



Sharing the Ministry of Our Church

Dear Friends,

The Spirit of God is moving among us and there is so much to celebrate from the summer! A stellar Search Committee has been called. 35 Youth and Adults have had transforming experiences at a Work Camp. (see their stories inside!) Worship has been filled with wonderful music and enthusiastic participation. Boards and Committees have been planning. The warm glow of a fire and evening stars were savored during Holy Hospitality. The Children who attended the Ecumenical Bible School, Hometown Nazareth can assure us, "Nothing is impossible with God!"

This programmatic year is full of promising possibility!

"WELCOME HERE!"

Is a theme for September. To welcome a stranger, is to meet and to greet, and put a person at ease in unfamiliar surroundings. One can meet through tweeting or greet via face book but to receive an individual into your open, focused, attention is to offer them the great gift of your presence. In a world where loneliness and depression are pandemics, the church community offers the healing balm of inclusion and spiritual kinship. Our Judeo-Christian tradition declares hospitality to be a priority mandated by the Holy One. Jesus welcomes the disenfranchised, the children, the outcast, and the sinner to sit as honored guests at God's table of grace. One discipline for following the "footsteps of Jesus" is to welcome others as a spiritual practice, welcoming another person, as if you are welcoming Christ.

Here at The Evangelical Congregational Church, there is a place where you belong. Here there is a space at the Welcome Table set for you. Here is a sanctuary, a safe place to call home. Here is a company of friends that will

The Evangelical Congregational Church
Of Westboro, Massachusetts
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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laugh and weep with you, hold your hand, and abide.

WELCOME HERE! Welcome now to this time and place where "our faith is thousands of years old, but out THINKING IS NOT!" We are the UCC! United Church of Christ! Do you know someone that might like to be invited to such a place? Please invite a neighbor, a colleague, a stranger or someone you know to join us for worship on the 11th at our new family friendly worship hour 10am, followed by a special coffee hour.

WELCOME HERE! There are many opportunities to share your musical gifts. Come sing with us and Ring with us! Chancel Choir begins September 1st at 7:30pm under the talented direction of Curtis Richardson. Youth Choir (grades 3-8) begins September 15th 4:15-5pm with Curtis Richardson. The Parkman Bell Choir, (grades 3-8) begins September 15th at 5:00-5:45pm, with Jennifer Keeler. The Adult Bells, Festal Ringers, begin September 5th at 7:30 pm with Sue Menzel.

WELCOME HERE! There are many opportunities for ministry and mission together. The Sunday school is wiggling with excitement! We have a new Ministerial Intern to welcome! Confirmation is revving up for a new year, stay tuned!

The Psalmist wrote, "I was glad, when they said unto me, Let us go to the House of the Lord! " Let us rejoice and be glad as we share the good news that all are welcome here! See you at the Acorns, see you at the Farmer's Market, and see you in Church wearing your name tags!

Blessings,
Rev. Dirkje

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee, Interim Minister

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: SANCTUARY

PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Peter Wells,
Associate Conference Minister
MACUCC

WORSHIP FOLLOWED BY A SIMPLE
LUNCHEON BUFFET SERVED IN THE
VESTRY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
WORSHIP STARTS AT**

10:00 AM

New Church Office Hours

10 AM – 2 PM

Monday-Friday

**JOIN US FOR START-UP
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 11**

Our Theme is:

FOLLOWING IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS!

Come join with us on this Sacred Journey as we begin a New Year In Christ. Come and follow the Footsteps that lead to Peace, Joy, Reconciliation, Community and yes, even Heaven On Earth.

Our children are invited to come find and follow the footsteps placed in and around the church! We hope that you and your family will make a commitment to Walk on this Blessed Journey with us. Come, let us Follow Christ as we gather for worship, special music, ministry, mission and community!

Blessings to All! On Behalf of the Christian Education Committee,

Yours In Christ, Rev. Elaine

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereaved: Family of Kevin Phillips (friend of Clif Newton). The family of Joan Davenport. Dana Peterson and family on the loss of his father Ambrose Peterson. The family of Kris Nazzaro.

In Transition: Jack Hero at Beaumont; Richard Smith at Beaumont; Robin Tammik (Heidi Tammik Synnott's sister).

In Treatment: Olympia Fournarakis (friend of Jen Todd); Peggy McCaleb (Mary Ann Brayer's friend).

New Prayers: Nancy Dellaire (friend of Betty Barclay); Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation); Rev. Cindy Frado.

Continue prayers: Bob Rider (Nancy Reimann's Son); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's Mom); Donna and Tony Marge (friends of Serena Leiser); Joanne & Jim Gringas (friends of Kathy Todd); Monica Osborn; Debbie Weber (Richard Nichols' daughter); Joan Jacobs; Marie Murphy's daughter; Cindy (Kathy Todd's co-worker).

Westboro Health Care Center: Marion Holbrook; Bea Ladner.

Beaumont Nursing Home: John Hero, Louise Allen (Betty Simino's mother); Alice Tepper; Alba Kalenian; Gerry Green Jordan; Betty Millard

Whitney Place: Helen Gerden.

