

## TWAG

This Week At Grace  
Grace Episcopal Church  
4110 S. Ridgewood Ave.  
Port Orange, FL 32127  
386-767-3583

[www.egracepo.org](http://www.egracepo.org)  
[parish@egracepo.org](mailto:parish@egracepo.org)  
[facebook.com/egracepo.org](https://www.facebook.com/egracepo.org)  
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.  
9 am – 1 pm

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9 - MARCH 15, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/>

**Sunday:** **Daylight Savings Starts – set clocks ahead one hour.**

Birthdays: Sarah Shea, Mike Blechar

8:00 am

**HOLY EUCHARIST**

9:15 am

Graceway Café

9:30 am

Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am

**HOLY EUCHARIST- livestreamed**

10:30 am

Children's Sunday School

**Tuesday:**

12:00 pm

BAM

12:00 pm

8:00 am Choir practice

**Wednesday:**

6:00 pm

Prayer/Praise/Eucharist

6:30 pm

Soup Supper

7:00 pm

Lenten Study Series

**Thursday:**

Birthdays: Gary Lincoln

**Saturday:**

10:30

Celebration of Life for Maggie Thompson

*This Sunday's Gospel:*

Jesus, Full Of The Holy  
Spirit, Returned From The  
Jordan And Was Led By  
The Spirit In The Desert,

Luke 4-1

BibleWordings.com

**COLLECT for SUNDAY:** Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Reminders for this week: FELLOWSHIP BINGO- THIS SAT. MARCH 8, 10:00 am to 12 noon.** ECW is sponsoring another fun, Saturday morning of BINGO. Bingo cards are two for \$1.00 with prizes for the winners.



There are still some photo sessions open on April 3. Sign up online or in the

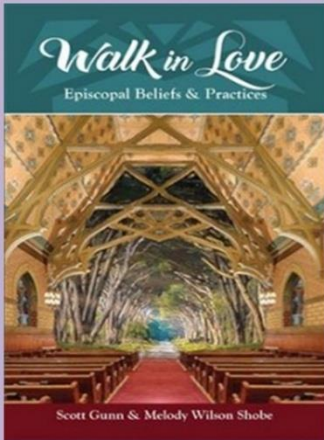
narthex this Sunday.

[www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)  
 Click on **"Photography Session Sign-Up"**  
 Church code: **FL974**  
 Password: **photos**  
 Choose your date and time.

***A message to our shut-ins - If you would like your photo taken for our Directory, photographer, Becky Riley, will come to you! Call her at 386 761-5959.***

**LENTEN STUDY SERIES**

Presented by  
 Fr. Gary Jackson &  
 Rev. Jonnette DeMarsico



Grace Episcopal Church  
 4110 S. Ridgewood Ave.  
 Port Orange, FL

**WEDNESDAYS:**

6:00 pm - Prayer/Praise/Eucharist in the chapel.  
 6:30 pm - Soup/Salad Supper  
 7:00 pm - Study Series

**DATES:**

MARCH 12: *Baptism*  
 MARCH 19: *Eucharist*  
 MARCH 26: *Other Sacraments*  
 APRIL 9: *Ordination/ Holy Week*

***Sign up in the narthex for Soup/Salad***

The study is based on the book:  
**WALK IN LOVE – EPISCOPAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES** by Scott Gunn.  
 You do not have to purchase the book.

This study program also serves as the required Christian Education to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

**LENTEN STUDY STARTS MARCH 12**

This series will continue the study of the book, "Walk in Love" that Fr. Gary and Rev. Jonnette started in October.

"Walk in Love" takes a journey through The Book of Common Prayer, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith. It shows us how our prayer shapes our belief and our lives and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

You do not have to buy the book but if you would like a copy, Rev. Jonnette has copies available for \$13.



## SOUP SUPPERS START MARCH 12

We continue our tradition of joining together in a fellowship before each Lenten Study Session to share a simple meal of soup and salad.

We ask that you bring a crock pot of soup, salad, bread or iced tea.

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX THIS SUNDAY.** Thank you!




## **EASTER is COMING and EVERYBODY NEEDS CHOCOLATE!**

Orders being taken starting this Sunday, March 9 for our **CALLEBRAUT BELGIUM CHOCOLATE** Easter Bunnies and Crosses.

- 7" tall solid Belgium chocolate – dark, white or milk chocolate.
- Bunnies and crosses are \$10.00 each and wrapped to give as gifts!
- Buy one for each member of your family!
- Handmade in Grace Church kitchen by our ECW ladies!
- **Orders will be taken in the narthex on March 9, 16, 23, and 30.**
- **No orders taken after March 30** due to chocolate shipping time.
- Please pay when you order---checks payable to ECW or cash.
- Pick up **Palm Sunday, April 13 between services in Goddard Hall.**
- Don't miss this "sweet" sale!
- All proceeds go directly to benefit Grace Church.

