



## Summer's for Sharing God's Love

The missions fields were far and wide, and rich in God's love this summer. There were testimonies offered in worship on August 11 and you can [view those here on YouTube](#). Here's more on some of the ways the Herndon UMC church family has served and shared God's love with our neighbors this summer.

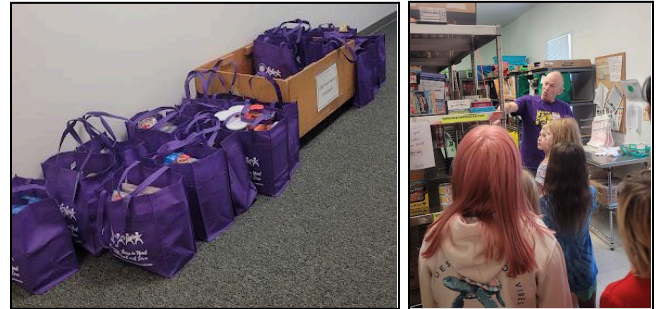
### Just Like Me (Vacation Bible School) | by Charity Meals



Vacation Bible School was a roaring success this summer, thanks to the efforts of a huge team of wonderful volunteers. Almost 50 kids came together each morning and learned about being themselves, loving others, and engaging in meaningful ways with their community.

In addition to learning and playing together, the kids had the opportunity to bring donations for LINK and The Closet. It was a joy to see the hallway lined with bags of food and gently used items that would soon be available to our neighbors in need.

Bringing art and mission together, the children decorated planters and then filled them with soil and seeds as gifts for our friends at Herndon Harbor House.



To make sure bellies were filled, Everludis Lopez and Sally Palatiello had daily build-your-own snacks, where the children were encouraged to use their creative skills to design a creature out of their food before they gobbled it up. The kids loved it, and several ended up trying new healthy foods.

All in all, it was great fun for kids and volunteers alike.

### Summer Ukulele Camp | by Margaret Tobat

What do you get when you take twelve adults, six kids, and hand them each a ukulele? A rocking good time filled with music and learning!

Ukulele camp was a multigenerational experience for beginning ukulele players. We had some Grace Notes members attend to help out as well! We learned three chords, how to read chord sheets and lead sheets, and how to read ukulele tab!



After just two days the camp participants played two songs at the Worship & Fellowship Dinner, giving them an experience some had never had before!

Some of the Grace Notes members worked with the four kids in the camp, which was really special for me - the people I taught to play ukulele were now teaching others! It was a blessing to plan and lead the ukulele camp, and we are excited for the next opportunity!

### Student Summer Mission



Nine youth and two leaders enjoyed a week of fun, mission, and service in Ford, North Carolina. They made home repairs and build relationships with families in the area through the camp like Carolina Cross Connections.

### Summer Musical Theatre Camp

Over 30 performers ages 5 to 18 participated in our third annual Summer Musical Theatre Camp and presented Mary Poppins Jr after just one week! It was great to see so many young people explore their gifts and tryout musical theatre. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.



### Costa Rica Mission | by Brianna Medvene

The last week of July, Herndon UMC sent an excited mission team composed of Jay and Kylee Horstman, Sam Medvene, and Brianna Hogan Medvene to Costa Rica to work alongside Costa Rica Mission Projects (CRMP). CRMP was founded by Missionary and NC native Wil Bailey and his wife, Yolanda in 2003. CRMP was created to help foster long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships between participating congregations, and Herndon UMC has been fortunate to be partnered with them for almost two decades! Wil and Yolanda live in San Isidro, Costa Rica. Through their local church and the greater Methodist Church of Costa Rica, they have built a strong foundation which includes a network of pastors in the area. As a result, churches in the United States have an opportunity not only to connect with each other and with CRMP, but also to serve

alongside churches throughout the southern zone of Costa Rica.