Celebrations:

•David Samson (son of David & Colleen) was married to Justin, his partner of many years.

•Anne Rutherford (Barbara Graf's daughter) is in remission.

•David McLeod's surgery was successful and the infection is gone; Jerry and Marilyn Lyle's 50th Wedding Anniversary; Ruthie (Annie Mason's co-worker) had successful heart surgery.

•A celebration of completion for phase one Parkman Chapel restoration: ceilings, walls, and pews were cleaned last week by a courageous crew of six... Sally "we're almost done" Petersen, Elaine "Mrs. Murphy's Oil Soap" Moore, Art "with the ladder that extended our reach" Sharkey, John "focus" Truesdell, his wife Joan "in the foyer", and our fearless, tireless leader Brad "Chandelier" Ridley. Anyone with wall painting expertise, please contact Brad Ridley.

Let us remember to pray for the Search Committee and all those who serve our church.

You can place prayer concerns on the church's email distribution list at

epayers@uccwestboro.org. To add or renew an ongoing concern, please call the church office 366-2000 or westboroucc@verizon.net.

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Pastoral Search Convention creates new Search Committee

According to the Church's By-Laws, the search for a new permanent pastor starts when the Moderator convenes the Pastoral Search Convention. The Convention, as the result of a By-Law change at the June 5 Annual Meeting, is comprised of the Cabinet, the Deacons and any at-large members who are appointed to the group. This assures a combination of members that reflect the breadth of Boards and Committees, the lay spiritual leadership of the church, and the broad spectrum of our membership. We were pleased to have both our pastor and associate pastor as active and interested attendees at our meetings.

The Convention met for the first time on May 24th to organize, set the process for nominating potential Search Committee members and to focus on the composition of a good search committee and the profile of a strong contributing member. The Convention was interested in a creating a committee that reflected the church family in as many ways as possible, including gender, age, years of membership, types of service to the church, spiritual interests, family composition, and other factors.

The Convention met for the second time on June 6 to consider nominations from the congregation and to nominate members on its own accord. Members in the congregations could express an interest in their own service on the Search Committee or nominate someone with whom they had a conversation and who understood and agreed to the time commitment.

The third meeting was held on June 20 to review and finalize the list of nominations and to begin the process of asking those who were nominated if they wished to serve on the Committee. The Convention completed its business in a fourth meeting held June 29 and had assembled a full Search Committee within a few days.

We are pleased to announce the following members of the Pastoral Search Committee: Linda Borglund, Jim Brown, Steve Fox, Barry Hackett, Serena Leiser, Brenda Lord, Sue Menzel, Ed Newton III, Ed Wong.

In its first meeting on August 1, the new Committee members spent a little time getting to know each other and outlining the early portion of the search process. Serena Leiser was elected chairperson of the Search Committee.

The Committee has begun working with the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC through contact with the Rev. Dr. Peter Wells, our Associate Conference Minister. He will be instrumental in the Committee's work in many ways, including spiritual leadership, the creation of materials and documentation needed to officially announce our opening and in helping interested UCC candidates in reaching out to us.

The Search Committee will report to the congregation on its progress in September and will begin the process of soliciting input and feedback in order to create a Profile of the church and determine our sense of the interests, experiences, and characteristics of a good candidate.

The very prayerful process that began with the Pastoral Search Convention has been handed off to the Pastoral Search Committee and we are grateful for the input and interest of those who helped us reach our goal and the energy and inspiration of those who are now in service in the search for a new permanent pastor.

Reporting on behalf of the Pastoral Search Convention, Steve Swets, Moderator

SUMMER WORSHIP & PASTORAL COVERAGE

We welcome back Rev. Dr. Dirkje Legerstee from a well deserved vacation. Rev. Elaine Gaetani will return from her August vacation time to preach Aug. 28th. Our former student minister, Carol Steinbrecher, part of the service with *Thee Six*, who will be blessing us with their voices during the service.

The Deacons encourage all to come to worship. With the help of fans the Sanctuary is a cool place to be, followed by cold ice tea and punch, and often times Marie Murphy's home baked treats, served in the Vestry. Come to worship, stay for refreshments, fellowship and the opportunity to purchase your grocery cards.

Remember, Aug. 28th will be the last Sunday the service will begin at 9:30 am. Beginning on Sept. 4th, we go to our new time of 10:00 am.

NAME CHANGE UNDER CONSIDERATION

There has been some discussion about changing the name of the church to drop the word "Evangelical." There is ample evidence that this portion of our name has connotations that it did not have when the name was first developed. There will be discussion and likely a vote on this at the special congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 2.

If you did not attend the Boards and Committees Annual Meeting on June 5 and have not had a chance to make your thoughts on the subject known, please email Steve Swets at saswets@aol.com. If you do not have email please call him at 508-737-5708.

