

Herald of Good TIDINGS

"Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'"

On Sunday, November 2nd, we will offer the congregation a different sort of communion service and an opportunity to remember the saints who have passed over to the Lord. We'll read the names of church members who were resurrected this past year, plus give individuals an opportunity to light a candle in memory of those who have been as saints in our lives. Please join us for this special service which will take place during our 10:00 AM worship.



Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26th at 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Avenue Auburn, MA

Come and join us as we give thanks to our God!

MONTHLY CHURCH SUPPERS

Our next Church Supper will be Saturday, November 15th at 5 p.m. Servers: BOCE

Please Note: We are in need of a cook(s) for our monthly church suppers. If you'd like to be responsible for preparing one of the monthly suppers, please contact the Trustees for more information. Our suppers are held on the third Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. and run September through May.

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Youth On a Mission News

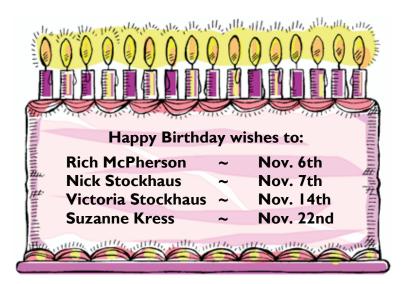
On Saturday, November 1st there will be a bonfire from 6 until 10 p.m. at the Bohn's. All YOM members are welcome to bring a friend or two. There will be chili, hot dogs and s'mores. There will also be some fun *"activities."* Please let us know if you're coming and if you're bringing a friend.

Ever-So-Humble pies will be delivered during coffee hour on November 2nd. PLEASE plan on being there to pick up your pies or make arrangements to have someone pick it up for you. The pies come frozen, and must stay frozen, and we don't have the freezer space to store them.

We have received many requests and will be selling Joe Corbi's Pizza and cookie dough probably in December.

Jennifer & Randy Bohn

All are welcome.



WHO CHOOSES THE READINGS?

The Bible readings we choose most every week are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. The lectionary provides three readings—one from Hebrew Scripture and two from the New Testament, plus a psalm or song from the Bible. Many congregations use all three readings on Sundays and greater Holy Days. Others use only one reading. The Revised Common Lectionary is widely used in Protestant and Anglican churches, and is similar to the lectionary used in all Roman Catholic congregations. That means that every Sunday, Christians of many traditions throughout the world are literally on "the same page"—a powerful symbol of our unity in Christ.

During the worship service on September 28th we celebrated the baptisms of

Charlotte Claire Lynch, Grace Elizabeth Retallic and Abigail Marion Towne.

Charlotte's parents are Jeremy and Jennifer Lynch. Her godparents are Jaclyn Lynch and Karin Sjogren.

Grace's parents are Todd and Tamra Retallic. Her godparents are Mark Retallic, Jr. and Gay Kabasinsky.

Abigail's parents are Christopher and Jodi Towne. Her godparents are Robert Towne, II and Tabitha Israelian.



May the Lord bless and keep each of these precious children and their families.

Can you believe Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and soon Christmas will follow? Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful flowers and at the close of the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them in their own homes, or give them as gifts when visiting loved ones on Christmas Day. You can dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. These dedications will be printed and included as an insert in our Christmas bulletins.



You'll find a poinsettia order form on the back page of this newsletter. Please be sure to place your order early for best selection.

Please note all orders are due before Thanksgiving.

Praise the Lord!

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, Rev. Mark Seifried

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Psalm 149:1

I have a confession: "Most Sundays I feel like a blessed idiot!" I feel blessed because the congregation has been so gracious, faithful and loving in receiving me as your new, although temporary, pastor. I feel like an idiot because I'm flying by the seat of my pants. I often do things or say things in worship that make the deacons react like deer caught in the headlights. The amazing thing is that, after having been blessed by twenty -three years of consistency with Rev. Knox's ministry, nobody has told me that I am doing things "wrong" on Sunday morning.

There is something profound in that. Scripture says that all creation praises God: the moon and the stars, the rocks and the trees, the mountains and the oceans, the wild critters and people of the earth. Each of us has a different way of praising God. None is wrong. We are made for praise. That may have been one of the many blessings in the lull between Rev. Knox's retirement in April and my arrival in September: the congregation got to experience a variety of styles of worship leadership. All were right and good and beautiful in the eyes of God. Praise God!

