



AUGUST 25, 2016

VOLUME 64, NO. 8

# PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

The season is shifting; you can feel it in the air. The mornings may be a bit brisk, the angle of the light is just a little different. The pace changes across the community as schools start up, from pre-school through college and university.

The season of Pilgrim's life is also shifting. The intensive process of New Beginnings last spring left much of this congregation with heightened energy and awareness. The "bold decision," settled upon by all seven small groups independently, was to "Redefine the Mission."

The next phase is beginning this fall as we work with Ray Schulte, our coach through the well-respected Center for Parish Renewal in Chicago. We build upon what was learned last spring, riding the energy released, through a time of intentional, communal discernment. A Coordinating Team will soon be appointed who will design the details of this process. It will include opportunities for all of us to deepen spiritually, to participate in genuine conversations, and through these processes to begin to discover a vision – God's vision – for Pilgrim's future.

There will also be word coming very shortly from the Pastoral Search Committee, announcing a candidate for the settled Senior Pastor position. This team has put in an enormous amount of time, and at least as much faithfulness in prayer, to seek the person they believe is best for this next season. What a joy this will be!

In 2017 Pilgrim marks one hundred years of worship, ministry and mission from its eastside location. It's a ready-made opportunity to identify how God has been at work in Pilgrim and, most importantly, through Pilgrim to create the Reign of God in lives, community and world. After all, this is the only reason a church exists: to join with the Spirit in bringing Good News into reality.

As you read through this newsletter, you will find energy, enthusiasm, hope, and good work happening. You'll sense the changing season! My prayer for you, as you read these words, is that you will open yourself to God's call to YOU. How is the Spirit nudging you to participate? There are fresh opportunities to grow spiritually, especially for teens and adults. There are new opportunities – and many familiar ones, building upon our commitments, gifts, and strengths – to minister within the church and to the wider community.

God is always inviting us, individually and as church, to something more than we have experienced – to more than we have imagined – to step out despite uncertainties – to trust rather than close in – to be transformed, and thus become transformative. The Good News has never been anything less or anything else, no matter how much we try to tame it. I encourage you to pray as you read this newsletter, find where the Spirit is beckoning you, and then say, "Yes."

## **VEGETABLES NEEDED:**

Did you have a bumper crop this year in your garden and are tempted to leave Zucchini's or some other type of vegetable on your neighbor's porch in the middle of the night? Bring your veggies to Pilgrim! We will be cooking up veggie soups on Saturday, September 10th at 9 am for the congregational meal the following Sunday! Throw the veggies in the fridge or freezer in the kitchen off Salter Hall. Label: "For September 10th Meal Prep," or drop off at Pilgrim on Saturday, September 10th before 9 am. See additional information on page 2.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE KIDS'  
CLOSET**

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 8:00 TO 9:45**

Please plan on having amazing pancakes Sunday morning, September 25 before church. The breakfast includes pancakes, fruit, juice and coffee. A free will offering will be taken and all proceeds will be given to the Kids' Closet of Duluth. Hosted by the Pilgrim Youth Group.

**YOUTH GROUP LOCK IN**

The youth group will host a lock in for youth 8th grade and Up Saturday September 24 starting at 4:00 PM and ending with the pancake breakfast Sunday morning from 8:00 - 9:45 AM. Youth will be assigned food items to bring for the lock in. Chaperons are needed. Please contact Cindy Grindy 218-724-3929 or [cindy@grindy.net](mailto:cindy@grindy.net)

**GATHERING SUNDAY HARVEST  
FEAST**

Join us after worship on Gathering Sunday in Fellowship Hall, September 11, 2016. We will feast on the surplus harvest of Pilgrim's Community Garden made into soup. We will add bread, lemonade and dessert plus the joy of being back together.

Culinary school is not cheap, but the youth have an opportunity to work with our very own Godly Gourmet Chef! On **Saturday, September 10th at 9 am**, the Godly Gourmet, a.k.a Steve Cushing will be working with youth volunteers to cook a meal for the congregation using the "slightly damaged" produce from Pilgrim's community garden that we couldn't give to the food shelf. We will be washing, chopping, and throwing them into a pot! Please contact Rachael Kresha, [rachaelkresha@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelkresha@gmail.com), 721-6052 or Jackie Falk [jackief@pilgrimduluth.org](mailto:jackief@pilgrimduluth.org), 724-7407 if you would be interested in having your youth help out in the Pilgrim kitchen on Saturday, September 10th, at 9 am! Christian Ed and Worship and Arts will be



setting up on Saturday morning and leading the clean-up and we welcome your help.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Pilgrim Search committee is very near a decision for calling a new minister. Watch your mail in the next few days for an announcement.

