



# WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

OCTOBER 2020

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## A Note from the Pastor...

We knew it had to come to an end someday. We knew we couldn't continue worshiping "under the oaks" forever. Somewhere in the back of our minds we can look forward to next summer and plan on doing it again. In the meantime, I hope it has not been lost on anyone that the Lord has blessed us lavishly and we have had good weather EVERY Sunday morning for more than four months.

So, as we move inside, what's the plan? Beginning Sunday, October 4, 2020, Session has decided to have two services since we have been blessed with too many people to attend one service in the sanctuary and still responsibly maintain social distancing.

>Both services will be identical and limited to about 35-40 people.

>The first service will be at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall and the second service will be at 11:00am in the sanctuary. This will give enough time for those attending the early service to leave before those coming to the later service start arriving.

Who comes to which service? We will have signup sheets at each service and people can also call the church, Pastor Paul, or Debbie Rankin to sign up. This will be a "work in progress" until the "all clear" is given and we feel we can worship together at one service.

Also beginning in October, we will hear from a few of The Psalms. Many of the Psalms live up to the unofficial title "Israel's Hymnbook". Others are prayers that praise God, are in wonder of God, and consider what God has done for us. In some of these prayers the psalmists bare their souls because of the dangers around them.

I have often said that the Psalms are an amazing book of the Bible because, no matter how many times we read through them, the psalm that was "good" last year suddenly touches us deeply in our souls this year mainly because of the circumstances of life we are experiencing. The Psalms also live up to the description of Scripture in Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and active..."

In October we will be looking into Psalms that help us get a better glimpse of who God is.

In Psalm 16 we find the difference between the living God and those things that are not gods at all. We are brought to the point of asking, "Is God among us?" in our own lives.

Psalm 19 is all about listening to the unmistakable witnesses that point to the reality of God that we see in nature, in Scripture, and finally in ourselves.

We all know life isn't going to be wonderful and rosy all the time. Psalm 20 provides confidence in the middle of trouble. God doesn't insulate us from trouble, but provides strength when we encounter it.

Whatever image of God we have in our minds, Psalm 29 will give us an entirely new view of who God is, like lightning that is terrifyingly close.

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### **Sermons for October**

October 4: Psalm 16--Is God Among Us?

October 11: Psalm 19--Loud and Clear

October 18: Psalm 20--Singing in the Rain

October 25: Psalm 29--Lightning on Your Doorstep

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### **Weekly Reminders:**

**Prayer Group:** Wednesdays at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room

**Children's Choir Practice:** Mondays at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

**Adult Choir Practice:** Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

**Bible Study with Pastor:** Wednesday at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM in the Library

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### **Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes**

The Session of Walkersville EPC met on September 17, 2020 in the choir room. Elders present were Boyet Twitty, Clara McGee, Dean Haney, Betty Lou Mosley and Hazel Norwood.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a word of encouragement by Rev. Paul Rankin.

The minutes from the called meetings and those of August 20, 2020 were read and approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Building & Grounds – Work on playground area still in progress. Looking for handrails for ramp.

Christian Education – **Mr. Layne Dewlen will be the new adult Sunday School Teacher. Thank you Dennis Robinson for your years of service.**

Congregational Care: Continue prayer during this Covid.

Mission & Outreach: Need volunteers for food or to serve for Operation Reach Out.

Project to Heal yard sale postponed to next spring 2021. A donation of \$1,000.00 will be presented to them.

November Chicken-n-Dumplings cancelled. Donation will be made of \$6,500.00 to Nicaragua School.

Stewardship/Financial Report: Financial Report was presented and approved.

Worship – Beginning Sunday October 4, 2020 we will move inside with 2 services. The 9:00 service will be in the Fellowship Hall and the 11:00 service will be in the Sanctuary. You will need to sign up for which service you will be attending. There will be more details on this at a later date.

Old Business: None

New Business: There will be no Trunk-n-Treat in October.

Finance Committee request a lap top to be used in recording our offerings.

We want to welcome our new secretary, Debbie Rankin, her hours will be posted later.

Use of Fellowship Hall

October 10, 2020-Bridal Shower for Kayla Bartlett(Dillon Hardy)

November 7, 2020 Rhonda McManus

There being no further business Clara McGee made a motion to adjourn. Boyet Twitty seconded, session approved and Dean Haney closed in prayer.