One of my jobs, as your interim pastor, is to prepare you for whomever God sends as your next pastor. According to the congregational survey results, the most consistent thing that you expect from the next pastor is that he <u>or she</u> will be a person of faith. (Please don't discount women! Over 60% of those presently enrolled in UCC-related seminaries are women – all gifted and called to lead God's people in ministry!) During our time together, I am going to proceed with a variety of styles in worship leadership. Sometimes, I'll lead with a contemplative style. Sometimes, I'll create a service that is more raucous. Sometimes we'll be serene and sometimes we'll be playful in worship. I have areas of comfort in worship and I know you do, too.

Let's be mindful that none is wrong. The only wrong would be that we didn't praise God with all our heart ... oh, it'd be wrong for us not to sing a new song to the Lord, too. I get tone deaf sometimes, but I love to sing nonetheless. I'll need you to tell me if I'm off key.

Question: if we all sing off key together, are we really off key?

Answer: it doesn't matter if it's a joyful noise.

I am reminded of Thomas Merton's rumination on doing God's will.

My Lord God: I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your way does not necessarily mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Jon T. Eklund

Jon T. Eklund, 41, of Auburn, died at home on Tuesday, Oct. 14th. He leaves his brother, Donald C. Eklund of Wellesley and his aunt and uncle, Gustaf and Alice Carlson of Auburn. He was predeceased by his father, Carl T. Eklund on June 18th, and by his mother, Dorothy (Jamieson) Eklund on Aug. 11th. He was born in Worcester and has lived in Auburn most of his life. He graduated from Auburn High School, Class of 1985. Jon most recently worked for Pools & Cues in Auburn, and previously for FLEX Con in Spencer. Visiting hours at Britton Wallace Funeral Home were held on Oct. 19th followed by a prayer service. Burial in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn will be private. To leave a message of sympathy for the family, please visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com. (Donald Eklund's address is 114 Overbrook Dr., Wellesley, MA 02482)

Edith M. (Evans) Helie

Edith M. (Evans) Helie, 89, of Auburn, died Monday, October 20th, in the UMass Memorial Medical
Center, 119 Belmont Street, Worcester after a brief illness. Her husband, Walter T. Helie, died in 1967.
She is survived by her three children: a daughter, Judith Helie, of Auburn, with whom she lived; two sons, Donald Helie and his wife Synthia of Auburn, and Douglas Helie, of Rutland. She also leaves 2 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, and a brother, John Evans and his wife Theresa of Thompson, CT. She was predeceased by two brothers and four sisters. Funeral and burial in Hillside will be held privately. For guestbook and online memorial visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com

Marion F. (Knowlton) MacMillan

Marion Florence (Knowlton) MacMillan, 83, of Auburn, died Wednesday, October 22nd, in her daughter's home after an illness. Her husband William J. MacMillan, Jr. died in 1994. Marion leaves her daughters, Shirley and her husband Stephen Hill, and Cynthia and her husband, Michael Dube, three granddaughters, Stephanie Rice, Amy Sullivan, and Allison Hill. She leaves six great grandchildren, and her "Dube Grandchildren", and I I great grandchildren from this extended family. She leaves one sister -in-law, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers and sisters, Everett and Earl Knowlton and Mildred Bjork and Dorothy Wilson. She was born in Worcester, the daughter of the late Earl and Florence (Berg) Knowlton and lived in Auburn for most of her life. Calling hours were held on Oct. 24th in the Britton-Wallace Funeral Home, Auburn. Her funeral service was held October 25th in the funeral home. For guestbook and online memorial visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com

Please keep all of these families in your thoughts and prayers.

With Sincere Sympathy

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25



It is hard to believe that it's time to start preparing for *Here We Grow's* winter holiday programs. The first half of this school year has gone by so fast.

During the month of November *Here We Grow* will be talking with the children about families, manners and the gift of giving. On November 24th & 25th *Here We Grow* will come together to share a "feast" day with each other. On the menu this year is cornbread; made by the three year old children, a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, turkey, bologna & ham, and brownies (made by the four year old children) with cool whip. Again with the

help of the *Here We Grow* parents, it should be a fun, rewarding day for all.

As in the past the children and families will be participating in the tradition of "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to the church to distribute to families in need during the season of thanksgiving. We are very fortunate to have had so many supportive families. We truly are blessed.