FARMERS MARKET

DISMAS HOUSE FARMER'S MARKET

There is something new under the sun...fresh fruits, vegetables, home made breads, meats, huge brownies, fresh flowers, and even jewelry, crafts and clothing are available at the farmer's market on the lawn of our church every **Thursday from 1-6pm**. Our members and townies have really taken advantage of the offerings and having a place to enjoy each other's company. Folk music has added to the atmosphere. This joint endeavor with Dismas House, which has a long-standing relationship with Congregational Churches, has been a huge success. The mission of Dismas is to "facilitate the reconciliation of former prisoners to society, and society to former prisoners, through development of a supportive community ..."

DEACONS

BAPTISM SEMINARS

Baptism seminars are held after worship on Baptism Sundays usually scheduled the third Sunday of each month. Call the church office 366-2000 for forms. Contact a Deacon with questions.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Name Tags Help

Pretend for a minute that you are the Queen of England attending a celebration ceremony for the national soccer champions. It is a happy event and each player, coach, and trainer has brought their spouse or a friend to the event. Although you have never met them you must greet each guest warmly, by name. How do you do it?? Wait - someone has given each person a name tag! Problem solved. We may not be the Queen of England but each week we have guests at our church and our Ministers face the same dilemma. Or we want to introduce a new person but we can't quite remember their name. If we each wear our name tags and encourage guests to do the same, it will be much easier to be a welcoming church. Don't have a name tag? Let the office or one of the Deacons know. Pam Faustine

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT ED

Save the Dates for

Discovering Your Gifts, Vision and Call,

a 6 week adult education group that will meet
**Wednesdays from 6-8 PM
from October 5 - November 9.**

This group, led by Rev. Elaine Gaetani, is from the 4th book in the Doorway Series (The same series as "Meeting Jesus in the New Testament") and speaks to those who are concerned about the pain and despair in the world and looking to identify ways to contribute to positive change. It offers a process for discerning your vocation and a model for working with others who share your calling. It will help deepen your connection with the Divine, build caring community, and discern your purpose in life.

Cost of the program is \$7 and scholarships are available.

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

We hope you have all had a fun and restful summer! Here's a glimpse at what's been happening and what we have planned for the fall...

In July and August

Children enjoyed Sundae Sundays over the summer months. We had a more relaxed format with stories, discussions, art projects, indoor and outdoor games, and most importantly, ice cream!!! A special thanks to all of our summer teachers and helpers: Clif Newton, Nancy Cavanaugh, Kathy Reynolds, Kristy Allen, Amber Bock, Marilyn Lyle, Lindsay Hutchinson, Mary Ann Brayer and Beth Dapolite.

In September

The new church school year begins on September 11 with the theme "Walking in Jesus' Footsteps". Please join us to kick off the 2011/12 church school year, register your children and share a moment of reflection on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The focus of September's 3 week session will be getting to know each other, building a sense of community, sharing ideas, planning for special events and lot of team building fun and games.

We would love hear from all our families about what you want from Church School. If you have favorite Bible stories, mission project ideas, or thoughts on how you would like to participate in a church service...please let us know.

Teacher Schedule and Training

Please consider volunteering to help with our Church School program. In addition to our own new ideas, we have purchased a new curriculum that allows for online access to already prepared lesson plans based on the weekly lectionary. This year we will be scheduling volunteers by the month and already have training dates scheduled. Look below to see which month works best for you this Fall!

September – 3 weeks
October – 5 weeks (Sept. 29, 6:30 training)
November – 3 weeks (Oct. 27, 6:30 training)
December – 4 weeks (includes pageant)

Lead teachers and assistants are needed for each of the following 4 groups:
Kindergarten/1st grade

2nd and 3rd grade
4th and 5th grade
6th through 8th grade

Starting in November, all children in grades 4 and up will be invited to attend the Communion Service on the first Sunday of every Month. If you teach an older group you will not be teaching the first week of the session.

Board of Christian Education

Nancy Cavanaugh, Chair
Kathy Reynolds, Supt. Church School
Mary Ann Brayer,

Minutes Secretary & Chapel Leader

Beth Dapolite, Communication Secretary
Kristi Allen,

Christmas Pageant & Youth Groups

Clif Newton, Youth Groups
Amber Bock, Curriculum and Cabinet Rep.
Brian Johnson, Adult Education Brenda Lord,
Darvin Kapitz

MUSIC 's



YOUTH CHOIR/PARKMAN BELLS

Grades 3 thru 8

It's time to get your September calendar out and mark September 15, Thursday, as the first day that our music program will kick off the new church year for you. The Youth Choir will start at 4:15 with Curtis Richardson as your Director. From 5:00 until 5:45 the Parkman Bells will rehearse in the Bell Loft with Jen Keeler as your Director. You may ring and sing or chose just one. We are excited to see you after the summer break and excited to start making beautiful music to praise God. If you have any questions, please see Curtis Richardson or Sue Menzel after church.

FESTIVAL RINGERS

Brainstorming is what we do best in August, so we will start our year with a gathering at the Knutruds' house on Tuesday, August 30th at 6 pm, sharing laughs and summer stories, good food and finally setting our calendars through December. Our first rehearsal will be held in the Bell Loft on Tuesday, September 5th, from 7:30 until 9 pm.