Rev. Paul Rankin  
Moderator

Clara McGe  
Clerk of Session

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**The Men's and Ladies Bible Study**

They meet on second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM

With Pastor Paul Rankin Wednesdays at 3:00/6:00 PM in Library.

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**From the Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee will be including a Prayer List in the bulletin each week. If you wish to have someone's name listed in the church bulletin, please contact Clara McGee. Your request will remain on the Prayer List in the bulletin for one month. At the end of that time, the name you listed will be dropped from the Prayer List or you may ask Clara to continue to list that person's name.

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**Senior Saints Luncheon**

55 plus luncheon is meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 11:30.

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**A note from the Congregational Care Ministry Group...**

We have several friends who are suffering from injuries and other health problems who need our help through prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. Please minister in some way to Robby Griffin, Barb Castner, Gregg Ross, Phil Keys, Henry and Phyllis Parker, Becky and Dennis Adams (sister of Phyllis Norwood), Carolyn Griffin, Shelia Medlin, Matthew Stewart, Larry Schott, Jane Threatt, Marcie Barrell, Debbie Wallace, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Bruce Griffin, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Edith Kimmarling, Rick and Iris Moser, Beth and Benny Simpson, Alan Wright, Frank Rogers, Molly Ingram, Rachel Brody, Sheldon Medlin, Janice York, Martha Allen, Jim and Clara McGee, James and Francis Gordon, Cindy Webb, Sandy Brody, Gerald Broome, Edward Barber, Fran Griffin, Fran Coleman and Tommy and Phyllis Norwood.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Mary Eudy, Carleen Hunnicutt, Polly Moser, Ralph Brenner, Jacksie Maye, Chris Horne, Bill Wooten, Louvella Arrowood, and Jimmy Winchester.

Our special prayer from the Congregation Care Committee is that our Walkersville Family will be spared from the coronavirus.

Please continue to send cards and remember in prayer our church members who are in assisted living homes:

Robby Griffin, Lee Forest Group Home, 1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

Travis Price, Brookdale Monroe Square, Room 44918 Fitzgerald St, Monroe, NC 28112-5679

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**Food Pantry**

The food pantry at Prospect is always in need of donations to meet the growing need. Canned soups and non-perishable items are helpful. Please bring them to the back of the church and let's see how fast we can fill up the barrel

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## Welcome New Members



Welcome to the family Riley, and Chris, & Jennifer

**Riley Trull** was born and raised in Waxhaw just down the road from Walkersville EPC. She is 23 years old. She graduated from Parkwood High School. Currently she is a cosmetologist at Shear Excellence in Charlotte. She has been styling and cutting hair for two and half years, and her family appreciates her talent. When Riley is not working, she likes to spend time with her family and friends, talking and relaxing together. Riley likes music and enjoys singing to the Lord. She is hoping she will be able to share her musical gift from God with Walkersville on occasion when she is not working.

**Chris & Jennifer Trull** Jennifer was born and raised in the local area. She was baptized and received her Christian foundation here at Walkersville EPC. Chris was born and raised in Lancaster, SC, until he moved into this area. Chris and Jennifer met at Parkwood High School. They have been married for 28 years this month, congratulations! Currently Jennifer is the project coordinator/office manager at Pinnacle Homes in Indian Trail. She has been there for four years and was a paralegal for 25 years. Ask her about the God story concerning her employment. Chris works for Dobbins Textile off Davis Road. He delivers textile products (cot rollers), all over North Carolina and surrounding states. Chris & Jennifer were married and baptized in Walkersville EPC. As they come back home to Walkersville, they are looking forward to being surrounded by family and friends (old & new) while worshipping the LORD. They are continuing to pray about how they will serve Christ here at Walkersville.

Welcome to the family Andrew, Lindsey, and Nick & Gretchen

**Andrew Presson** grew up in this area and graduated from Parkwood High School. He is 25 years old and has been working since he was 16 years old. Andrew is a farmer and works for Cox Brother's Farm. He has been with them for five years taking care of their mechanical needs. He recently bought his great-grandfather Ray Taylor's home place. He will be joining us for worship as his farm work allows.

**Lindsey Presson** also grew up in this area and graduated from Parkwood High School. She lives almost on the South Carolina line, in the old Brice McCain home place. Lindsey is a legal assistant for the South Carolina Legal Service in Rock Hill, SC. She enjoys hiking and baking as time allows and being with family. Lindsey is looking forward to joining us in worship and, when Chicken n' Dumplings' start again, she will be ready to help.

