15
Always contact leaders for info – If interested in hosting or leading a new group, contact Pastor Shea (567-2264)– Some full groups are unlisted.

Sundays:
- Chris and Kim Moeller @ their home—5:00 p.m.
- Doug and Judi Mayhle @ their home—5:30 p.m. (shared light meal)
- Dan and Jess Wartinger @ church Room 105—5:30 p.m. (childcare)
- Paul Shea @ their home—6:00 p.m.
- Debbie Young @ Leax home—6:30 p.m.

Mondays: Michael Jordan @ TBD home—6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Jesse and Melissa Fink @ their home—6:30 p.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
– 9:40 a.m. Sundays - Start Sept. 8

Bible Exposition—*Titus*—Paul Young, teacher (below sanctuary, Room 9)
Book Discussion—Michael Jordan, facilitator (below sanctuary, Room 10)
When Moms Prayer—Sally Johnson, facilitator (below sanctuary Room 7&
Book/Video Series—Jason Mucher & Kristen Sanasith, facilitators (C.E. Room 105, across from the library)
Kaleidoscope—Variety guests/topics—Dave Daugherty, facilitator (Community Room)
Leading in Discipleship **(NEW)** – Paul Shea and other facilitators (below Sanctuary Room 4) Topics: Leading groups, Inductive Bible Study, Mentoring One on One. (Fall only)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES – Weekdays

Tuesdays - Starts Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m.—Marilyn Hiler, facilitator (below sanctuary, Room 7)
Wednesdays - Starts Sept. 11, 9:30 a.m., *James* study cont. —Sandy Roederer, facilitator (below sanctuary, Room 10)
Fridays - Starts Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m., Annie Wiesman, Eileen Jacoby, Elizabeth Ciobanu, facilitators (Primary Assembly Room (childcare arranged)

PRAYER CHAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Changes Things

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This admonition is a powerful reminder to us as Christians that prayer is essential in our lives. With this in mind, we invite men and women to become involved in the prayer chain ministry of the church. If you are already on the prayer chain, your name will remain on the list unless you contact us otherwise. If you want to receive the prayer chain request via phone or email so you may join us in praying, please contact the church office at 567-2264. Thank you!

Congratulations to James Stanton Bates, son of Peter and Joanna Bates, brother of Violet and Cora and grandson of Ken and Barb Bates, who was baptized on Sunday, August 11.

The Church Choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 3 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The choir serves in the 11am service each Sunday. Come and join us in singing our praises to God! Contact Amanda Cox with any questions (amandacox@hwchurch.org).

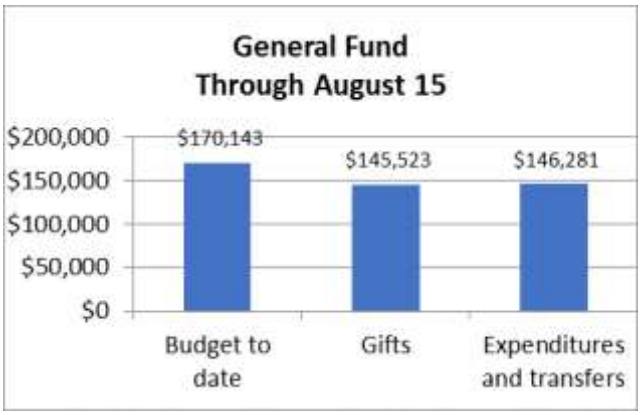
STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

Each month you may have noticed that financial updates are included in the Highlights. This is one way we can let you know what your generous support of Houghton Wesleyan Church accomplishes.

In the church's financial plan for this year, nearly 38 percent was budgeted for Ministries. This encompasses 6 important areas—College Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Congregational Care, Discipleship, and Worship/Music Ministry.

One of the places you can see examples of the impact of your support is in Pastor Jon's office. We encourage you to spend some time there looking at the many photos posted on his wall of our youth growing their faith through relevant teaching and exciting activities. In his sermon on August 11, Pastor Jon commented, "When I look at those faces, it stirs in me a deep sense of excitement and it helps to put me back in touch with my calling. I am so grateful to be part of a denomination and community of faith that deeply values our young people."