MESSAGE FROM MYRA

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as Chairman of the Music Committee over this past year. As the summer comes to a close, I now turn over the chairmanship to the very capable hands of Mark Benton, who has been such an asset to our Committee.

To that end, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the dedicated members of this Committee who have provided such support and enthusiasm throughout their respective terms. Special thanks to outgoing member, Marcia Hoffman, for her three years of dedicated service—and a warm welcome to Kathie Wong, the newest member of our team. Ina Donahue, Pam Kapitz, Marion True, and I will continue to serve our terms under Mark's dynamic leadership. We are also appreciative of the support of our *ex officio members*—Directors of Music, Curtis Richardson and Sue Menzel; and Lynne Caldwell, Board of Deacons representative. Please know that we all welcome your feedback concerning the Music Ministry within our Church, whether it be suggestions or concerns. We hope you have enjoyed the music provided during this past church year, including the summer music which remains ongoing. Special thanks to those who have volunteered their time and talents this summer—Judy Ellis, Amanda and Lindsay Hutchinson, John Arnold, Mark Benton, Charlie Flood, Tom Erwin, Pam Kapitz, Brian, James, Curtis and Patrice Richardson, Jere Shea, and the members of "Thee Six"—of which I am delighted to be a part—Jen Keeler, Sue Menzel, Pam Kapitz, Carol Steinbrecher, and Kathy Todd.

As we prepare to begin a new church year, we encourage you to consider joining our musical family—whether in the Chancel Choir or the Festival Ringers, or your children's participation in the Youth Choirs. We would love to see our various choirs grow in numbers, which would enable us to present even more diverse music and programs. Rehearsals for The Chancel Choir are Thursdays from 7:30 to 9pm, beginning September 1st; Festival Ringers, Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9pm, beginning September 6th; and the Youth Choir/Parkman Bells, Thursday afternoons, beginning September 15th (see separate information from Sue Menzel).

Lastly, we are planning a wonderful musicale – "**Music 'n More...Talent Galore**" – produced by Jim and Linda Duncan and featuring talent church-wide and beyond – on **Saturday, October 22nd, at 7PM** in the Sanctuary. Please mark your calendars, as this promises to be a fun-filled evening of music and comedy combined. Monetary donations received will continue to support the Church's Music Ministry. Stay tuned for more information!

On behalf of all the members of the Music Committee, we thank you for your support and look forward to another year of inspirational music. With thanks and gratitude, Myra Appleby Chairman (Ret.)

LAY VISITATION

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our church has been blessed with a wonderful Prayer Shawl Ministry for several years. Many hands have created beautiful shawls using anything from a simple knit and purl stitch to more elaborate crochet stitches. As the shawls are created, the person knits many prayers and a lot of love into it. These prayers and all this love then surrounds the person who the shawl is given to. We have had many comments from recipients about the very special warmth they provide.

If you know of someone who could use the warmth of a prayer shawl please let us know. The person could be dealing with an illness or facing a challenge in their lives, or it could be someone who is homebound and could use some extra love and warmth. The shawls are kept by the Visitation Committee, and you can get one to bring to the person yourself, or someone from the committee would be happy to deliver it to them or go with you to deliver it.

If you would like to help make the prayer shawls, let us know and we can provide you with the simple instructions.

Call **Carolyn Bent** 508-393-7809 or **Serena Leiser** at 508-870-3242 (sleiser1@verizon.net) with questions, or to arrange for a prayer shawl to be given to someone. **Serena Leiser**

REACH OUT WITH THE VISITATION TEAM!

Do you know a member of our church who could use a little cheering up? Some times a

visit, a phone call, or a card can brighten the day of someone who is unable to get out and about or is facing a challenge in their life. Please let the Visitation Team know of anyone who you think would appreciate seeing a smiling face, hearing a friendly voice, or reading a cheerful card and we will take it from there. The Visitation Team works with the Pastors and Deacons to try and make sure that no one is forgotten.

You can call the church office and give the information on the person and it will be forwarded to the Visitation Team. You can also use the request cards in the pews to share prayer concerns or make visit or call requests! Or you can call **Serena Leiser** (508-870-3242) directly with your request. Other members of the Visitation Team are: **Marge Butcher, Linda Duncan, Carol Moore, Elaine Moore, Katherine Converse, and Carolyn Bent.**

You may also contact the Pastors or Deacons directly. All information is considered confidential and will only be shared with Deacons and Pastors as indicated by the individual making the request.

If you would like to join the Visitation Team or just help out with making visits, phone calls or sending cards, please let us know. The visits can be just as rewarding to the visitor as they are to the visited. Visits do not have to be long - just 15 minutes could really brighten someone's day.

TEACHING PARISH

OUR NEW STUDENT MINISTER

My name is Pedro S. Silva II and I have completed one third of my studies at Andover Newton Theological School. I arrived at ANTS in the summer of 2010 a few months after revealing to someone at work that I wanted to be a minister. It had taken almost thirty years for me to own that desire. At age six I found myself in a room explaining to the deacons of my church why I wanted to be baptized. As Baptists, children were not allowed to be baptized until they reached the age of accountability, which was 12 years old. However, I begged my mother to let me give my life to Christ before that time. She approached our new pastor with my request. He supported it, but told my mother that the deacons would have to agree. Since then I believed that one day I would be a minister.