**Nick & Gretchen Presson**, Nick grew up in the town of Waxhaw and Gretchen grew up in the Walkersville community. They started dating in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and have been married for 30 years. Nick works for the city of Monroe in the water resources department, doing construction on the water lines. Gretchen recently started working for Carolina Development services, a land development company out of Indian Trail.

Nick and Gretchen like spending time together as they camp with their camper. Nick enjoys dirt track racing; he no longer races, however, continues to be a part of it by helping his friends with their cars. Gretchen is a reader and a baker. They are ready to come home to Walkersville EPC and are waiting to see what the Lord has for them next.

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# C.R.E.W. Time

(Christ's Radically Enthusiastic Whippersnappers Time)

Where: **Walkersville Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

When: Every Thursday, Starting September 24

Time: 5:30-8:00 pm, dinner provided

Who: Children, ages 2 years old – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*What is C.R.E.W. Time, and how can you help?*

It is Walkersville EPC providing community action for families to learn and grow during this time of crisis. **CREW Time** will be a place to play and learn with Jesus Christ in every part. The children will experience Bible & Singing, Arts & Crafts, Tutoring/homework, and recess.

As students have once a week face to face instruction or all virtual learning or are home-schooled, we realize they desire to learn together. Also, many parents and guardians are seeking guidance and encouragement during this time.

**To register a child or to volunteer:**

contact the church, 704-843-3612

or Debbie Rankin, 814-279-0612

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## Community Playgroup

For children, Moms,

Dads, & grandparents!!!

When: Every Monday, starting October 5th

(please note change of day)

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Where: Walkersville Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall or playground

6204 Brady Road, Waxhaw, NC 28173

Why: A time for children to play and caregivers to visit in a safe environment

\*Please bring a snack & drink for your family\*

Sponsored by Walkersville EPC

For more information contact-

Debbie Rankin, 814-279-0612

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### Good News and Praises

#### FALL in LOVE

All Ladies and Men of Walkersville Church are invited to Kayla Bartlett and Dillon Hardy Bridal Shower.

Saturday, October 10, 2020

Drop in 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Walkersville EPC – Fellowship Hall

Congratulations on the marriage of Kyle and Hayley Norwood.

Congratulations on the birth Brody Keen to Jordon and Zack Keen.

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## MUST I?

By Layne Dewlen

There is a “holier than thou” balloon that permeates Christianity that I would like to pop with my pin. That balloon is this, “God doesn’t want Christians to get into politics and to vote, after all, God has everything under control, He raises up and puts down who He pleases.” Ugh! If that were true, why has there been a continual war between God’s angels and those angels that followed Satan? Jude verse 9 says there was a fight for the body of Moses. In Dan 10 Gabriel tells about the war he had with evil forces. This is only two of many, but because of space, I’ll stop. Some might say something like, “But I pray about.... Paraphrasing James, show me your faith by doing something, (works).

How can we think we are better than the angels, and figure God will take care of everything by Himself without using us? Where is that in Scripture? What happen to “Onward Christian Soldiers,” and “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?” One I remember from childhood with fond memories is “Sound the Battle Cry” which goes like this:

Sound the battle cry! See the foe is nigh; Raise the standard high for the Lord; Gird your armor on, stand firm, every one; Rest your cause upon His holy word. (2) Strong to meet the foe, marching on we go. While our cause we know, must prevail; Shield and banner bright, Gleaming in the light; Battling for the right we ne’er can fail. (3) O! Thou God of all, hear us when we call, Help us one and all by Thy grace; When the battle’s done, and the vic-try won, May we wear the crown before Thy face. (Chorus), Rouse, then soldiers, rally round the banner, Ready, steady, pass the word along; Onward, forward, shout aloud Hosanna! Christ is Captain of the mighty throng.

This month I’m showing an article that was written by Shane Idleman founder and lead pastor of Westside Christian Fellowship in Lancaster, California, just North of Los Angeles. I feel it’s apropos for today.

I just had the privilege to hear from Jack Hibbs, Paula White, Jentezen Franklin, Bishop Harry Jackson, Charlie Kirk and others at Evangelicals for Trump in Las Vegas. Here are some key takeaways from the event.