***Buy 2 or more items and your name will be placed in a drawing for a special assorted chocolate bouquet valued at \$50. The drawing will take place March 30.***

# Men's Bible Study



The Saturday morning **Men's Bible Study** group has **cancelled** their meeting on March 15 due to Maggie Thompson's funeral.

They will resume on Saturday, March 29 and continue their every-other-week schedule at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall.

The group has just started a study with a book by Lee Strobel and Gary Poole called "EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY'S TEN TOUGHEST QUESTIONS" They will address Question 2 on March 29.

The purpose of the Men's Bible Group is to offer fellowship, to study and discuss God's word, and to apply it to our daily lives. All men at Grace are welcome to join. For more information, contact the Ministry Leader, Alan Titkemeier 386 846-7707.



## NEXT LUNCH BUNCH- THURSDAY, MARCH 27 at 12:30 pm

We will meet at Houligans at 1396 Dunlawton Ave in Port Orange.

Please sign up in the narthex by March 23 so we have enough seats for everyone. Their menu is here: <https://www.houliganswings.com/menu/>

Lunch Bunch meets on the LAST THURSDAY of each month at different local restaurants. All are most welcome.



## NEW STATIONS of the CROSS INSTALLED in CHURCH

Our dearly departed deacon, Rev. Susan McCaffrey diligently saved her pennies during her long tenure with Grace to purchase new Stations of the Cross.

Upon her death last year, this amount totaled \$3,000. Her husband Bill donated this money to Grace for us to purchase new Stations of the Cross.

The stations were installed this week, and this plaque will be installed in her memory. Thank you, Bill McCaffrey.





**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP ECW HOST GRACEWAY CAFÉ on the THIRD SUNDAY of EACH MONTH**

It is easy and we will show you how to set up the coffee and put out the snacks.

Graceway Café, our Sunday coffee hour between services is an important Grace Church ministry of welcoming and fellowship.

Please sign up in the narthex or for more information, contact Suzanne Marcotullio at [smaley1929@gmail.com](mailto:smaley1929@gmail.com) or 732 300-2574.

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**PALM CROSS WORKSHOP – SATURDAY April 12 from 10 am to noon**



Join us in Goddard Hall on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 am to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

It is easy and we will show you how to do it. This is also always a fun time for fellowship!



**EMAIL UPDATE FROM REV. STEPHEN DASS, OUR MISSION SUNDAY GUEST**

Dear Praying Friends,

The weather in São Paulo has been exceptionally hot... It has affected our health. Most of the homeless youth have been feeling under the weather and I caught whatever they have. We will take a few days to rest. The city is preparing for the infamous carnival just before Ash Wednesday which means for the next couple of days our streets will be filled with people extremely underdressed and partially drunk while partying. It adds some festivity to the air even though it is just before Lent. Most of the streets will be closed to traffic and there will be floats with varying themes and music played all day. We don't mind but it gets a little noisy.

This is my last reflection on the Lord's Prayer for this year. It has been very beneficial for us spiritually to practice these reflections on the Lord's Prayer in relation to our ministry. I hope it has contributed to your reflection as well. Next week, we embark on the season of Lent and our reflections will follow the theme of the season. Please share your thoughts on this reflection. God bless.

<https://spmercyministry.com/2025/02/28/kingdom-power-and-glory/>

**SAVE THE DATE! On May 17, Team Grace will once again walk, run, or roll 6K and empower kids around the world with clean water.**



**More information is coming soon.**



**Vacation Bible School**

June 2 - 6, 2025  
9am to 12 noon  
Grace Episcopal Church

Kids are invited on an Alaskan adventure, as they discover they can trust Jesus in a wild world!

New friends - Amazing experiments  
Creative games - Super-fun snacks  
Surprising adventures - Incredible music

**Register Now!**

[vbspro.events/p/gracepo](https://vbspro.events/p/gracepo)  
Free  
Ages: completed K - 5th grade

**TRUE NORTH**  
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

4110 S. Ridgewood Ave.  
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386 767-3583

**SAVE THE DATE - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at GRACE JUNE 2-6!**

**Here is how you can help:**

- Start praying now that this event will reach children in our community with the love of Jesus.

- Pray about how God wants you to serve with our VBS.

- **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:** Complete a volunteer registration form on our VBS website (see link below). The registration form includes the needed roles with their descriptions.