Steve Cushing

**FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

Join us on September 11th 2016, for the kick-off to our program year, whether your children are on **The Joyful Path, Prayers, Picnics, Parables and Promises**, or participating in the Youth Group and Confirmation, you can register your children every Sunday in September before worship! Play and wonder, story and practice will lead to worship and service with us all. For your convenience we have enclosed a registration form in the newsletter.

**And would you like to be a Sunday School teacher this year?**

Do you enjoy spending time with kids and want to help nurture them in their faith? You don't need to have a Master's in Theology or even have taught Sunday School before! We have a great curriculum that emphasizes behavior more than belief. We will focus on the teachings of Jesus and invite our children to recognize their own inner wisdom and connection to the Spirit we all share. Contact Jackie ([jackief@pilgrimduluth.org](mailto:jackief@pilgrimduluth.org) or 218-310-3908).

**PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST**

Pilgrim's regular broadcasts on Channel 180 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:00 am and 8:30-9:30 pm.

August 31-September 1-"A Temple Full of Sparrows" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from July 31, 2016

September 7 and 8-"When the Going Gets Tough" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from August 14, 2016

September 14 and 15-"Malice In the Palace" Spring Musical from June 12, 2016

September 21 and 22-"Hymn Sing" from August 28, 2016

**PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF**

Jennifer Amy-Dressler, Pastor  
Mary Sopoci, Business Manager  
Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant  
Rachael Kresha, Director of Music  
Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music  
Jackie Falk-Children and Family Ministries Coordinator  
Annika Nielsen, Childcare Assistant

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**August 28 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
“A Festival of Hymns”**

Worship through the gift of hymnody,  
learning about and singing some of the best!

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**September 4 Sixteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

“Re-worked”

(Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1:1-21)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**September 11 Seventeenth Sunday after  
Pentecost-Gathering Sunday**

“Sought and Found”

(Luke 15:1-10)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

School Theme: Opening - Introductions to each  
other and the many ways we know God!

11:00 am Harvest Lunch

**September 18 Eighteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

“Creative Bookkeeping”

(Luke 16:1-13)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

School Theme: The Nameless One, “Who or  
What is God?”

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**September 25 Nineteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

“Future Investment”

(Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15)

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

School Theme: A Teacher of the Way, Who  
Was Jesus. Children participating in worship  
leadership.

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL**

Throughout the *New Beginning's* sessions, many participants expressed a desire for spiritual growth activities. Four such offerings have been planned for this fall.

September 11 has been designated as ‘Gathering Sunday’ at Pilgrim Church. A luncheon in Fellowship Hall will follow the service. Look for signs at tables identifying 4 such spiritual growth opportunities. Please stop by and register for a class or two. Scheduling will be dependent on participants.

Fall spiritual growth opportunities are listed below:

Bible Literacy for Parents This Sunday group will explore the needs that parents have in regard to building biblical literacy with their children.

TED Talks & Discussion Technology-Entertainment-Design videos will be shown and discussed. This group will also meet on Sundays.

Book discussion on Bad Girls of the Bible by Barbara Essex. This group will meet during the week. Day and time will be dependent on participants. This study explores the traditionally misunderstood or despised women of the Bible and reveals what their stories have to tell us today.

Intergenerational Movie Night. This group will meet once a month to view a movie and enjoy snacks. Stop by the table to sign up and suggest a movie to view.

Additional spiritual growth activities are being planned for the future, and will reflect feedback from the fall sessions, the summer surveys, and the unfolding process of Pilgrim’s discernment of a new vision.

**Pastor Jennifer will be moving** across town Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 3-4. She is seeking assistance with loading, unloading, and possibly cleaning. Since that is PRIDE weekend, a special donation will be made to LGBTQ work as well as Children’s Ministries at Pilgrim in honor of volunteers. Please contact her if you can help (724-8503 or [jennifer-ad@pilgrimduluth.org](mailto:jennifer-ad@pilgrimduluth.org)).

**Rev. Jennifer will be on vacation** September 1. For pastoral care please contact the church office during regular hours and Julie Drake at 725-5281 (daytime urgent) 218-343-3354 or Jackie Falk at 724-7404 or cell 310-3908.