During the month of October, we ran our first fundraiser, Hebert Candies. *Here We Grow's* profit was just about \$2,600.00. This money is used for teaching materials and some of our special programs.

In order to get a second fundraiser in before the holidays, we decided to run it towards the end of October through mid November. The second fundraiser is Avon and Tastefully Simple. If you are in need of any of these products, I will leave a book in the office with Denise. Thank you for any support you can give us.

During the month of December *Here We Grow* will also be participating in the Toys for Tots Campaign. We will be collecting unwrapped toys from December 1-16. The Marines will be stopping by to pick up any donations soon after.

Ending the year of 2008, HWG will be entertaining families with holiday programs on December 18th & 19th. We are hoping to have a special visitor on those days, time will tell. There will be more information on this fun day next month.

Until next month, enjoy the beautiful colors of fall and stay healthy.

Dawn Murphy Director *Here We Grow* Preschool

South Parish Becomes Incorporated Town of Ward 1778

An Act for erecting a Parish lately set off from the towns of Worcester, Oxford, Sutton and Leicester in the County of Worcester into a town by the name of WARD.

Whereas the inhabitants of the Parish lately set off from the towns of Worcester, Oxford, Sutton and Leicester in the County of Worcester have represented to this Court the great difficulties and inconveniences they labor under in their present situation and have earnestly requested that they may be incorporated into a town by the name of Ward. Named for the First Commander of the Continental Army, Major General Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury.

Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Council, House of Representatives in the General Court assembled and by the authority of the same.

That this said Parish now to be incorporated into a town by the name of Ward shall be bound as follows, viz.

Beginning at a heap of stones in the line between Sutton and Oxford and from thence running North thirty five degrees east upon the Sutton line twelve hundred and forty four rods to a heap of stones from thence north sixteen degrees west upon Worcester line eighty rods to a heap of stones from thence, north eleven degrees west upon Worcester line, one hundred and seventy four rods to a heap of stones from thence west three degrees south partly on Worcester and partly on Leicester lines, nine hundred and twenty four rods to a heap of stones, from thence south forty three degrees west on Leicester line three hundred and twenty nine rods to a grey oak tree, from thence north thirty three degrees and thirty minutes west upon Leicester line five hundred and twenty rods to a heap of stones from thence east forty degrees south on Oxford line three hundred and twenty rods to the first mentioned heap of stones, which described plot of ground contains eight thousand, three hundred and forty acres and is herby erected into a town by the name of Ward.

> Submitted by George DuHamel and Paula Lubin, Church Historians



We are pleased to announce that we will again resume recycling here at the church. (Previously, Rev. Knox would take care of recycling paper.) The Trustees looked into recycling through Central

Mass. Disposal and we will now recycle paper, cans, bottles, etc. A big thank you to the Trustees for looking into this for us. We are looking to gauge the level of interest in assembling a bell choir. If this is something you may want to be a part of please contact Cliff Peterson to express your interest. You can reach him at (508) 797-1457.



Equal Exchange UCC Coffee Project Sundays in November \$6.00/package

The UCC Coffee Project supports a consortium of small farmers with a fair living wage, giving them at least \$1.26 per pound for conventional coffee and \$1.41 per pound for shade grown organic coffee. Additionally, for every package of coffee purchased through the project, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to UCC Justice and Witness Ministries' Small Farmers Fund for relief, development and economic justice projects in coffee-producing communities.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are getting ready for our first family activity of the year! Please join us on Sunday, November 9th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to decorate your own family scarecrow. Everyone is invited no matter what your family size is. Please sign up (by 11/2/08) in Fellowship Hall or downstairs in the Sunday School wing, or call Jean McPherson by Nov. 5th at 508-832-5677 and let her know you are interested in coming.

We will provide frames, heads, leaves and paper. Please bring clothes, hats and creativity! We will have extra hands on duty to help with stuffing. Come and

share an afternoon with your church family.

We had our first Junior Youth Group meeting and all had good food and fellowship. Our first service project will be a food drive for Thanksgiving baskets. Our goal is 10 full boxes. Please leave donations in Fellowship Hall.

The Sunday School children planted bulbs in front of the Church sign on Oct. 26th. We are learning that with God's love and patience beautiful things can bloom.