These relationships create a beautiful opportunity to come together in fellowship to worship, pray, serve, and be witnesses to Christ. This year, in addition to seeing several old CRMP friends, we had the pleasure of making new friends from Kansas and Rocky Mount, North Carolina! Ranging in age from 12 to 79, we worked together alongside a community in Santa Marta to construct a new parsonage and Sunday School classrooms. Jay and Kylee helped build the new Sanctuary in Santa Marta last year and it was wonderful to worship together in the new sanctuary on Sunday morning.

ministry, CRMP has several other active ministries that we have participated with in the past—and always have the option of participating with in the future! These ministries include a daycare (a safe space for a child that also allows mothers to go to school or work during the day), student housing (past HUMC volunteers help build apartments for young female students who otherwise could not afford to live in the city), and a robust counseling program focusing on at-risk women in the San Isidro Community. For the latter, CRMP employs a licensed psychologist and the program has been so well received there is currently a waiting list! While volunteers are living at the Missions and Ministry Center in San Isidro, they have the opportunity to witness these equally important ministries in action.

Herndon UMC is already looking forward to returning to Costa Rica next summer and invites anyone who may be interested to reach out to Jay Horstman for more information! You don't have to do construction work to serve with our Costa Rica Mission Partners; there are many ways to support their ministries and we would love to chat more with you!



Although our Herndon UMC team usually focuses on the construction side of CRMP's



## Radical Hospitality

### Welcome Pastor Pam!



On July 7 during worship our community welcomed Pastor Pam Bentley as our new Associate Pastor.

Since arriving to Herndon UMC in July, my husband David and I have experienced such a warm welcome. Thank you for your cards and notes of encouragement and for the time spent together in our Meet the Pastor events over the past few months. There is certainly a rich history here of serving and sharing God's love and I am blessed to join you as your pastor.

– Pastor Pam

As we transitioned from Summer restfulness back into our normal school and work routines, we reflected on the ways we can offer radical hospitality to our neighbors. We celebrated the return to school with a Back-to-School kickoff, blessing backpacks, briefcases and lunch boxes in worship.

### Herndon High School Breakfast

Breakfast was delivered to Herndon HS for the first day the teachers were back at school in a show of support for the teachers and staff that educate the youth at our neighbor (and partner school) Herndon HS. Pastors SeongJae and Pam greeted the teachers, as volunteers set up coffee, bagels, donut holes, fruits and juice.

### Community Tailgate



Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help make the Community Tailgate a great event this year. There was plenty of food, games and music. We met neighbors, strengthened our relationships with the Herndon HS community, and with our neighbors. Special thanks to Herndon's United Methodist Men for providing the food and manning the grill.

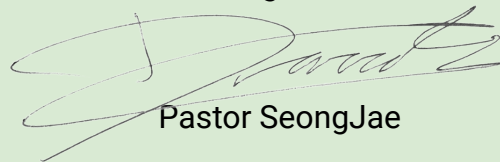
Dear Herndon Family,

As I enter into my second year at Herndon UMC, I am writing to you with a heart full of gratitude and excitement! This season is a time of blessings in the life of the church—restarting Sunday School studies, circles, and groups, Youth gatherings, KIDS Club, hosting a Community Tailgate, Youth Color War and Picnic, Missions and Ministries Fair, and so on. At the same time, it is a time of changes the continued search for a Children’s Ministry Director, the arrival of Pastor Pam, and the departure of our organist, Luis. However, we are looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to gather together to worship and grow in our faith as a community.

Fall is also a time of harvest, and I encourage us all to take a moment to reflect on the blessings we have received and to give thanks to God for God’s provision and guidance. I am excited about the opportunities that this season presents for us to reach out and serve others. As we harvest the fruits of our labor, let us also consider how we can share our blessings with our church and our community. Whether it be through volunteering our time, sharing money, or resources, or simply lending a helping hand, let us seek out ways to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

As we begin this new season, I want to express my deepest gratitude for each and every one of you. Your dedication, your commitment, your giving, your passion, and your heart to our church and to our community are truly blessings . May God bless each of you, and may we continue to grow in our faith and in our love for one another as we are called to love God and love our neighbors as one body in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SeongJae', written over a light green background.

Pastor SeongJae

## Growing Spirit-filled Relationships



The Missions and Ministries Fair is happening Sunday, September 8. This is an annual opportunity to meet group leaders and hear from them about they serve and share God’s love. There are some new groups and missions to look out for at the fair and in the coming weeks.