**1. Silence is not an option.** We can no longer hide behind the excuse, “I don’t want to get involved.” As citizens, we are given the privilege, for now, to place people in positions of leadership. Whether we like it or not, we are involved. Millions are not registered to vote, and millions of registered voters stay at home. We’ll stand in line to see a movie, but we won’t stand in line to vote and elect leaders who will affect the direction of our country. This makes a statement about what we value — and isn’t it sad.

**2. Now is not the time for hand-wringing and second-guessing ourselves.** Many things that we’ve been praying for to happen in our nation are finally happening. So, at this stage, many of us will not apologize for backing the president, nor will we be intimidated. Unless millions of Americans and I, who are praying and truly seeking the will of the Father, are missing it, we will keep contending: “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3). We are not following a man; we are revitalizing a movement — a movement back to God. I’m more concerned with our nation’s national character than I am with the president’s tweets.

**3. Share the facts as often as possible.** Let this sink in: innocent children are being protected, godly counsel is surrounding President Trump, terror is being restrained, good judges are being selected, socialism is being resisted, families are being encouraged via employment (black employment is at an

all-time high), prayer is being brought back in schools, God's wisdom is being sought, and on and on it goes, but the mainstream media is doing their best to hide all of this. We must do our best to promote it.

**4. Wear criticism as a badge of honor instead of fearing it.** Calling Christians hypocrites, racists, and haters is really just a defense mechanism for those who don't want to see the truth. It's often Christians who serve as our moral compass to get us back on track. For example, when I talk about ungodly entertainment, I'm labeled a fundamentalist. When I talk about purity and abstinence, I'm labeled legalistic. When I talk about defending babies, I'm labeled as being against women. When I talk about marriage being between a man and a woman, I'm labeled a homophobe. When I support the current president, I'm labeled a hypocrite. And on and on it goes. Anytime you stand for truth, you will be labeled. Granted, the truth must come from a loving, gentle heart. The truth will offend, but our attitude should not.

**5. Don't buy into the fake narrative: "Ungodly means don't justify a godly end."** To me, this is a no-brainer. The Bible says don't murder innocent children (abortion). It also says that we should work hard if we can (no socialism). It also says that the government is to guard the nation, securing borders and fighting terrorism (see Romans 13). The Bible adds that we should have judges who are honest and that we should bring God's Word into all areas of life. And on and on it goes. Many of President Trump's staff are doing all this and more. How a person, let alone a Christian, can overlook these things is a mystery to me. No, I don't believe that all ungodly means are good if they lead to godly ends. It depends on the situation and what the means are. There are many variables, and a blanket statement — like so many of those who speak against the president are trying to make — will not suffice.

**6. Our past does not disqualify us.** The president's past is not perfect, but he is guiding America in the right direction (in fact, many governmental agencies are now hosting Bible studies). He still sins, but it appears that he wants to point our nation back to God. His mode of communication is not always Christlike, but he is honoring God in many areas of legislation. I see a man who is flawed like the rest of us. I see a man who is probably not proud of some of the things that he has done. We're not looking for perfection; we're looking for direction — direction back to God. Throughout biblical history, God has used broken, flawed leaders. Aside from Christ, is there another kind? I'm pretty sure that if unborn babies could talk, they would tell us they are not too concerned about the president's past. They would be far more concerned about the character of the physician with an abortion tool in his or her hand.

**7. Don't let the divide, divide us.** Yes, I'm perplexed by the divide in the Christian community over President Trump — but I'm not surprised. The media is fueling lies, and the world is listening. And many of those coming against our President are what is commonly referred to as liberal Christians. They love to quote scripture out of context when it supports their narrative. It makes one wonder what is truly leading them: worldly mandates or biblical principles. Kingdoms are colliding and world views are being challenged. Of course, there is going to be a divide . . . a divide between light and darkness, right and wrong, good and evil.

**8. Trump is not using us, if anything, we are using him (and I mean that in the right way).** We are not following a man; he is shaping a movement. A better question to be asking, though, is "What direction is the country heading?" If a leader lacks Christian character but is pointing the nation back to God, is that a bad thing? If they are minimizing murdering babies and maximizing godly values, is that a bad thing? If they are being a terror to terrorists and making America secure, is that a bad thing? If they are honoring hard work and minimizing free handouts, is that a bad thing? If they respect law enforcement and punish disobedience, is that a bad thing? God doesn't judge a nation based on the character of one man; He judges it based on the spiritual health of her people. Never forget that.