Thank you for investing your time, talent and treasure that we might be the church God intends us to be. If you have any questions about the financial plan or church finances, please don't hesitate to contact one of the church Elders or Treasurer David Mercer or Pastor Wes.



September 8

Sunday School begins for all ages

~The family and friends of Jean Reigles, long-time professor of music and resident of Houghton who died August 16.

~Julie and Don Haingray and their family at the death of Julie's father, Tom Brandenburg, on August 19.

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School—Sept. 8—9:40am
Blue Foam Party—Sept. 8—3:33-5:55
Life Groups—Sept. 15, 21,28—6pm
Prayer Breakfast—Sept. 10, 17, 23, 30—7am

H.W.C. 6th ANNUAL

OCTOBER 26
10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- Neighborhood outreach celebration at no cost
- Church Community Room
- Stop by the Valley Preschool Open House
- Donations of candy, individual, pre-packaged pretzels and goldfish crackers are greatly appreciated. Please drop your donations off at the church office any time during office hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. or on Sunday mornings.
- Contact Emily Spateholts or Cindy Oden.

Following the Family Harvest Extravaganza…

- The Youth will offer a pulled-pork take-out dinner, from 11:30am until sold out

Operation Christmas Child School Supply Drive

Shop back-to-school sales for great buys on:

⇒ Scissors, crayons, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, markers, pencil sharpeners, pencil pouches

⇒ Drop off items in boxes located in the CE Foyer, church foyers, and around the church

⇒ Questions—contact Jessica Romance Jessica.r.mullen@gmail.com

*Children's Ministry * Children's Ministry*

Thank you to all who helped out with Children's Church this summer. It was great to give our regular teachers a break for the summer.

Please be praying for our Sunday School Teachers

Here are our current Sunday School team members;
Toddlers - Cassie & Italo Riquelme & Susie Roorbach
2 year olds - Judi & Doug Mayhle
3 year olds - Laura Esh & TBD
4 year olds - Sunshine & Aaron Sullivan
Kindergarten - Kathy Moore & Karen Liddick
Grade 1 - Emily & Brandon Hoffman & Joanna Bates
Grade 2 - Jill & Karl Schmidt
Grade 3 - Audrey & Steve Pocock
Grade 4 - Elsa Kettinger & Beth Stevick
Grade 5 - Sharon McGarvey & Debbie Shea
Grade 6 - Harold Blew & Rhoda & Mike Burgett
We are in need of more classroom helpers.
Contact emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

...and for our Children's Church Team

Steve & Kim Tucker
Angela Babbitt
Sally Retz
Beth Beardsley
Jim & Donna Zoller
Jordan Mullen
Rebecca Williams
Men's Soccer Team

Junior Church begins September 8 @ 8:20 for K-3rd Graders!

Pray for Melissa Lundeen, Laura Sisson, Sara Massey, & Houghton College music education students as they lead our students.

KIDS' CLUB on Wednesday nights will start on September 18.

We have programming for first through sixth graders. Sign up will take place that night.

HWC Children's and Youth Ministry Team invites you to

EQUIP - IMPROVE YOUR GAME

If you're a children's or youth ministry team member this day of volunteer training is for you. Pencil us in for September 21 from 9 am to noon as we strive to equip you to best serve our HWC kids and youth.
STEWARD OF CHILDREN Training will also be offered that day from 1-3 pm. This sexual abuse prevention training is required for all youth and children's ministry volunteers every four years.

September Scripture

ACTS 2:22 Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

LAY SHEPHERDS

Lay Shepherds are committed individuals in our Houghton Wesleyan Church congregation who offer and coordinate care-giving for those who have special needs within our congregation and neighborhoods. Lay Shepherds work closely with the Pastoral staff and provide support to families in times of crisis. Lay Shepherds coordinate occasional neighborhood get-togethers. Each Lay Shepherding group hosts one church-wide fellowship event each year, such as an ice cream social. If you have a need, please feel free to contact the pastoral staff or the lay shepherd coordinator, Denise Campbell, for your geographic neighborhood.