Dranesville Elementary School is in full blown renovation and won't be doing **Backpack Foods** this year. They hope that we would be able to support them as soon as they are able to bring the program back! So we won't be doing any backpack food packing this fall. Instead we will be adding another dinner for the Cornerstones shelter.

### Temporary Overnight Shelter

Last year, we experienced an increase in the number of Hypothermia Prevention Dinners needed for each meal.

In July, Cornerstones, in coordination with Fairfax County and the Hunter Mill District Supervisor's Office, opened a new Temporary Overnight Shelter (TOS). This shelter, provides a warm, dry, safe space for homeless individuals to spend the night, will be held in the same space as the hypothermia program in

the winter, and will serve an estimated 60 individuals per evening, 7 days a week, year-round.

Cornerstones plans to provide the individuals in the TOS with a warm meal before they settle in for the evening, and that is the reason I am contacting you today. We are looking for donors to help provide these meals and are asking for enough food for 75 people per night so that there will be second helpings available for the individuals expected for dinner. The meals will need to be delivered to the shelter between 5:30 and 5:45 in the evening, just as with the hypothermia meals.

Herndon UMC’s first TOS dinner will be in late September. There are many ways to participate or learn more—at the Fair, at the September 18 Worship & Fellowship Dinner, and through donations or volunteering for the dinner.

### Social Action Ministry



Herndon UMC’s newest group, is seeking input from our community to help identify the social justice topics of greatest interest. Please visit their table at the Fair, fill out a quick survey, and pick up a favor. The survey is also available online through 9/15 at [bit.ly/SAMsurvey](https://bit.ly/SAMsurvey).

Please encourage friends and family to participate. Questions may be addressed to Lorraine Lappan or Chris Miller, at [socialaction@herndonumc.org](mailto:socialaction@herndonumc.org).

### **Congregational Care | by Pastor Pam**

It has not taken me long to see how this congregation cares deeply for one another and for the community. Speaking of caring, I encourage you to consider the many opportunities available with the Congregational Care Team. Join the Prayer Chain and receive notifications of prayer requests to lift up in your own daily prayer time, assist members of the congregation with rides to church or meals when needed during a time of crisis, be a part of the card ministry to share words of encouragement. If you're crafty and like to knit, help to make prayer blankets with the Yarn & Thread Ministry. These do not require a big time commitment, but they do make a big difference.

Another way of caring is to join the Communion Visitation Team. This team is beginning to form this fall and will help to deliver Communion to those who are unable to attend in person worship.

If you are interested in any or all of these opportunities to extend care, please reach out. I look forward to talking with you! [Pam's email is [pam@herndonumc.org](mailto:pam@herndonumc.org).]

## **The Closet | Celebrating 50 Years**

As the Closet celebrates 50 years of serving our community they invite us all into the story of how they have grown with our community.

### **The Closet Voucher Program**

Since The Closet's founding in 1974, the voucher program has been a key aspect of the nonprofit thrift shop's community outreach. One reason local congregations wanted to establish a consolidated community thrift shop, rather than individual clothes closets at various houses of worship, was to serve the influx of Vietnamese refugees fleeing that war-torn nation. And in those early days, if The Closet didn't have appropriate clothing items available, such as undergarments, clients were directed to a local shop to find them, at The Closet's expense.

Fifty years later, the voucher program continues to grow and expand, its clientele a reflection of our very diverse community. Clients are referred by local government and nonprofit social service agencies or our member congregations. In 2023, the voucher program distributed more than \$118,000 in clothing and household goods, serving approximately 2,000 people per session (spring/summer and fall/winter). What an amazing resource for those in need, supported by our bighearted shoppers, generous donors, caring volunteers and hardworking staff!

### **The Closet Grant Program**

When The Closet opened its doors, no one could predict how successful the organization would be. Still, the founders pledged to reinvest The Closet's profits in the local community, and

our Board of Directors has championed that promise. Starting in 1976, The Closet began contributing to worthwhile local groups. The first grant recipients were Herndon-Reston FISH and LINK. The Closet continues to support these Herndon-Reston community groups, but as our profits have grown the grants program has expanded to include organizations like Vecinos Unidos serving the growing Hispanic community and other groups, such as She Believes in Me and All Ages Read Together, focused on specific needs such as empowering girls and improving reading skills.