Over the years, from that moment until I made my admission to my coworker, I have held a variety of jobs in a number of fields from soldier to salesman. In each of them I looked for the spiritual component that connected them to one another with anticipation that one day I would get "the call". People have frequently told me that they saw a minister in me and even though I felt it myself, I trusted that "the call" was not mine to give. There were times when I started to believe that I was avoiding the ministry and disguising my fear as "waiting on God". I still cannot promise that this was not the case. What I know for certain is that at this point in time I cannot see myself doing anything else.

Since graduating high school, I have lived in 8 states, traveled to several countries, and worked in at least 10 distinctly different work focuses and yet it seems that my role has always been the same. My title has never been a minister, but my heart has always been there. When I told my coworker that I wanted to be a minister I felt my heart fill up with joy. The next thought that entered my mind was, "If it feels this right to say it, imagine what it will feel like to actually do it. Were it not for the role of Jesus Christ in my life, I could have easily been drawn in or consumed by the environment that surrounded me as a young person. Were it not for God's strength being made perfect in weakness as it says in 2 Corinthians 12:9 the setbacks in my life would have held me back from ever applying to seminary. But God's grace is sufficient. I am grateful that I now find myself being guided into this service with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Westboro. I look forward to the mentorship and guidance of the staff and congregation and hope to serve to the best of my ability. Pedro

CAROL STEINBRECHER

Exciting news – Carol Steinbrecher, our student minister for the past three years will go before an Ecclesiastical Council, September 7th as the next step towards her ordination. Ecclesiastical Councils are called to examine candidates for their fitness for Christian Ministry. Delegates from church will be attending as voting members. If you would like more information on this exciting event, or about the Teaching Parish Committee, please contact Betty Barclay at 366-2193.

MISSIONS &

SOCIAL CONCERNS

THANK YOU

The Mission Committee wants to be sure we acknowledge the wonderful support given when we hosted the IHN homeless families the first week of July at the Methodist Church. Several members were away on vacation at the final planning, but Linda Crawford and Judy Powell did a great deal to get the week started buying supplies and checking with volunteers.

Thank you so much to the meal and overnight hosts! Marilyn and Jerry Lyle, Marie Murphy, Linda Birch, Kathy Leblanc, Doug and Bev Hall, Rich & Brenda Lord and girls, Serena Leiser, Art Sharkey, Mary Tabor, Nancy Gilbert, Marjet Schoen & son, Kathy Reynolds, Maryanne Brayer, Pam Faustine & her sister Andrea Ettinger, Kathy Todd and Linda Crawford. There were 5 families with children totaling 14 we fed and hosted!

Now the IHN is hoping they will be able to purchase a home that will be a permanent site, so prayers and donations are being accepted for that.

IHN UPDATE

I wanted to give you an update on "A Place to Call Home". To date we have received over \$15,000, with an additional \$10,000 pledged to come in within the next few weeks. \$25,000 raised in just over a month! Thank you to all who have donated!! We are truly grateful for your generosity and your willingness to help IHN secure a permanent home.

With regards to the house, as is no doubt typical with such matters, things have been delayed a little. We do expect the Purchase & Sales Agreement to be signed fairly soon (maybe as soon as next week). The new date for the closing has not been determined, but it will most likely be the end of September or very early October. (This is actually good news in that it gives us more time to raise funds.)

Lastly, I would like to share two important statistics with you....**75%** of the families you sheltered this year secured housing. And of those that secured housing since 2008, **93%** remain housed today. With your help IHN does make a difference!

Please keep our program and the families we serve in your prayers; and know that you are always in ours! ~Joanne

Joanne H. Alley

Director, IHN of Greater Worcester

(Please see "A Place to Call Home" insert in this issue of the Evangel.)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

FALL MEETING

Our program schedule traditionally begins in October, but this year we will have an informal program on Monday, **Sept. 12** to start planning for the Christmas Fair. Come and help us get a little bit of a head start on the Fair and hopefully reduce some of the last minute stress we have run into in the past. On **Oct. 3**, we will have our traditional Opening Fall Dinner hosted by the Board. This is a free dinner open to all women of the church, so mark your calendars now.

Donna Morgan, President

FALL MISSION

The Women's Fellowship will be including the CWS Hygiene Kits in their Fall meeting Mission contributions. These will help fill the very great need in several countries with the natural disasters and refugee camps for families fleeing violence in their countries. See a sample and the contents list on the Mission table in the vestry. Donations of filled bags can be brought to Women's Fellowship meeting or added to the bin in the Vestry. Donations can be made to Women's Fellowship to help with postage or items to fill bags.

For more details please call Marilyn Lyle.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

Pastor-Parish Relations Committees (PPRC) work to support and maintain open and healthy relationships between our pastors and the congregation. We seek to create an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust while encouraging constructive and caring communication.