- Look around your home for any Alaska or northern-themed decorations that we can borrow for the week. We can use posters of mountains and animals, along with hiking/backpacking/camping supplies, etc. Tell others and share our VBS website for early registration: <https://vbspro.events/p/gracepo>

Call or text Rev. Stephanie at 575-704-7297 or email at [dswitman@yahoo.com](mailto:dswitman@yahoo.com) with any questions.



The Diocese of Central Florida Cursillo Community  
Invites **YOU** to attend the  
**Coed Cursillo weekend #136**

## *Hope Anchors the Soul*

(Hebrews 6:19)

**June 20<sup>th</sup>-June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**San Pedro Conference Center** located at 95 Bishop Grady Lane, Winter Park

*The Cursillo weekend is intended to enrich and deepen your faith by bringing together Episcopalians to share the richness of many modes of worship and gain new insights on your faith and a direction for fostering ministry to live out your Baptismal Covenant, serving Christ. Lay people conduct the weekend with clergy functioning as spiritual advisors (see Central Florida Episcopal Cursillo website). The weekend starts on Friday evening and runs through Sunday, filled with talks, meditations, Holy Eucharist, fellowship, music, great food & much more.*

**The Coed Weekend is open to couples and single men or women. Cost is \$250 per person.**

More information on Cursillo and forms for candidates, sponsors and team may be found on the website: <https://cfliepiscopalcursillo.com/> or contact Jamie Roberts or Rev. Jonnette DeMarsico.

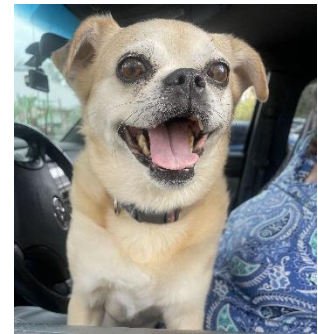


### **HAPPY CLIENTS at MONTHLY PET PANTRY**

March 5, our first Wednesday of the month Pet Pantry was a very busy morning for our ministry volunteers who delivered pet food to over 50 client vehicles.

Grace Church operates one of very few pet food pantries in Volusia County.

The mission of our pet food pantry is to provide pet food to financially challenged families in an on-going effort to keep pets in their homes.





**The Celebration of Life service for Jackie and Bill Dunlap** will take place at Grace on Saturday, March 22 at 11:00 am. A reception will follow in Goddard Hall.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SEEKS KNITTERS AND CHROCHETERS**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for those of you who KNIT or CHROCHET. We have patterns for large size shawls, mini shawls and crosses along with lots of colorful yarns. If you can help us, visit us at our yarn shop in St. Matthew's for classroom (photo left).



For an appointment, please call or email Audrey Rajter at 386/788-6801 or [audreyrajter@gmail.com](mailto:audreyrajter@gmail.com).

Check the basket in the Narthex for mini shawls and crosses, call Audrey if you or someone you know needs a large shawl.



We have given away hundreds of shawls to those who are ill, lonely or in need of comfort. The shawls have traveled throughout the country to friends and families of Grace.

It is our hope that these shawls, prayerfully knitted or crocheted and blessed at the altar will bring comfort and healing, and that

it will feel like the arms of Jesus enfolding the person in love.

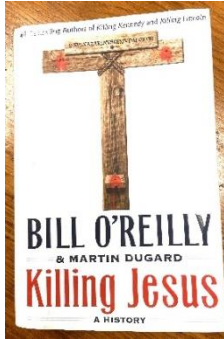
We have a supply of shawls for men, women, and children. Contact us if you know someone who would be comfort- ed by receiving a prayer shawl or if you want to join this ministry.

Blessed Mini Prayer Shawls are available in a basket in the narthex, please help yourself.

This ministry is not just about how we care for others, but how God chooses to care for others through our caring.



## KILLING JESUS by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard



This book is available in our library and is a great Lenten read for those who like history.

The book details the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. Killing Jesus takes the reader inside Jesus's life, recounting the political and historical events that made his death inevitable and changed the world for ever. Nearly two thousand years after this controversial young man was brutally killed by Roman soldiers, more than 2 billion human beings follow his teaching and believe he is God.

### DAILY LENTEN PRAYER

Loving Father,

To prepare for His mission of proclaiming Your  
kingdom to the world

Your Son Jesus was guided by Your Holy Spirit to the  
quiet of the desert.

In these Lenten days, I pray that I will be guided by  
that same Spirit,

to a place of renewal in my heart and mind, so that I  
will seek opportunities for

daily personal prayer, personal sacrifices and acts of  
kindness.

With Your help, may I too be truly prepared to share in the  
story of the passion,

death and resurrection of Jesus Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.