Since 1976, The Closet has distributed more than \$2.5 million in grants to local nonprofits serving the western Fairfax County and eastern Loudoun County areas, extending The Closet's reach far beyond its thrift shop patrons and establishing itself as a resource for other nonprofits.

### **The Closet: Growing Up with the Community**

Over the last five decades, The Closet has grown from a small, three-days-a-week, all-volunteer thrift shop operating out of a couple of unused church classrooms to a thriving operation with 18 full- and part-time employees occupying our own building and welcoming the public to shop six days a week. What has never changed is The Closet's commitment to serving the needy and vulnerable members of our community.

The Closet has distributed more than \$2.5 million to the community in the form of grants to local nonprofits and more than \$779,000 in the form of scholarships to local high school students. We have given away more than \$1.3

million in clothing and household items to clients referred by social service agencies. Our truck ministry to the Shenandoah Valley has provided tens of thousands of dollars' worth of clothing and other items to communities that lack the resources of Northern Virginia. And, perhaps most importantly, our thrift shop has always been here in the community, offering low prices and quality merchandise to all comers – those in need or on a tight budget, bargain hunters, collectors, re-sellers, regardless of color, creed or religion. And, with your support, we will continue doing so for decades to come.

### **Fall Worship**

Since the back-to-school kickoff we have been exploring challenges of faith that can lead us feeling uncomfortable. Upcoming sermon series, as we lead up to Thanksgiving, will touch on Stewardship and Generosity. Look for more to come about how discipleship and stewardship are connected. Our worship times continue to be:

#### **8 am | Every Sunday | Outside\* (until Oct 13)**

The 8 am worship service draws special energy from being outside. Bring a chair and join together in this shorter service under the sun. (\* Look for us in the Sanctuary, if it rains.) Help is needed for set up and take down and to get the coffee set up for fellowship time. The service will stay outside until October 13, look for possible changes after that.

#### **10 am | Every Sunday | Sanctuary & YouTube**

Worship together in the Sanctuary every Sunday 10 am, or join the 10 am service live or



later on [YouTube](#). Please show your support by your presence and your support in volunteering to help make the service happen—greeting, refilling/putting away coffee, reading, offering music, helping with technology, etc.

#### **4 pm | First Sundays | Sanctuary**

This monthly evening service will continue to be offered at 4 pm on the first Sunday of each month. Join Pastor SeongJae for this additional opportunity to worship.

#### **6 pm | Third Wednesdays | Doe Fellowship Hall**

The Worship & Fellowship Dinners are a great way to highlight and support different missions while praising God and eating together in fellowship. The upcoming dates are:

September 16 (Temporary Overflow Shelter and Hypothermia Shelter Dinners),  
October 18 (Endowment), and  
November 20 (Upward Scholarships).

If you would be interested in sharing gifts in worship—greeting, reading, providing music or running technology— please contact Melissa Chávez, Director of Worship & Arts, at [melissa@herndonumc.org](mailto:melissa@herndonumc.org).

### **Fall Opportunities to Grow and Serve**

#### **Camp Highroad Workday | Sep 9**

From 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, you are invited to help prepare the Camp Highroad residency for new camp director. The team will leave the Herndon UMC parking lot at 7:30 am or you can meet at Camp Highroad at 8:30 am (21164 Steptoe Hill Rd, Middleburg, VA 20117). The objectives are to remove old carpet, remove counter tops and old appliances, paint front

door and first floor exterior trim, power wash decks, and cut back weeds on the embankment. The VIM trailer will be on site. Please bring a lunch. Water will be available. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Richard Yuras, [vim@herndonumc.org](mailto:vim@herndonumc.org).

#### **Women's Fall Overnight Retreat**



This year and especially this Fall we are experiencing changes in our lives, in our families, in our church, in our denomination, in our country, and in our world. How are you coping with the changes such as the upcoming election? Do you worry, think about all of these changes on your own or do you remember that you can always "Talk with God". Even the best prayer warrior sometimes forgets that wherever you are and whatever is on your heart there is always someone who will listen and if we are 'still and wait' will send a sign or an answer. Come to the Fall Women's Retreat at the beautiful Claggett Center and allow Pastor Dawn to help you learn more ways to reach out and 'talk with God'.