**PILGRIM POSTS**

Thank you so much to several yoga classmates for purchasing a number of items from our "Kitchen Tree." One wrote "Thank you for all you do for the Duluth Community!" There are still items on the tree to be purchased. Take a tag and envelop and place your check in the collection plate or the office.

Dear Pilgrim Congregational Church.  
 Thank you so much for letting me use the piano in your chapel to practice on July 15 & 16! It is much better to practice on an acoustic piano than on an electric one when I am on vacation and I greatly appreciate it when church's like yours are open to letting me use their pianos. I live in North Carolina but visit Minnesota over the summers and I hope I have the same opportunity next year.  
 Sincerely yours, Norris Blackburn-Age 12.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

Our book group will meet on Monday, **Sept 12 at 6:30**. This is the second Monday of the month, which is a change. Each month we will now meet on the second Monday. 6:30 is a return to the time at which we met for quite a few years. The purpose of the September gathering is to choose the **titles** that we will read for the next year. Please research titles so you can describe the book in a sentence or two, tell if the book is available at the library and if the book is available in paperback or hardcover.

We look forward to a new season of books! Contact Joan by phone (728-4986) or email if you plan to attend.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

July 2016	Income	Expense
	21,786	<u>25,058</u>
		(3,290)
Year to Date	226,338	<u>228,629</u>
		(2,291)

**YOUTH MUSIC SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:**

**8:30-9:15 am:** Youth Handbells/Percussion Ensemble (selected Sundays) 5th grade to adult (Occasional weeknight rehearsal - Wednesdays: 5:00-6:00 pm or Fridays late afternoon/early evening depending on what works best for participants)

**9:00- 9:30 am:** Youth Orchestra (selected Sundays) 4th grade and older

**9:30-9:55 am:** Youth Choir (every Sunday) 3rd grade and older

**11:00-11:30 am:** Joyful Noise music time: 4 years through 2nd Grade

For a description of each ensemble, please contact Rachael Kresha or refer to the Pilgrim Website.



**ADULT CHOIR: 9:00-9:45 AM, AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:15-8:30PM**

Why is joining choir such an intimidating thing? I could fill pages with the social, emotional, physiological, and brain benefits of singing in a choir, but somewhere along the way a person's ability to make music has been compromised by the belief that it isn't "good enough." The time commitment can also seem intimidating, too! If there is a part of you that has always wanted to sing in a choir, or misses singing, or wants to try it out, you are most welcome! In the church music world, you, your life experiences,



and your personality are what bless the people around you, not the ability to hit all the right notes the first or the tenth time. Part-time singers, occasional singers...all are welcome. We want

you! Our first rehearsal is, **Wednesday, September 7th at 7:15 pm.**

Dear Pilgrim Families,

Greetings...I am so looking forward to this coming year, to getting to know you and your children *or* getting to know you and your children again after having been away for three years. You Pilgrim families are amazing, full of love, laughter, compassion, and support for one another. You are your children's first faith leaders, helping to form their faith: confidence in the Spirit they find within themselves, trust in the God in whom we all live and the practices to equip them to live their lives out, true to the teachings and path of Jesus. My hope—to provide you with more opportunities and resources to do what you are already doing.

A bit about me. Many of you know Denny Falk, my partner. Pilgrim has been our congregational home for almost 40 years. A mid-life urging sent me to United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities where I earned my M.Div. in 2012. In 2013, Peace UCC invited me to serve as their Pastor of Faith Formation. I spent three Spirit-filled and challenging years there; I am pleased now to serve here at Pilgrim, 10 hours a week as Coordinator of the Ministry for Children and Families.

I am grateful to have the leadership with the Christian Education Committee (CE). They provide thoughtful reflection, vision and hopes (many of them prompted by the New Beginnings process) and pair it with their often-asked, down-to-earth question, "Just how is this going to work for Pilgrim's families?" Joining with Rachel, we set three main goals for the coming year. Because our faith community will be living into a changing sense of mission and new leadership this year, our first goal is to make the Sunday morning schedule for children as stable and predictable week-to-week as programming allows and to plan the calendar as far ahead as possible.