**9. “I’m not voting for the lesser of two evils” is just an excuse.** This statement is often used by those who want to remain silent, but it’s a flawed argument. We are actually voting for principles, not people — all candidates are sinners. In what direction will they lead our country? Even more importantly, what country will we leave for our children? A third party is not a bad idea, but at this point, it has little influence. When they receive votes, they take away votes from others.

**10. The process of change and hope must begin with humility.** “Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you” (Andrew Murray). The amount of pride in the church is astonishing. We’ve created an American Idol mentality with many wanting center stage attention. We often look more like Hollywood than the character of Christ. If we are to see a genuine move of God (which is the only hope for our nation) then we must humble ourselves and confess our pride. Our blessings have become a curse; our abundance has taken us away from God. Pride is so powerful that many people reading this will get upset rather than humble themselves and seek God afresh. I have not mastered this area. I’m a prideful person working on humility on a daily basis. But we must recognize pride, repent of it, and return to God with a broken and teachable attitude.

Some time ago, I sat speechless as I listened to a man recount his trip to a holocaust museum with his young daughter. As they walked by photos of the death camps, gas chambers, and countless bodies piled one upon another, his daughter silently contemplated the horrors that were unfolding before her eyes. When the tour ended, they drove home without saying a word. The father wondered if she truly understood the significance of the event. Was she too young to view such depravity? Was she too fragile to cope with the truth of the holocaust? Would it make a negative impact on her life? Would it leave her fearful and wounded? Would she begin to doubt God?

His questions were answered nearly two hours later when his daughter finally spoke. She looked at her father and asked, “Daddy, why didn’t someone do something?”

Will we hear those same haunting words from our children and grandchildren? Yes! If we fail to contend for what is right, we may see a time in our history when our children will ask, “Why didn’t someone do something?” Sadly, we will know the answer.

To answer the title question, Must I? If we as Christians are going to be the salt and light God calls us to be, then the answer is **YES**. Take what God has said is important to Him in His Word, pray for God’s guidance, and vote for those that you believe will fulfill those Biblical principles. Maranatha!



**October Roster**

**Committee of Month: Worship**

**Nursery Workers:**

- Oct 04 Jessica Johnston
- Oct 11 Debbie Rankin
- Oct 18 Ivey Hardy
- Oct 25 Rhonda McManus

**Volunteers Needed**

**Newsletter Information**

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may email the information to [harveyhess@bellsouth.net](mailto:harveyhess@bellsouth.net) or by phone or text to 704-516-6503. Thank you!

**Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request that needs to be communicated through the prayer chain, please contact Clara McGee at 704-709-7125 or Gloria Norwood at 704-843-2352. They will ensure that the word gets out! Also, if you have not been receiving prayer chain calls and would like to be added to the call list, please let Clara or Gloria know this as well.

**Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information**

2020 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Clara McGee Clerk of Session	704-709-7125	Class of 2023
Hazel Norwood	704-575-6258	Class of 2021
Dean Haney	704-533-1263	Class of 2021
Boyet Twitty	704-351-0833	Class of 2022
Betty Lou Mosley	704-764-3339	Class of 2023

Prayer Chain – Call to Activate	
Clara McGee	704-709-7125
Gloria Norwood	704-843-2352

2020 Church Committees		
Committee	Chair	Clerk
Building & Grounds	Russell Mosley	Bob Stirton
Christian Education	Debbie Robinson	Gloria Norwood
Congregational Care	Bob McCain	Tammy Mosley
Fellowship		
Missions & Outreach	Clay Murray	Betty Lou Mosley
Stewardship	Fran Griffin	Betty Lou Mosley
Worship	Lynn Twitty	Sue Thornton

# October 2020

				5:30 to 8:00 PM Crew Time		
4	5 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	6 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance Canceled	7 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	8 5:30 to 8:00 PM Crew Time	9	10
11	12 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice 7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study	13 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance Canceled	14 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study Operation Reach Out Meal	15 5:30 to 8:00 PM Crew Time 7:00 PM Session Meeting	16	17
18	19 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	20 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance Canceled	21 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	22 5:30 to 8:00 PM Crew Time	23	24
25 Game Day 12:30 to 2:00 PM	26 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	27 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance Canceled	28 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study 11:30 AM Senior Saints Luncheon 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Little Angels Youth Group	29 5:30 to 8:00 PM Crew Time	30	31

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