Registration is open now at [bit.ly/womensfallretreat2024](https://bit.ly/womensfallretreat2024) and will close promptly on September 24. Space is limited. Contact Everludis Lopez at [womensevents@herndonumc.org](mailto:womensevents@herndonumc.org).

Look for signups and details coming soon about **Trunk or Treat on October 27**. If you are interested in helping out or hosting a trunk, please contact [kids@herndonumc.org](mailto:kids@herndonumc.org).

Save the dates November 1 & 2 for **Brunswick Stew** sales by Herndon United Methodist Men. Get more connected with the men at breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Check the announcements or email [men@herndonumc.org](mailto:men@herndonumc.org) for details.

([bit.ly/HerndonGroups](https://bit.ly/HerndonGroups)). In the app, click **Connect >> All Open Groups >> View the list**. You can filter the results, join the group, or contact the group leader. You may also contact any staff member for information about groups that may be meaningful to you.

**Kids Club (age 3 - grade 6) | by Charity Meals**  
Kids Club is off to a great start this season! We have some new volunteers who have stepped up to give kids' ministry a try, and we are hoping to have more who are willing to lead once or twice throughout the year.

Thanks to the new additions to our kids' ministry team, we have been able to split the children into two separate age groups, which has made teaching much easier and more meaningful to both kids and leaders. If you are interested in learning more about how you can contribute to the children's ministry program at Herndon UMC, please contact Charity Meals at [kids@herndonumc.org](mailto:kids@herndonumc.org).

**Youth Group (grades 7-12)**



Herndon UMC's Youth have had a colorful start to the school year. There will be Parent vs. Youth Olympics and a visit to their friends at Fredericksburg UMC. Youth large group

**Purple "Food and Love" Bags**



Thank you who continue to provide food for LINK.

**The purple bags will be available again starting October 13 to be returned the week of November 10.**

**Where Two or More Gather**

Joining a group is a great way to connect at Herndon UMC. Find a list of all Herndon UMC groups in the app and on the website

returns Sunday, September 22. To stay up-to-date with what is happening for youth, contact Andrew Bowers, [youth@herndonumc.org](mailto:youth@herndonumc.org).

**YoPros** Small Group meets for dinner at 6 pm on Wednesdays. YoPro is short for young professionals. If you would like to learn more please contact Melissa Chávez, at [melissa@herndonumc.org](mailto:melissa@herndonumc.org).



**Top of the Hill**, Herndon UMCs retirees (pictured here at Virginia Kitchen) meet for lunch on the first Thursday of each month at Noon at Herndon UMC. Learn more or RSVP to Mary Burger at [topofthehill@herndonumc.org](mailto:topofthehill@herndonumc.org).

Herndon’s United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men offer a number and variety of opportunities to get connected in our church family. Contact [women@herndonumc.org](mailto:women@herndonumc.org) or [men@herndonumc.org](mailto:men@herndonumc.org) for more information.

## Some Notes from Leadership

The **Resource Management Team (RMT)** has been working to find a new Children’s Ministries Director and to conduct staff reviews. As we say farewell to Luis Gonzalez on September 8, the work is already underway to find a replacement for Luis that serves the needs of our music programs.

A special, Called Charge Conference was held on June 30 after the 10 am worship service. This Charge Conference approved salaries for pastors for the coming year and the 2024-25 fiscal year budget of \$820,281 (as compared to \$946,979 for FY 2023-24). This 2024-25 budget was approved with the Charge Conference recognizing the need to increase income more than \$45,000 over the year through intentional increase in building use and through stewardship.



Members who represented Herndon UMC and the Northern Virginia District shared their experiences from the Virginia Annual Conference at the Called Charge Conference in June.



The numbers below represent the start of the new fiscal year.