The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 7th. The Jr. Youth Group (and anyone who would like to join us) will be going to Heifer's Overlook Farm in Rutland on December 14th to see the Living Nativity. We invite you to join us for caroling on Dec. 21st. Please look for more information on the above activities in upcoming bulletins.

May you all take some time to rejoice in the spectacular colors of autumn.

With His guidance we serve, Jean McPherson, Dir. of Religious Ed





Managing through Change.... MISSION: POSSIBLE

Throughout the fall of 2008, we continue to delve a little deeper into the various ministries of our Church. Being constant in our Faith and serving others through our ministries is one way in helping us to keep in step with our Lord.

Besides our Parish Nurse Ministry, Confirmation Class and YOM, in the past month, we have also read about the Monthly Church Suppers and the Food Pantry, both served out of

Church, and how both of these ministries meet the needs of our local community.

The Church Supper being held on the 3rd Saturday of the month most often features a main course of roast beef, baked potato, vegetable, and dessert (most commonly pies baked by our own members!) with the meal being started off with a bowl of homemade soup. These dinners have been a monthly fundraiser to help supplement the Church's budget and aside from the obvious "fellowship" with other diners, these dinners offer a "cheap way to get a good meal"....or so we've been told.

The Food Pantry of First Congregational Church of Auburn was established to help feed families in the local Auburn area who find themselves not being able to make ends meet during the course of the month. The stocking of the shelves in the Food Pantry is by the generosity of members of the congregation. The availability of this program is by word of mouth only; there is no formal advertisement and it generally supplies food to 3 to 5 families per month.

In the upcoming month, we will hear about how we open our doors to the local Scouts in the area as their meeting place as well as the ministries our Outreach Committee are involved in, both near and far. We will also learn about how the Sibley Fund provides for many year after year and how the little ones within our region are blessed with warmth and caring provided by the Linus Program.

All of these are ministries in which your Time, Talents and Treasures help provide for our own as well as others day after day, month after month, year after year. Throughout the many changes we have endured this year, First Congregational Church of Auburn has remained very active and committed in its various ministries. In your prayers, remember to thank our Lord for all that He provides so that we can continue to be faithful to Him.

In His Love,

Your Stewardship Committee:

Michele Schillinger (Chair), Todd Dube, Mike Dube, Steve and Sandy Landry, Ron Klaucke

MONDAY NIGHTS AT THE CHURCH

Please join Pastor Mark Seifried, the Pastoral Search Committee and other church leaders for conversation and community Monday evenings at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. We are discussing the book *Becoming a Blessed Church* by N. Graham Standish and will likely meet throughout the year to discuss other books that are related to spiritual growth. Books are available in the church office at a discounted price of \$13.50. Our gatherings are casual and likely gastronomic (depending upon how the Spirit moves us), so bring a sandwich, a pizza or a pot of soup to share! Please feel free to drop in for one or all classes.

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

The "preparation" for the Presidential election has been long, and the subject of the Constitution of the United States has come to the fore quite often. This is a reminder that *Your Rugged Constitution—What It Says and What It Means* by Bruce and Esther Findley could hold the answer to some questions you probably have. The full text is clearly printed, part by part with easily understandable explanations of each part. Clear statements express the meaning and significance of a phrase.

If the United States is to remain a self-governing nation of free people, we must, with respect and vigilance and through our daily living reaffirm and prescribe the Constitution of the United States.

Whether or not you agree, think on these things.

P.S. Up to date? Twenty-seven amendments.

From the Children's Library

Did you ever have a friend, maybe lots of friends, who had something that you liked and wanted? But these friends were made of wood. Right! This story is about Punchinello who lived in Wemmicksville with lots of other Wemmicks carved by the wood carver, Eli. One of these little fellows, called Tuck, bought a fancy new box which he proudly showed to everyone. They loved it and the rage began to buy all sorts of colorful boxes. Tuck was upset so, to be different again, he bought a ball which he also began to show off; a box and a ball. Then everyone had to have balls—not just one—and people were selling some things that had been important to them to buy more boxes and balls. Goodness!!! How did all of this end? We're not telling, but you'll feel happy for Punchinello. Just borrow *You Are Mine* and then tell us if you think it was a good story.

During our church renovation, conversation and smiles from others working made our book move "lighter." Two other great friends gave us pre and post guidance, etc. so our "public" thanks to Wayne and Dave.

And now, with the thanksgiving thoughts expressed in *You Are Mine* and the previous paragraph may God grant us all a Blessed Thanksgiving.