Rev Dr Dirkje F. Legerstee's PPRC

Kris Knutrud 898-2051

Lynne Caldwell 366-7635
Linda Birch 870-9911
Dana Crawford 898-9527
Rev Elaine S Gaetani's PPRC
Elaine Gallo 366-7903
Elaine Moore 366-8585
Mary Taber 366-5123
George Reimann 435-9444
Jack Barry 978-779-5407

CHURCH LIBRARY

We have an excellent church library – stocked with many wonderful adult and children's books. Everyone is welcome to check out books at any time and keep them as long as you need to. Please use the sign-up sheet when checking out books. If you would like to donate an appropriate book to the Library, please leave it on a library shelf with a note that it's donated on it. Thank you.
Marie Murphy Church Librarian

STOP & SHOP and ROCHE BROS GROCERY CARD SALES – 2011 SUMMER HOURS

Goal: \$12,000 Year to Date: \$6698.50

Thanks to all our loyal, and new, grocery card purchasers we are 8.74% ahead of last year's pace so far this year. If we stay at this rate for all of 2011, then we will raise \$11,252 00 vs. the \$10,348 we raised in 2010, but still behind our goal of \$12,000. Although the Farmer's Market is boosting our revenue this summer, we will need to kick into high gear in the fall and winter to reach our goal. So keep eating and be sure to have a grocery card in your pocket before heading off to Stop & Shop or Roche Brothers.
Summer Hours: After worship each Sunday and at Kirkside Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-1pm.

Farmer's Market: From lawn of our Church each Thursday 1-6 PM

Delivery to your home: Any time, every day!! Just call us. We need strong sales throughout the summer. It's never an imposition to call us.. Thanks! **Sue Menzel** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen** 366-5169 sbpetersen4@gmail.com; **Nancy Quimby** 774-249-4431, nquimby11@charter.net

NOMINATING

Please call Rich Lord (508-366-3835) if you are interested in serving on a church board or committee.

PARISH LIFE

2011 – 2012 PROGRAMS

September 10 –

12:00 noon to 8:00 pm

Second All Church Barbecue

Achorn Acres 67 North Street Upton Home of Steve and Cathie Achorn
Features hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill, horse back rides, horse and cart rides, Bocci ball. Please bring a dish to share.

October 15 - Family Lasagna Supper .Kids are welcome to wear costumes (small prizes for costumes) Halloween craft for children
November 18 - Friday night Big Screen Movie with refreshments (movie t.b.a later)
December 18 - Second Annual Christmas Caroling – 4:00pm pizza in church vestry, 5:00pm to 7:00pm caroling at homes of our church shut-ins, 7:00pm meet back at church for Cocoa and treats
January 21, 2012 - Annual Adult Progressive Dinner
February - Sunday Pre Lent Pancake Lunch Held after church on Sunday
March 17 - St. Patrick Day Corned Beef and Cabbage supper
April 1 - Easter Egg Hunt behind Kirkside, (if available) (if rain, Vestry and Cribbery)
May 19 - Spring/Summer Game day Games such as volley ball, horseshoes, croquet
June ? - tentative Dessert for Children's Day picnic

Details will be posted on a monthly basis

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
NOW**

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Joanne Alley, Director of the Greater Worcester Interfaith Hospitality Network, sent a letter of thanks for our generous donation to their program, which helps give them the opportunity to continue their work of sheltering and assisting families who have no place to call home.

Thank you for opening your door to let us offer the opportunity of hosting to your community. It has been a pleasure working with the wonderful host families we found through your church. We are also honored to be able to give back a donation of \$25 per family and we are looking forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely, Petya Miteva and the EF Team

My Dear Faithful Friends,

As many of you are aware, my great-nephew CJ Harris has been on the prayer list literally for years. Currently he is well enough to start college in a week or so! He will still have to come to Children's for chemo some, but what a change since the latest crisis last summer! Thank you for all your prayers and concern over the years. It has meant so much and thank you God for answering them in the positive. Blessings, Marge

LOST AND FOUND

Missing: the step stool which is stored on the altar. It is used by the "vertically challenged" Deacons to set the Hymn Boards. Please return!

Still Lost: Wooden salad bowl brought to the all church family picnic in June. It has special sentimental value to its owner. If found, please call Linda Birch at 870-9011 so it can be picked up and returned to its owner.

AROUND THE CHURCH

PROPERTIES TASK FORCE

The committee has been busy working to gather additional input and information to present to the congregation at a special meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 2 after the

service to vote on the sale of 7 Church Street or Kirkside. The work reflects comments and input made at the June 5 Boards and Committees Annual Meeting.

The committee has engaged the services of a third realtor to help assess a realistic potential sales price for Kirkside, the more difficult of the two buildings to analyze. In addition, the committee has contracted with an architect who will draft a recommendation for use and refurbishing of the space at 7 Church Street to help the congregation understand the opportunities and realistic costs of converting the space for office and meeting use in preparation for the vote on October 2. Part of this commission is seeing how we might be able to realize the goal of keeping the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center as a tenant and mission partner of the Church.