### VITA TAX PREPARATION at GRACE CHURCH

United Way's VITA Tax Site at Grace has completed one month of tax preparation. All of our March appointments are filled unless a cancellation occurs.

We have three days open in April but quickly filling. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so now.

To make an appointment, please visit [211live.org](http://211live.org) and look for the "Book Your Appointment" or you can also call 211 and someone will help you. Appointments ARE necessary.

Should you have any questions, you can reach us at [vitagracemb@gmail.com](mailto:vitagracemb@gmail.com)



### CHAPEL NOW OPEN BEFORE 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES

For those seeking quiet, peaceful solitude for prayer before the 10:30 am Sunday services, the Chapel is open for your use.

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#### HUM PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS:

**This month HUM can use cans of Chef Boyardee**

#### GRACE CHURCH PET FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

**Dry or Wet Cat & Dog Food Dog/Cat Treats**

**Gallon Ziploc Slider Style Bags**

*For monetary donations, make checks out to "Grace Episcopal Church" with "Pet Food Pantry" on the memo line.*



#### QR CODE FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING

Many parishioners are finding it more convenient to donate to Grace electronically. This QR code will connect you to Donor Box which accepts Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and credit and debit cards. It is also printed on your 2024 Pledge Card. Note: this QR code is on your bulletin each Sun.



**ECW EMAIL** -All Grace women are automatically members of the EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW), our very active service and fellowship ministry. We maintain a separate e-mailing list to send out requests and news for specific ECW events. If you would like to be included in the ECW e-mail list, please send your name and email address to [ecwgrace@gmail.com](mailto:ecwgrace@gmail.com).

**Sunday, March 9**

Mark 2:18-22 *"Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?"* (v.19 RSV)

Since our kids' grandparents live half a continent away, whenever they come for a visit it's party time. Our household routine is rearranged. Rules surrounding bedtimes are bent a bit. More sweets are allowed. And why not? When Nana and Papou return home, life in our home will return to normal. But for the time being, special memories are being made.

The critics of Jesus were bending over backwards trying to find ways to attack his message or his methods. He wasn't tipping his hat at the traditional customs. He was creating his own. What the religious leaders didn't realize is that they were dealing with the Creator. As a result, his presence redefines the norm. When the Creator is near, the rules and rituals lose their gravitational pull. It's the bridegroom's wedding. Water becomes wine. Blind eyes can blink with sight. Lifeless limbs move. Lifeless hearts are animated again with a renewed purpose.

Every Sunday we are reminded in worship that the "bridegroom" is still with us. We encounter his presence at his table, in his word, and with his people. And his presence not only gives us cause to celebrate, it requires that we bend our customs that we might celebrate in an appropriate manner. Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalms 63, 98; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

**Monday, March 10**

John 2:1-12 *And Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.* (v.7)

Lent is the time for emptying ourselves of ourselves as we identify with the passion of our Lord. "More of Him, Less of Me" is a contemporary Christian song that captures the spirit of this season of the church year.

But empty lives is not God's desired outcome for us. If all we achieve this Lent is a prideful sense of having fasted and prayed and read the daily offices, we remain empty much to the Father's dismay. By emptying our egos, we become available vessels for His use. Vessels that can be filled with contents that will achieve His purposes.

When the wedding wine ran out, Jesus instructed that the empty stone jars be filled with water. The giant jars and household water just happened to be what was available. And Jesus took what was available and demonstrated his power over nature and his provision for those in need.

That same Jesus lives to prove his power and provision in our lives. He delights in taking empty lives that are filled with a daily availability. He then transforms our obedience to do what needs to be done. Our lives (like those stone containers) aren't what matter most. What gives us our worth is the contents we contain.

Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Psalms 41, 52; Hebrews 2:11-18

**Tuesday, March 11**

John 2:13-22 *The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."* (vv.18-19)

It hasn't changed. Some 2,000 years later the watershed question the critics of Christianity still ask is "What proof can you offer for what Jesus claimed?" And we are hard pressed to improve

on the apostle Paul's rejoinder "If Christ has not been raised our faith is in vain!" The resurrection is the believer's bottom line.

When you stop and think of it, all the arguments that challenge the assertions of the Bible are blown away by the breeze that blows through the empty tomb. If Jesus really did rob death of its prize, what is called unbelievable can be believed. Miracles are possible. God could create a man full grown. A virgin could have a baby. God could become a human being. One person could die for the sin of the whole world.

Easter is the hinge on which the door to eternity swings open allowing us entrance. If Easter isn't true, Christmas isn't worth celebrating. Neither is Pentecost. Paul would even say, if Jesus is not alive today celebrating with God's people, each week is worthless as well.