<u>Coffee Hour Hosts:</u>							
Nov. 2nd	~ Prudential Committee						
Nov. 9th & 16th	 Financial Secretaries & Treasurers 						
Nov. 23rd & 30th	~ Music Committee						
Dec. 7th & 14th	~ Nominating/Scholarship						
Dec. 21st & 28th	~ Deacons						
Jan. 4th	~ Trustees						
Jan. 11th	~ Deacons						
Jan. 18th	~ Outreach						



Kimberly Jill Eucker and Jared Thomas Sepuka were united in marriage on October 4, 2008 at the Salem Cross Inn.

> Jill is the daughter of Mark and Connie Eucker.

Congratulations to the newlyweds and their families!



November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, American Diabetes Month, Great American Smoke Out Month, National Child Mental Health Month, National Epilepsy Awareness Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Home Care Month, and National Hospice Month.

November 9-15 is American Education Week, Nov. 10-16 is World Kindness Week, Nov. 14 is World Diabetes Day, Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day, Nov. 20 is the Great American Smoke Out, Nov. 18-24 is National Family Week, and Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving) is National Family Health History Day. This is a great time, when the family is gathered, to find out family health issues that might be important to know further on down the road.

I hope those that are participating in "Get My People Going" are keeping track of their progress. It's only scheduled for 8 weeks, but if you got a bad start, try again! I will have information about the above mentioned awarenesses for the month of November on my table in Fellowship Hall. I just got more coupons for \$80 off the installation of a Lifeline Call System. Please help yourselves. I also have too many walkers in my closet, if you know of anyone that needs one, please take them! There are other pieces of equipment in the closet as well, but there are too many walkers!

God Bless! Deborah Pranaitis Parish Nurse

"Get My People GOING !!" - An invitation to Wholeness

Exercise

The people of Israel had a lot of exercise walking from Egypt to the Promised Land! Did you know that exercise not only helps you lose weight or maintain a healthy weight, it also helps with brain function, strengthens your immune system, significantly reduces your risk of developing a wide range of diseases, and reduces your risk for reoccurrence of certain cancers. Exercising helps your lymphatic system move toxins out of your body, and speeds up your metabolism for close to 24 hours. Of course, you already know that it helps you sleep better.

So, why is it hard to exercise? Those people who don't exercise either fell out of the habit or never got into it in the first place. So, start small! How about exercising simply five minutes today? Go for a walk or wave your arms around in your chair. You can do it!

And if you DO exercise, give yourself a huge pat on the back. You are taking a proactive step that can add years to your life, and quality to those years.

No matter how young or old you are, no matter what your physical condition, exercise that's right for you can help you feel better. Our parish nurse, Debbie, will be glad to help you find an exercise routine that will work for you.

Blessings on your journey.

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222	/2,9& 6	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	Over the past 6 months, troop #1 Charlton has gained 3 new Eagle So	•	
111	11/23	9:15 a.m. rehearsal Lord, I Lift Your Name on High	Congratulations go out to: - Eric Pranaitis 4/3/08		
	11/30	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	- Adam Pranaitis 10/15/08 - Mike Shea 10/15/08		
111	12/7, 14	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	These scouts and their families have	e a lot	
1222	12/21	9:15 a.m. Light a Little Candle	to be proud of!! The troop is looking forward to a combined Court of Hond		
	12/24	for them in Mar.'09.			
77	22222				

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Neighbors In Need - Another World Is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church and thank you for your support.

Page 12		Herald of Good TIDINGS
	ot	their poinsettia after bu want the Deacons ut -in or another at poinsettias may be sed the price only by r order before e your first choice. egational Church. If at 508 -832-4227.
2008 Christmas Poinsettia Order PLEASE PRINT Poinsettia Given By: Name:	Phone:	Sometimes people are unable to collect their poinsettia after the Christmas services. Please check here if you want the Deacons to bring your poinsettia to be donated to a shut -in or another member of the church family. Our supplier, Rob Kustigian, has notified us that poinsettias may be in short supply this year. He has minimally raised the price only by \$1, \$2, and \$3 respectively. Please submit your order before Thanksgiving so that you may hopefully receive your first choice. Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church. If you have questions call Connie or Ron Hanks at 508 -832-4227.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

First Congregational Church 128 Central St. Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web:auburnfirstucc.org

November 2008								
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