Here is the planned, regular Sunday morning schedule:

9:30-9:55 am: Youth Choir (every Sunday) 3rd grade and older

10:00-10:20 am: (approx.) All children join in worship

10:20-11:15 am: 3rd grade and older in Sunday School

10:20-11:00 am: Joyful Noise music time: 4 years through 2nd Grade

A second goal was to include children in roles in leadership and hospitality. We plan to make our first trials on the Sundays the children sing; we will invite children to serve as lectionary readers, ushers, and greeters as well as leading in the music. This is a work in process and we will make adjustments as we learn what works and what does not.

Our third goal is to offer three parent events some to build on the conversations of New Beginnings and one to fulfill Rachel's desire to help you all jitterbug.

Pilgrim has long been blessed to have Rachel lifting our children up to make Joyful Noise and the name of the curriculum for this year's Sunday School echoes her work: **The Joyful Path**. The lessons are theme based, e.g. - God Within All, Letting Go, Prayer, The Bible. Focusing on the teachings of Jesus, the lessons emphasize behavior rather than belief in easily taught lessons that fit in either small groups or at home.

On the Joyful Path, like Jesus, we pray, we picnic, we share parables that invite us to ask, "What if..." the world was like this instead?, of course we sing and all of this so we acquire the habit of dwelling deeply in the love-promise of our Still-Speaking God who cares for us and this oh so beautiful and broken world.

In the next days and weeks, I will be calling you to join us. Please reflect on whether you can teach for 6 Sundays. In 6-week units, we need 16 teachers. If teaching is not for you, please watch for a chance to sign up to assist in class, assist with hospitality, or help when the children are leading worship. And if you have suggestions, want more information or have special concerns please contact me. I will be in the office on Monday afternoons, and on Sunday mornings. You can call or text me at 218-310-3908 and my new e-mail is [jackief@pilgrimduluth.org](mailto:jackief@pilgrimduluth.org).

Faithfully yours, Jackie Falk

### **BELLISSIMO: WEDNESDAYS: 6:00-7:00 PM.**

This is our experienced hand bell group. We have had youth and adults ring together and teach people how to ring bells in this group, too. We have limited space available for new members in this group, but we always find room, even if it means purchasing more bells. Our First Rehearsal is, Wednesday, September 7th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Contact Rachael Kresha if you are interested in ringing in the choir!



**SO THIS IS A GOOD STORY...**

Our own Ben Olson is an architect at TKDA, a 100% employee owned company (ESOP), in Duluth. Every summer the ESOP committee holds a food drive and donates the proceeds to local food shelves in Duluth and St. Paul. This year, Ben helped convince the employees to make a monetary donation in lieu of food and all monies collected during the drive were earmarked for the CHUM food shelf. The money that employees donated was matched by the corporate office in St. Paul. They even incorporated a competition between the Duluth office and the St. Paul office ending in a pizza party for the location who collected the most money. Everyone knows how Duluthians *cannot* miss the opportunity to participate in a challenge (reference Outside magazine's contest for "Best Town Ever," 2014). Well, Ben handed me a \$1180 donation to CHUM from the 18 Duluth employees at TKDA. I had the honor of delivering it on Friday.

Thanks Ben for always keeping CHUM and their mission in your heart. I know they really appreciate the contribution from TKDA.

Melanie Grune  
CHUM Representative

**COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT UPDATES**

It has been a good month at the garden. We harvested the spinach that the youth group planted from seed and delivered it to the food shelf. Gracie the Zucchini plant continues to thrive and has helped us deliver lots of Zucchini's! We have a respectable crop of cabbage and green peppers that are going to be ready to harvest soon. We have pumpkins and squash growing on the vine, and Gracie has a neighbor that is starting to produce Zucchini plants as well. Our carrots are about 2 inches long, so we might be delivering a crop of "baby" carrots after the first couple frosts. We also have a pear tree on our site that is loaded with pears that we are going to start harvesting soon! Mother Nature has been the best volunteer of us all, providing us with just enough rain to keep things green! A big thanks to

everyone who helped with weeding and watering! Stay tuned for our carrot and onion harvest date! We will also have a final fall work day to put the garden to bed for the winter.



**FALL KICK-OFF FOR CHUM'S BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: CONFRONTING HUNGER IN THE USA WITH ADAM PINE**

11:30am - 1:30pm, September, 14th  
in the Fireside room at Peace Church

This brown bag will address the question how can churches and other group of concerned citizens most effectively respond to the confounding problem of hunger? Roughly 15% of US households experience food insecurity every year and while government programs like food stamps are incredibly important, they do not provide enough support to families in need. This talk will address the benefits and drawbacks of different feeding programs like food shelves, food buying clubs and urban agriculture. How can we meet the immediate needs of the hungry while working towards a food system that provides food in abundance for all people?