<b>Snapshot of Finances</b> <i>(fiscal year to date as of August 31)</i>	
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 62,022
Other Income	\$16,898
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 78,920</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 58,431</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 20,489</b>
<b>Total Assets</b> <i>(cash and investments)</i>	
	<b>\$ 576,209</b>
<b>Net Change</b> <i>(since February 29)</i>	<b>\$ 5,459</b>
<b>Mortgage Principal</b>	
	<b>\$ 1,488,842</b>

If you have questions about Herndon UMC finances, please feel free to contact Julie Albanus, Director of Business and Communications, [julie@herndonumc.org](mailto:julie@herndonumc.org).

RMT serves as our Council, Staff-Parish Relations, and Finance Team all in one. They meet monthly (on the second Monday). The RMT members include Michael Branson (chair), Pastor SeongJae Jo, Melissa Billman, Marcia Henderson, Madeline Hunt, Rachel King, Cathy McCranie, Al Meilus, Charlie Rothrock, Jim SeEVERS, and Jon Simons. Questions for RMT may be directed to [resourcemanagement@herndonumc.org](mailto:resourcemanagement@herndonumc.org).

The **Trustees** were busy over the summer.

Special thanks to Herndon UMC Preschool for supporting the new carpet in the preschool and hallways around the Sanctuary. This has led to a flurry of painting of hallways, around doors and windows. Thanks to Cathy McCranie for taking on the painting project.

A number of trees around the property were trimmed or removed (if dead) around the property. Additionally, there was emergency removal of dead tree limbs over the playgrounds.

The HVAC Unit that serves a number of classrooms along the hallway near Doe Fellowship Hall (rooms 106-110) has failed. A replacement has been ordered and will be installed when available. The cost of this new unit is \$21,000 that will be taken from the Trustees Maintenance Fund. This will bring the fund balance down to \$47,000.

You may have noted some work on the courtyards. The Sanctuary courtyard was cleaned up by Kim Via before the start of the Preschool school year. The Fellowship Hall courtyard has been an Eagle Scout project supervised by Cathy McCranie.

Just before Summer Musical Theatre Camp the new sound board was installed in Doe Fellowship Hall. There is also a new soundboard for the Sanctuary and to help address technical issues in worship, there are projects underway to build a new soundbooth for the whole team in the Sanctuary and to hardwire the screens in the Sanctuary. If you would like to help with these technology or

construction projects please contact the church office, [office@herndonumc.org](mailto:office@herndonumc.org).

The Trustees include Cathy McCranie (chair), Debbie Borden, Warren Cluff, Jim Delisio, Liz Hamrick, Aramis Lopez, Tim Knotts, Bob Weidlich, and Bill Odio. Trustees meet on the second Thursday of each month. Questions for Trustees may be directed to any member or [trustees@herndonumc.org](mailto:trustees@herndonumc.org). This email goes to the secretary and chair of Trustees.

The **Missions and Ministries Team (M&M)** helped coordinate the August Worship & Fellowship Ice Cream Social and set up the Missions and Ministries Fair. The Missions and Ministries Team meets monthly and fosters collaboration and community across generations, interests, and activities. The chair is Jim Seever and team members include a variety of staff and lay leaders. Contact the M&M by email at [missionsandministries@herndonumc.org](mailto:missionsandministries@herndonumc.org).

**Calendar and Connections**

The full calendar is in the app (**More >> Check the Calendar**) and at [herndonumc.org/calendar](http://herndonumc.org/calendar).



There are many ways to know what's going on. Visit [herndonumc.org](http://herndonumc.org), or check the **Herndon UMC app**. Follow or subscribe on social media.


**Office Hours** are officially Monday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm, and Fridays 9 am - Noon. Staff members work a variety of hours and places throughout the community. If you would like to

catch up with a staff member, it is best to reach out first, to arrange a time and place

The Herndon UMC Staff loves to hear from you! Please share your prayers, joys and concerns, and especially your faith stories. We are here to support you!

### Herndon UMC's Staff

<i>Senior Pastor</i> SeongJae Jo	<a href="mailto:seongjae@herndonumc.org">seongjae@herndonumc.org</a>
<i>Pastor</i> Pam Bentley	<a href="mailto:pam@herndonumc.org">pam@herndonumc.org</a>
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<i>Music, Ukuleles</i> Margaret Tobat	<a href="mailto:margaret@herndonumc.org">margaret@herndonumc.org</a>
<i>Organist</i> Vacant	
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