Plans are being formed to share the new information with the congregation in advance of the special meeting in order to allow time to review it and ask questions before the vote.

The committee is comprised of Bob Brown, Beth Dapolite, Pam Faustine, Brad Ridley, Steve Swets, Jack Wilson and Jen Arnold who continues to weigh in with thoughtful comments by email while pursuing her new career in communications in Washington, DC.

MOVING, NEW PHONE, ETC?

If you move, change your phone or email address, please let the church office know. We don't want to lose touch with you.

SUNDAY GREETERS

Please call **Linda Birch** 870-9911 or sign up after the worship on the greeter calendar.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like to grace our Chancel with flowers on a Sunday morning, please sign the flower chart in the Vestry. Flowers are given in memory of, in honor of, or for a special occasion. Please call **Chris Mosher** 366-2250 or **Nancy Gage** 366-9266 with questions.

HOSPITALITY

If you would like to be added to this committee contact **Betty Gray** 366-1039. Participation involves cooking and delivering a meal to a family or individual, on occasion. Because we are many, no one is inundated with requests.

AUDIO VISUAL REQUESTS

Please let **Tom & Donna Morgan** 366-0358 know at least one week in advance if you have AV requests of church services or events.

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR

If you would like to host, please sign-up in the Vestry or call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Submissions for Sunday's bulletins must be received by 10 AM the preceding Wednesday.

EVANGEL DEADLINE

THE EVANGEL - DEADLINE

The deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 21

Publication is Wednesday, Sept. 28

Copy received before deadline is appreciated!

GET YOUR EVANGEL ON-LINE

Many people are now receiving their *Evangel* digitally. This saves the church money on paper, printing and postage. If you would like to give it a try, please email us at brossi6@verizon.net. If you try it and change your mind, just let us know and we will again mail you a copy.

CHURCH WEBSITE

If you have church related information you would like posted on the church website, send it in word to webmaster@uccwestboro.org. If you are interested in helping work on the website or have questions, call **Doug Wales** at 870-0086.

THE WIDER CHURCH

MACUCC Super Saturday

Saturday, October 1 - 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Massachusetts Bay Community College
50 Oakland Street, Wellesley Hills, MA**

Highlights of this fall's event:

Worship The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, Visiting Professor of Worship and Preaching at Andover Newton Theological School, will lead the opening worship as well as a mid-day participatory worship service which will focus on how our passionate pursuit of faith practices can shape both our worship and congregational life.

Workshops A total of 29 workshops are being offered related to various aspects of church life, mission and ministry. **Spiritual Spa** An opportunity to engage in a variety of spiritual practices while in community.

The Meeting Place A chance to stop and chat with representatives of a number of ministries from different settings of the church.

Super Saturday Store A place to purchase United Church of Christ logo and SERRV items.

ASSABET VALLEY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

The AVPCC in Westborough is offering a round of new groups in September. If you are interested in a daytime or evening divorce support group or a grief and loss group, both running for 10 weeks, or a monthly women's group to run all year, please call Mary Table at 508-366-4000 ext 3, at the center.

TOWNWIDE 9/11 EVENT

Plans are underway for the observance of the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

- At 8:46 am, all church bells in Westborough will ring
- At 3 pm luminaries will be lit on the Westborough High School athletic field
- At 4 pm reading the names of victims begins. (In case of rain the ceremony will be in the high school auditorium.
- 7 pm an interfaith service
- The Interfaith Clergy are collecting new and slightly used shoes to donate to the organization Soles for Souls. We hope to collect 3,000 pairs as a memorial to the 3,000 souls lost on 9/11/2001. Look for collection boxes around the church.

- Many thanks to Donna Morgan for the graphics and Lynne Caldwell for being collection supervisor. Please do your part to help others have shoes to wear, and as a way of remembering those who are no longer with us. Any questions, please contact Lynne Caldwell, Rev. Elaine or Rev. Dirkje.

COMMUNITY CHORUS

Westborough Community Chorus, Inc. Annual
YARD – BAKE – BOOK SALE

When: Saturday, September 17, 9am – 2pm
(Rain date Sept. 24).

Where: Harvey School Bldg. 20 Phillips St.

STORIES FROM THE YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE KEANSBURG, NJ WORK CAMP (JULY 10-16)

Austin Adams

My resident was an elderly woman named Billy. She needed us to repaint the interior of her house for her. She was very nice and appreciative of the work we were doing. My entire crew worked hard on the painting in Billy's house and we ended up getting the work done on Wednesday. She was so happy with the new paint. It really improved the looks of the whole interior and my crew was glad to have made Billy's house look so much nicer. The next day (Thursday) we were reassigned to work on another house. The new resident was named Mark. He had trouble walking around and felt unsafe on his rickety front steps. We replaced the steps and cleaned out the area around his trailer. We also added a railing on his back steps so he could be safe. He was very grateful not only for the steps, but for his great looking garden and his new railing, and he said he feels so much better when he uses his new steps. It felt great to have improved his life like that, as well as brighten up the looks of his trailer.