As we approach yet another Easter Sunday, why not incorporate an ancient discipline into your Lenten observance? Begin a journal. Each week ponder the difference it makes in your life that Jesus conquered death. Deuteronomy 9:4-12; Psalm 45; Hebrews 3:1-11

### **Wednesday, March 12**

John 2:23—3:15 *He himself knew what was in man.* (v.25b)

"Information is the currency of today!" That is the claim of those who are speeding down the electronic superhighway. The one who has the most influence in today's world is the one who has access to instantaneous information and the means to disseminate that knowledge without delay. In the day in which we live, highwire artists and spiders aren't the only ones depending on nets and webs.

But in this technological age, where knowledge is worshiped, people who know a lot aren't necessarily known. Lonely executives long to be understood, consoled, and loved. Kids care less about devices, apps, and games than they do about feeling accepted and heard.

The timeless truth of today's passage is that Jesus knows us from the inside out. He sees our insecurity. He feels our pain. He understands our longing to be loved. Just as he was able to look into the heart of a religious leader by the name of Nicodemus, he looks into ours. Jesus saw beyond the sophisticated shine of a well-informed mover and shaker. He knew Nicodemus needed and directed his grace accordingly. That is the all-knowing nature of the Lord who is not only in control, but loves us. Deuteronomy 9:13-21; Psalm 119:49-72; Hebrews 3:12-19

### **Thursday, March 13**

John 3:16-21 *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, what whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.* (vv.16-17)

The first Bible verse learned in life is often the one that is whispered by trembling lips as one's sojourn on earth nears its end. It is the verse that summarizes God's redemptive purpose for those created in His image. It's the verse most everyone recognizes simply by its reference number: John 3:16.

But it's the not so familiar verse that follows that has my attention. Jesus is still speaking. He wants to be sure we understand something about the heart of the one who has taken action to cleanse our hearts of sin (so that we might live forever). Contrary to popular religious opinion, God doesn't have a chip on His shoulder. He has a hole in His heart that can only be filled by fellowship with those He has made. God isn't out to get us. He's out to hold us in His everlasting arms. Not a cosmic cop with a billy club waiting for us to mess up. He is the Great Physician who has the cure for our terminal condition and will stop at nothing to get us into treatment.

John 3:17 is the verse that gives us meaning to the “so” in the phrase “God so loved the world” in John 3:16. God’s disposition to people like you and me (and even those who are spiritually apathetic) is one of active grace and determined love. Now that’s worth celebrating!

Deuteronomy 9:23—10:5; Psalm 50; Hebrews 4:1-10

#### **Friday, March 14**

John 3:22-36 *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* (v.30)

A little girl was asked, “Honey, what do you want to do when you get big like your Mommy?” To the interviewer’s surprise she quickly responded, “Go on a diet!”

More than ever before, North Americans are diet conscious. We count fat grams. We read nutrition labels. We are exercising more and snacking less. We are fixated on decreasing the amount of cubic feet our skin envelopes.

What John the Baptist models for us in today’s passage is a different kind of diet consciousness. John learned first-hand what is involved in a spiritual fitness program. Having tasted of popularity and effective ministry, John watched the crowds begin to follow Jesus. But John knew that a healthy “heart” is the result of putting one’s ego on a crash diet.

Self-denial involves being more concerned with what the Lord wants than that for which we hunger. These days of Lent are timely reminders that we must decrease in order to allow Christ to increase his lordship in our lives. Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Psalms 40, 54; Hebrews 4:11-16

#### **Saturday, March 15**

John 4:1-26 *Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”* (v.21)

We remember the father of our country, George Washington, with fondness. His leadership and courage blazed a trail that led to many of the freedoms we cherish as Americans and Christians. But think how silly it would be to define democracy solely in terms of the Revolutionary War and our founding fathers. They were but symbols of the reality that has emerged from an infant beginning.

For the Samaritan woman (and for too many Christians) the symbols of faith occupy a place on a pedestal reserved for Jesus Christ alone. It wasn’t Mt. Gerizim or Mt. Zion that really mattered. It isn’t a particular prayer book or hymnal. Prophets and apostles, reformers and revivalists were merely symbols of the reality that has come to us in the Living Water. Lest we become too concerned with traditions, rituals, and worship styles, we’d do well to hear Jesus’ words to the woman at the well. It’s not place (or tradition) that matters. What matters is that we are unencumbered from what doesn’t matter all that much to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Deuteronomy 11:18-28; Psalm 55; Hebrews 5:1-10

*by Greg Asimakoupoulos*

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