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH  
7:30 PM  
ORGANIST RECITAL**

**Andrew Tessman**  
Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Free-Will Offering

We are in for a real treat this fall, Andrew Tessman will be on tour in Minnesota and will be giving an organ recital at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Andrew Tessman (b. 1988) is a Minneapolis native, and organ student originally from Steve Gentile. Between 2005-2013 he held positions as organist and choir accompanist at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, and at the Chapel of St. Thomas (prior to the organist position reconstruction). He presently studies in Bayreuth, Germany with professors Mareile Schmidt, and Matthias Neumann.

Program:

- Bach Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (the three from the Leipziger Chorales)
- Mendelssohn Sonata #4
- Boëllmann Suite #2 for organ
- Vierne Lamento (from the Pièces de Fantásie)
- Tessman Prelude & Fugue in G Major

**PIANO FOR THE TAKING!**

We would love someone to give the upright piano in Fellowship Hall a new home. The piano in Salter Hall will be moved down to Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

**AUGUST 28—SEPTEMBER 28**

Sunday, August 28	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, August 29	7:00 pm	Youth Group
Sunday, Sept. 4	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Sept. 5		Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 6	7:30 am	Men's Fellowship
	5:00 pm	Leadership Team
Wed., Sept. 7	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Sept. 10	9:00 am	Kitchen Prep
Sunday, Sept. 11	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Congregational Picnic
	10:20 am	Joyful Noise
Monday, Sept. 12	6:30 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, Sept. 13		All Ministry Night
Wed., Sept. 14	10:30 am	Women's Fellowship
	3:00 pm	Communications Ministry
	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Sept. 18	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	10:20 am	Joyful Noise
Tuesday, Sept. 20	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wed., Sept. 21	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Sept. 24	4:00 pm	Youth Lock in
Sunday, August 21	8:30 am	Pancake Breakfast
	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	10:20 am	Joyful Noise
Monday, Sept. 26		Newsletter Deadline
	8:30 am	Coking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, Sept. 27	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wed., Sept. 26	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal

**Next Newsletter Deadline is September 26**

"I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit."  
 - President John F. Kennedy  
[www.instituteforcivility.org](http://www.instituteforcivility.org)

**SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

**August 28-Ushers**

Char Taylor and Carri Hoagland  
**Greeters-Coffee**

Open

**Reader**

Patty Polasky

**Counters**

George Killough and Mardi Bagley

**September 4-Ushers**

Marge Fraser, Gene and Jane Shull

**Greeters-Coffee**

Diane Desotelle and Andrew Streitz

**Reader**

Dave Zentner

**Counters**

Denny Falk and Mardi Bagley

**September 11-Ushers**

Marge Fraser and Tammy Hensley

**Greeters-Coffee**

Anne Whitworth and Christopher and

Kathryn Kirby

**Reader**

Don Bjoralt

**Counters**

Martin Grune and Denny Falk

**September 18-Ushers**

Marge Fraser and Andrew Streitz

**Greeters-Coffee**

Janine Bjerklie and Jenny Ballew

**Reader**

Paula Bjoralt

**Counters**

Martin Grune and Mardi Bagley

**September 25-Ushers**

Marge Fraser and Jack Kemp

**Greeters-Coffee**

Andy and Kirstin Nielsen

**Readers**

Tucker and Brooke Hanlon

**Counters**

Steve Grindy and Steve Cushing

Please arrive at church between 9:15 and 9:30 to allow enough time to get ready for worship. Thank you!

**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Included is a Sunday School Registration form

Office hours are 9-4, Monday through Friday. You can reach us at:

office@pilgrimduluth.org 218-724-8503 or www.pilgrimduluth.org

**Upcoming Events**

- August 28 Worship-A Festival of Hymns
- September 4 Worship with Holy Communion
- September 5 Labor Day Office Closed
- September 6 Leadership Team
- September 11 Worship and Sunday School
- September 12 Organist Concert
- September 13 All Ministry Night
- September 18 Worship and Sunday School
- September 20 BeFriends
- September 24 Youth Lock In
- September 25 Pancake Breakfast  
Worship and Sunday School
- September 26 Damiano's
- September 27 Church Council



**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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