



Sarah Laughed

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time, we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates for offering will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:
or download the **GivePlus Church** application and
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita* ~ bkdaniel59@gmail.com

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



June 18, 2023

Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

CHIMES CONCERT at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

As we journey through this time of transition, remembering our past and welcoming our future, we, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ by:

- **Nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study, and prayer;**
- **Caring for one another as God cares for us; and**
- **Proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.**

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our missions, remembering the work of our ancestors, actively participating in our congregation's life, and laying a foundation for our generations to follow. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us together as a community listening to this moment.

We incline our ears.

God calls us together as a community listening to what matters.

We are ready to listen.

God calls us together as a community listening to what is true.

We have come from differing places to hear the good news proclaimed.

Together, in this community, we will hear so much.

God calls us together to listen again.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy One, you incline your ear and listen to every joy and sorrow.
Whisper and shout and sing your promise to us again so that, filled to
the brim with your good news, we can share in your hope again and
again. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *God, Speak to Me, that I May Speak*

#531

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, you call us to be disciples and proclaim the good news of your love and forgiveness. Yet often, we are timid, uncertain, and afraid.

Forgive us, God, and send us once again.

Jesus told his disciples to travel lightly. Yet we often carry emotional baggage and struggle under the weight of tired traditions and stale ideas.

Forgive us, God, and send us once again.

We can be afraid of rejection. And when we are rejected, we can be tempted to bury ourselves in self-pity.

Forgive us, God, and send us once again.

Jesus never told us that being a disciple would be easy. Help us, God, when we are afraid to take risks for your sake and the sake of the gospel.

Forgive us, God, and send us once again.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: Christ Jesus died to show God's unending love for us, even though we were sinners. So be assured that your sins are forgiven.

As forgiven children of God, go and proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

HYMN *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight*

#256

see next page

THE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18: 1-15 OT page 14

Romans 5: 1-8 NT page 155

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Unison

1 We live by faith and not by sight;
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

SERMON

MORNING PRAYERS

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY *You Do Not Walk Alone*

– E. Hagenberg
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise*

#24

see next page

***BENEDICTION**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE *(please be seated)*



1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,
 1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
 2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
 God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
 All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

ne - lam v' - gam ein sof l' - ach - du - to.
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
 who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of LeRoy I. “Pete” Crum, by daughter, Martha J. Crum Kline.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of Alex Schaeberle, who wears the Marine Corps uniform. Thank you to him, as well as the Schaeberle and Sexton families, for their sacrifices made in service to our country.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 am, 81 at 10:30 am and 36 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

Today: June 18, 2023

Scripture Reader: Robin Cooney
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Marc Kline
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford, Pat Condo
Welcome: Marj Berkheimer
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kendra Sampson
Nursery:
Fellowship: Starr Schaeberle, Mary Lou Blessing
Andrew and Michelle Beadle
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

Next Week: June 25, 2023

Robin Cooney
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Ave and Cliff Barr, Felecia Bishop
Pat Condo, Rob Smith
Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kendra Sampson
Stephanie Fisher
Starr Schaeberle
Dick Williams
Robin and David Cooney

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of light refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6: 1b-11 | Matthew 10: 24-39

Jesus taught his disciples, the twelve and those to come, about what to expect because of their faithfulness. He prepares them for rejection, persecution, and martyrdom. At one point he offers the startling statement that he had come not to bring peace but a sword and that families and friends would be divided. The teaching is so stark that it is often ignored, rarely serving as the text in sermons. On this day we will wrestle with the text and reflect why, though uncomfortable, it is important. Have you ever thought about Jesus as a divider instead of uniter?

The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching and leading worship. The Senior Choir will be singing.

HOSPITAL AND PRAYER LIST

We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Pat Condo, Matt Pomeroy, Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Sue Pinner, Greg Rhoads, Luke Chappell, Holly Davis, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), Bob Pinner, Stacie Carey (niece of Darlene Brunner and Jeannette Johnson), Marcia Eisenstein, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield).

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life-event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please first contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org. Outside of office hours today through June 24, please contact Rev. David Cooney at (240) 529-8887.

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

Sunday, June 11 - 25

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:15 am

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888

Passcode: 327128

Foundational Stories of the Old Testament ... in Order! The Exile ... and the Exodus ... is that one event with two names ... or two? And if they are different, which came first? Was Daniel in the lion's den Joseph put him there?