Lay Shepherd Coordinator: Denise Campbell (585) 610-3098 / 567-4861

LAY SHEPHERD LEADERS

- Belfast/Caneadea/Rushford: *Tom & Laurie Machamer; Italo & Cassandra Riquelme
- Campus Heights: *Dan & Kathy Moore; Jan Schilke
- Centerville Road: *Jessica Wartinger; Stacy Strickland
- Fancher Heights/Luckey/Meadow Ln: *Tracy & Terry Paige
- Fillmore/Nunda: *Connie Smith; Paulette Schierer
- Park/Forest: *Jane Buteyn; Julie Haingray; Alicia Mucher
- Route 19: **Laura Sisson; ** Elizabeth & Vali Ciobanu
- Seymour/Thayer: *Doug & Phyllis Gaerte; Kathie Brenneman
- Tucker Hill: * Andrea Boon; Josie & Doyin Adenuga
- Lay Shepherds without borders (moved but staying part of the team!) Michael & Emily Spateholts; Bekah Brennan

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*Denotes Primary Lay Shepherd. *Primary lay shepherd should be contacted first when possible /** co-lay shepherds

Note RE Meal Schedules

As Lay Shepherds, we gratefully acknowledge all those small groups, Bible Studies, co-workers, and friend groups who start meal schedules to meet needs in our community. It reflects the fact that the desire to minister to our friends and neighbors is alive and well in the Houghton Church community.

If you are one of those empathetic folks who has spoken with a friend and received their acceptance of a meal schedule, we'd ask that you contact lay shepherd coordinator, Denise Campbell (denisewcampbell@gmail.com) to let us know. As Lay Shepherds we have occasionally begun schedules for meals to find that more than one schedule has been initiated and it is unclear to the recipient or participants that this has occurred until duplication and confusion are rampant.

We recognize that it can sometimes be most comfortable when those closest reach out to meet a need. We would just love to know that the need is being met, so we can avoid doubling up and can just offer neighborhood assistance to help fill the schedule as needed.

From the
Library Shelves

Welcome back! As you return to your fall and back-to-school routines, remember to see what we have in our church library.

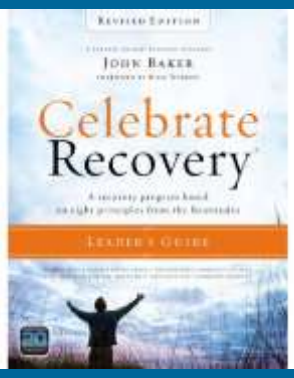
Our adult section has many biographies, books on the Bible, Christian living books on a variety of subjects, missions books, and books on other topics you might like. We also have a fiction section. In the back room there are CDs and DVDs, some for the family, others just for adults.

In our children's section we have books of Bible stories, a section of easy books for your beginning reader and alphabetized shelves with other books your child may like.

The junior section has sports books, biographies, books on science and animals and books on the Bible plus a fiction section. There are children's DVDs and CDs too.

Please stop by!

Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at Houghton Wesleyan Church



The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in our lives. We open the door by sharing our experience, strength and hope with one another in a safe, confidential place. Celebrate Recovery is a recovery program aimed at all "hurts, habits, and hang-ups", including but not exclusive to: high anxiety; co-dependency; compulsive behaviors; sex addiction; financial dysfunction; drug and alcohol addictions; and eating disorders. On alternating weeks we listen to lessons on DVD taught by Johnny Baker or to a testimony from a fellow believer in Jesus who shares his or her personal struggle in overcoming life's problems. We then divide into open share groups (men and women in separate groups), for a time of sharing. The best way to discover if CR is for you, is to come and experience it! Come and check us out! We meet in the Good Shepherd Room on the lower level of the church from 7-9 p.m. every Thursday evening.

Wellspring Ministries

Needs - back to school clothing jackets,, new school folders, towels, bedding, pots, pans
Reminder - we could use desserts for the meal. If there are bakers out there, who would like to make something once a month, let us know. (Tops no longer supplies us.)
Prayer and Praise - for those who share the Word each Wednesday and Friday. We pray always for lives to be changed by His Spirit.

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed." Prov. 22:9a

Beth Beardsley (for the Board)

Is Hospitality Your Gift?

Be a welcoming and friendly face on Sunday mornings as people arrive for the worship services. Greeters help prepare the hearts of members for worship as they welcome guests with a smile and warm handshake. If you enjoy meeting new people and have a genuine desire to make them feel comfortable, this may be the ministry for you. Please call Janyce Smithley at 585-307-0228. You may also fill-out the form below to put in the offering plate or send to the church office. Janyce will be organizing a Greeter Calendar for the school year. Thank you.

The Greeter Ministry is looking for Greeters

Would you be willing to help with this ministry by giving a friendly handshake and warm smile to people as they enter our worship services? If so, please print your name and contact info below and check off which service you can help with and put in the offering plate or send to the church office.

We welcome college, academy and high school student involvement. Thank you for considering becoming part of this ministry of the Houghton Wesleyan Church!

Your name_____

Your phone/email_____

Address/CPO_____

Service you prefer to be a greeter:_____8:20_____9:40_____11:00 a.m

Everyone is welcome to KOINONIA on Sunday evenings,
7:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel.

Thank you for the Prayers for the Schierer family !

Update: Ruby (Schierer) Williams underwent two invasive brain surgeries for epileptic seizures. They implanted a RNS device that monitors and responds to brain activity to stop seizures when they begin. She is recovering well and has returned to work. Please continue to pray as the doctors begin to decrease Ruby's seizure medicine and program the RNS device to detect and stop the seizures.

Paulette Schierer had a cardiac ablation to convert the heart rhythm from atrial fibrillation (a fast, abnormal heart rate) to a normal sinus rhythm. All went well and I feel more energetic now. This past week the atrial fibrillation has returned for Paulette and she is looking at ablation of the AV node in the heart and insertion of a pacemaker. Please pray that all goes well with this procedure.

Thank you again for all your prayers. We felt God's presence with us.

Paulette Schierer

YOUNG AT HEART ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ 2019-2020

(Formerly Houghton Area Senior Citizens)

The Houghton Area *Young at Heart* group of Northern Allegany County meets monthly. *Young at Heart* welcomes everyone ages 55 and up (and their caregivers) to join us for the programs outlined below. We typically meet in the community room of Houghton Wesleyan Church for a carry in lunch starting at noon with a 45-50 minute program to follow. A couple of the dates are tentative at this time and will be updated as plans are completed.

September 12 - Experiences of an Artist Professor Gary Baxter

Gary retired last year from Houghton's Art Department after over 40 years. With wide interests in visual arts and crafts especially ceramics, furniture and architecture, Gary will share his journey in these areas since retirement enhanced with slides of many projects. He may also report on witnessing a mini-tornado (micro-burst) up close.

October 10 - Choosing Medical options — **Gudy Stevenson**

November 14 - Drugs and Your Brain — **Professor Paul Young**
Reservations are required in advance of this date.

December 12 - New Horizons Music program — **Diane Emmons**

January 15 or 22 - Financial Planning (Wednesday) — **Professor Richard Halberg**

February 13 - Staying in Your Own Home — **Jan Schilke and Becky Hutton**

March 12 - Musical Performance — **Greatbatch School of Music**

April 16 - War Propaganda — **Professor Douglas Gaerte**

May 14 -A Day at The Park Letchworth Park
(car pool to Charcoal Corral for lunch and then enter the park at the Castile entrance)
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June 11 or close date - Baseball Game — **Genesee Rapids**

Questions or reservations: Daryl Stevenson 716-397-6864 or Ken Gaerte 585-567-8522

CARRY-IN MEAL SCHEDULE

Our monthly meetings begin at noon with a carry in meal, followed by a 45-50 minute program. All guests are requested to bring their own table service and a dish to place on the buffet table. Beverages are provided. Please follow the schedule below, or swap with a friend.

Last Initial	Desserts	Casseroles	Salads
A-F	Sep, Jan, Mar	Oct, Feb	Dec, Apr, Jun
G-N	Dec, Apr, Jun	Sep, Jan, Mar	Oct, Feb
O-Z	Oct, Feb	Dec, Apr, Jun	Sep, Jan, Mar

*November 14 is a catered Thanksgiving dinner at noon, with reservations needed by November 8. Contact Daryl or Ken.

*Our May 14 visit to Letchworth Park will feature lunch at the Charcoal Corral prior to our program in the park. Travel and departure details provided closer to the date.

Who: All music-loving adults are invited!