If you have ever pondered questions like these, join the *Let's Study the Bible* class as we survey of the big stories of the Old Testament in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed.

This Week at ERUCC

PERIOD PACKS (MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS) SERVICE PROJECT

May 14 – June 18

ERUCC began a campaign on Mother's Day to create period packs to help people in period poverty. These kits promote cleanliness and health during the menstrual cycle. In partnership with Church World Service, the UCC is working provide as many period packs as possible as a General Synod service project. **We will assemble packs at ERUCC on June 25.**

“Period poverty” is defined as a lack of access to menstrual products, hygiene facilities, waste management, and related education. This can result in missed days at school and work, discrimination, and social isolation.



Needed donation items include the following:

- Regular and super-absorbency tampons
- Sanitary pads (unscented, long, super, ultra-thin)
- Bath-size soaps (3oz. bar or larger, no Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove packaging)
- Packs of flushable wipes (unscented 42-count)

Drop-off bins are located outside the sanctuary and Trinity Chapel. Financial donations directed to ERUCC should note that they are for the “Period Packs Project.”



CLIMATE HOPE POSTCARD SUNDAYS



Last fall there was an UCC Climate Hope art contest for kids. Many of our children participated and drew wonderful pictures of what caring for the earth means to them. Out of all the contestants, the judges picked an overall winner. Her drawing was made into postcards that will be used in our postcard campaign to persuade the EPA to finalize rules to reduce pollution.

Starting June 25 and throughout July, the Green Team will have a table during fellowship time. Stop by to learn more and sign a Climate Hope postcard!

ERUCC at FREDERICK PRIDE

Saturday, June 24

Carroll Creek Linear Park

10:00 am – 6:00 pm



ERUCC is an Open and Affirming congregation that proudly supports The Frederick Center and our LGBTQ+ community. The Frederick Center has organized Frederick Pride on Saturday June 24, 2023 on Carroll Creek. ERUCC will have a table at this event announcing its mission and programs to Frederick Pride visitors. Shifts are in two-hour increments. Bring your own water and a chair. All are welcome to volunteer.

Contact Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181 with questions.

Sign up to help with outreach: bit.ly/41xOCP9

2023 INTERFAITH PRIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, June 24

Grace UCC, 25 E. 2nd St

11:00 am

An interfaith Pride worship service will be held at Grace United Church of Christ with The Reverend Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference UCC as its guest speaker. For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry at pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com.

A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE – FREDERICK KEYS BASEBALL GAME

Wednesday, June 28

7:00 pm

Enjoy some fun and baseball during a Night Out at the Keys presented by The Frederick Center. Look for more details from Pastor Kirstin soon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31 – August 4



This year's VBS theme is "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!" Read more details in the May *Trinity Chimes*.

VBS will be Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 12:00 noon. We will stay until 3:00 pm on Thursday for those who are interested. During that day we will do some extended missional activities and water play! Families who want to request early drop off should do that through Pastor Kirstin.

We will open registration to campers outside our church June 5 – 12. Pastor Kirstin is looking for youth and adult volunteers for a variety of tasks: snack makers, craft leaders, game leaders, scientists/teachers, storybook readers, and musicians. We are seeking volunteers to work any number of mornings and one extended afternoon.

NEEDED: 2 refrigerator boxes to make into food trucks

Safe Church Training

If you are planning to help at VBS and did not complete training after December 2022, then you will need to attend Safe Church training on Sunday, June 25 at 1:30 pm or make arrangements with Pastor Kirstin for an alternative training time.



Additional Announcements

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you to the following people for sharing their time and talents this year teaching Sunday School classes for children, serving as substitutes and chapel greeters, and leading Junior Church!

Barb Biser
Beth Bowen
Ashley Coen
Justin Coen
Paige Coffey
Linda Coyle
Julie Ebersole
Jean Fish

Eleanor Fisher
Evie Frazier
Kate Fromknecht
Alyssa Kline
Dawn Lagrotteria
Stephanie Martinez
Matt Pomeroy
Thomasa Pomeroy

Jen Powell
Audrey Rayfield
Pastor Kirstin
Donna Smith
Emily Spear
Jack Stush

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Thanks to the Congregation and our friends at ERUCC:

We wish to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy and support we have received since the passing of our grandson Connor. His passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and tremendous pain at our loss. He had so much potential for the rest of his life and that makes his loss all the harder to bear. Our faith in God and your support are the things that help keep us moving forward.

No words can really alleviate our suffering, but they do help in many ways. So many people from the congregation attended his service and for that we are truly grateful. If only he had known how many friends he had before that sad day.

– The Crutchley Family

NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER



On behalf of the board of AARCH Society, I would like to thank you for the \$500 grant from the Community Service Fund of Evangelical Reformed Church of the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

We are extremely grateful to have your faithful support to help share and preserve the African American history and culture of Frederick County.

Through the generosity and commitment of supporters like you, we continue to make much progress as we plan for the opening of the Heritage Center. It is because of faithful donors like you, we can continue forward with the mission and purpose of the society. We hold you in great esteem.

With gratitude,
Protean Gibril, President, AARCH Society

Making
all things **New**
Isaiah 43:18-19



The theme for the 34th General Synod is based on Isaiah 43:18-19, “Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Always an extraordinary event in the life of the United Church of Christ, delegates, and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. The Keynote speaker will offer illumination and insight into the challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, and worship together.

We lift up our beloved United Church of Christ as it prepares to gather in for our General Synod from June 30 – July 4. We especially hold those ERUCC members attending in our prayers, that may hear the Holy Spirit



FAMILY CAMPING

A group of families from ERUCC enjoyed God’s creation, time in fellowship and while sharing delicious meals, and worshipping together during a weekend camping at Cowan’s Gap State Park.



**In celebration of Juneteenth (Freedom Day),
the ERUCC offices will be closed on Monday, June 19.**

Juneteenth reminds us that many of the truths of history that we as a nation need to hold close have been hidden to preserve a narrative of racial superiority, progress, and democracy. As a sacred acknowledgement of God's people of African descent, Juneteenth remembers and honors the generations of untold stories that are waiting to be revealed within these sacred lives, stories that reach back to the cradle of civilization on the continent of Africa and reach forward into the abolitionist future we are building.

Ostensibly, when the Emancipation Proclamation was made by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State" should have been "then, thenceforward, and forever free." But the historical truth is that there was some distance between the declaration of emancipation and the realization of freedom. Emancipation unfolded, community by community, across the nation over the course of years. In fact, one might say that emancipation is still unfolding in a nation marked by pervasive racialized inequities. The story of Juneteenth shows us that there is often some distance between our declarations of emancipation in our antiracist intentions and statements, and the realization of freedom in our antiracist actions and practices. As faithful people committed to liberation, we will always be on the journey to fully realizing freedom and remembering the truths of our past and revealing the histories that have been hidden is an essential part of that journey.

– Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, Curator of UCC's Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice
excerpted from *'Do Not Forget the Things Your Eyes Have Seen'*

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:30 – 10:25 am	Coffee and Conversation , Community Room
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
9:30 – 10:10 am	Children’s Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary and Online
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room

Stay Informed

JUNE TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, in the back of the sanctuary or online by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/june23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



June 18, 2023

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Sarah Laughed

Father's Day

It is not an official church holiday, but many churches today will celebrate Father's Day. In today's scripture story, Sarah is surprised into laughter to find out that she will be a parent. On this Father's Day, recognizing that family is sometimes a source of pain and rejection as well as a haven of joy and acceptance, we give thanks for the many kinds of families that God has blessed. As you say each line of this prayer, silently or aloud, give yourself plenty of time for reflection.

How are these thanksgivings true for you?

How have they or have they not been realized?

What kind of family has God called you into? Consider this question as broadly as possible.

Dear God,

We thank you for our birth family, the family we are linked to by blood. Some of us are very close to our birth family. Perhaps this family is always on our hearts, or even sitting together this very day in this very place. Some of us are far, far away from our birth family, separated by distance or misunderstanding or time or even violence. Whatever our proximity, today we remember that it is our blood family that brought us forth, and we give thanks that we are here.

We thank you for our faith family, for the generations that stretch back further than we can see, even when we stand on tiptoe, peering into the past. We thank you especially for our parents Abraham and Sarah. We thank you that their curiosity, their faith in You, their willingness to follow Your call and their capacity for joy in moments of surprise.

We thank you for the families we have chosen. Those families we have made through law and covenant, families of lovers and friends, families of children and companions. And at the same time, we thank you for the families who have chosen us, drawn us into circles of sweet understanding and easy companionship, taught us to love and to live.

We give thanks for all the families that bring us to laughter, and all the families that we have called home.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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