What: "A Taste of Music Preview Day"

When: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 10:30am-12:30pm

Where: Houghton College Campus

New Horizons Music in collaboration with Houghton College's Greatbatch School of Music is excited to offer a "Taste of Music Preview Day" on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 10:30-11:45 in the HC Music Ed. classroom. This musical activity is to be followed immediately by lunch in the Campus Center Dining Room. Dr. Armenio Suzano and Dr. Sara Massey will lead the group in singing and playing Orff instruments while Metz Dining Services prepares some scrumptious food for us! It's going to be lots of fun!!! **No prior musical training is necessary.**

Never heard of New Horizons Music? Check out the documentary online at:
https://www.pbs.org/video/music-for-life-the-story-of-new-horizons-brm0sf/
New Horizons Music is a musical organization for older adults begun in 1991 by Roy Ernst, a professor at Rochester's Eastman School of Music. It has grown to include more than 200 New Horizons groups involving over 10,000 adult musicians in the United States and several other countries. We're hoping to establish a group for Allegany and Wyoming Counties right here in Houghton. Will you help us?

If you are an adult music-lover seeking the challenge and pleasure of life-long learning in a group setting you are most welcome. The cost of lunch for Sr. Citizens is $6.00. Participants are encouraged to meet and carpool from the HWC parking lot at 10:15. We should be back at the church between 12:30 and 1:00. Please contact Diane Emmons at (585)567-2790 or **diane_emmons@hotmail.com** for more details or to sign up!

FOR SALE: Singer sewing machine with cabinet. Very good condition. Call 567-8885

PLAYGROUP meets Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Community Room/ Gym. All moms, dads, caregivers and kids are welcomed.

Piano Concerts for Children and Their Parents

Dr. William John Newbrough is planning to perform two piano concerts at his home piano studio for any families who might be interested in piano lessons for their children. The concerts will be short (about 30-45 minutes), and will feature both serious repertoire, and fun, interactive children's songs! Refreshments will be served. The dates are **Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, 6:30 pm, and Saturday, Sept. 7th, 6:30 pm.** Location is the **Newbrough Piano Studio, 9856 Stockin Lane, Houghton, NY 14744.**
Please RSVP by email: william.newbrough@houghton.edu. There is no cost to attend.

F1 goldendoodles for sale. Call Lydia at (716) 601-5956

3years running!

Helping Hands Christian Alliance

is a growing company and now expanding to include towns outside as well as inside Houghton N.Y. Call Barbara Elliott at 716-801-2077.

Services include:
- Elder care up to and including shopping.
- Medical appointment service
- Housekeeping - one time or routinely, includes steam cleaning floors and rug shampooing.
- Pet sitting
- Some sewing and alterations
- House sitting
- Call about pricing

References:
Donnie Stockin Becky Hutton Patty Stalker Karen Daugherty

FOR RENT: 3 room apartment within walking distance of the college. Ideal for single or couple. Gas heat, water, sewer and trash disposal included in the rent. 567-8885

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, *Senior Pastor* *585-567-2024* wesoden@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor* *585-307-9950* joncole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, *Assistant Pastor* *585-567-2024* cindyoden@hwchurch.org

Paul Shea, *Assistant Pastor* *585-365-3102* paulshea@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Music & *Worship Director* *567-4870* amandacox@hwchurch.org

Emily Spateholts, *Director of Children's Ministries (Sunday ministries & Valley Preschool)* *808-8925* emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org

Ann McNeill, *Director of Children's Ministries (Wednesday Kids Club, Library, RFKC, Cradle Roll)* *437-5151* annmcneill@hwchurch.org

Austen Kewin, *Pastoral Ministry Resident* *215-353-8692* austenkewin@hwchurch.org

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Office, *585-567-2264*, office@hwchurch.org HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

September 1 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. Rev. Dr. J. Michael Walters

September 8 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. The Challenge of Tension

September 15 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. ***I Know What I Believe… Or Do I?***
p.m. Small Groups

September 22 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. ***Just the Fact…Or Trying to Get to the Feeling***
p.m. Small Groups

September 29 (8:20, 9:40, 11:00)
a.m. ***Good Boys and Girls Follow the Rules…Or Do They?***
p.m. Small Groups

Houghton Wesleyan Church
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