Overall I had a great experience at work camp. I was very glad for the opportunity to help those in need with improving their homes. It is an experience I will never forget and one I will definitely participate in again next year.

Allison Arpante

Keansburg, New Jersey was my third and favorite work camp thus far. The theme of the 2011 Group Work camp was "Connect", but we also focused a lot on the word "Remain". All throughout the week we were asked to personally reflect and think about how we remain for God. I really liked this theme because I found it easy to relate to. In tough times where we ourselves are looking for help from God we can

sometimes lose faith as well as patience when our prayers go on unanswered. This week taught us to remain in God and to keep faith in him while we are just waiting, because he will always be there for us.

This year I was placed on an amazing crew with two boys and two other girls who worked harder and harder every day. We all bonded with each other as well as our resident Eleanor. Eleanor was so kind to all of us and shared many of her life lessons with us that really stuck with everyone. Eleanor lives alone with her Boston terrier named Buddy. Michelle, Eleanor's daughter-in-law would stop over every day to visit with us and see how everything was going. She was like a second resident. Michelle talked with us and got to know everyone on our crew. At the end of the week, she brought us all delicious cupcakes from a local bakery to show their appreciation. My crews' job was interior and exterior painting. A lot of scraping had to be done and took up most of the week but we managed to get the whole job done by the end of the week. Our gift to our resident was a framed picture of all of us, including Buddy, with room around it to write a message to her. Before we left Eleanor asked us all to write down our addresses so that she could send us all a Christmas card. Not only did I enjoy my crew but as always I enjoyed the company of each and every one who came from Westborough. Everyone shared at devotions and participated in all the work camp has to offer.

Kevin Bock

On the second day that we were working with our resident, Rose, we were a little late to the work site. We had needed to make a quick stop at Home Depot to purchase some supplies that we needed in order to complete our project. Once we were finally at our job site, we were quick to unload the supplies we needed to work, and in our haste we didn't even look at the front of the house. Once we finished unloading we turned around and noticed our resident was waiting in the front of her house, behind the screen door.

Rose was wheelchair bound and hadn't been able to get out of her house for some time, and struggled to move around even a little. This made the fact that she had moved to the door and waited for us that much nicer. Once we made our way up to the door and said hello, she was happy to see us, and hear about our progress. She was eager to hear about what it was like in our home towns, or at the High school. She had gone out of her way to welcome us to the job site, and that small act of welcome and kindness made our week working with her that much nicer.

Amanda Borglund

This year was very different for me. Being one of the oldest in the group, I wanted to help guide the underclassmen and be a leader. I love going to work camp, but as you get older, your role changes.

When we come back from work camp, we show the congregation how fun it was.

But it's not only about having fun, it's about doing God's work, and becoming closer to him. I already feel that God and I are very close.

Every day we praise God with song and dancing and scriptures. But then it's off to our worksite with our crew. My crew this year was wonderful. They were very open and fun, and although we changed worksites, we still bonded and had fun. Going back to the school is then where you hang out with your youth group. I'm very introverted when it comes to people I only know very little about. It also felt weird how the next time if I go, I will be a college student. I loved every minute of work camp though. I hope to go back next year, and have another great time.

Linda Borglund AKA Lady Bird

This year's work camp we went to Keansburg New Jersey. My resident's name was William Burket. He wrote a book on the history of Union Beach and that was where we were working on his house. I had a crew of five kids-two of them were from the New Jersey area, one was from Connecticut, and one was from North Carolina.

This was the first year that I have been going to work camp that Mr. Sharkey did not come, so at first I was not sure who was going to be in charge, but as the week went on, all of us adults stepped up and everything went very well.

During work camp we have program in the morning and at night, and this year like last year the work camp group had a food drive. This year's goal was to have 4,000 cans of food and if we collected 4,000 or more then one of the red shirts would receive a Mohawk haircut. His name was Dan and he was the one to receive the Mohawk. By Thursday we achieved our goal and it was announced that he would get the haircut on Friday morning. Being the professional that I am, I volunteered to give the Mohawk to Dan. On Thursday night, they let me know that I would be giving Dan the haircut on Friday morning before we all went off to our work sites. Friday morning came and as I am sitting at breakfast, I started to think about what I was about to do and realized I had to do it in front of 400 people. I thought I sure have a big mouth. I did not tell our kids so as to surprise them. They were all excited when they found out that I was giving the hair cut. It was a lot of fun giving the haircut in front of all the camp.

Work camp this year was hot just like up here in New England. The worst part about it was that we had no A/C in our room and no screens on our windows. But I can tell you the girls that were in our room were the best. I never heard anyone complain that it was too hot. Everyone just dealt with it and moved on.

So here I am now looking forward to next year already. I can't wait to see what is in store for the trip to West Virginia.

Woo hoo hoo here we go again, off to work camp. I would like to thank everyone who supports us every year. It is a very full feeling project that we do and I love going. So thank you.

Melanie Borglund

Keansburg, NJ was my second work camp. And let me just say, I had an absolute BLAST. This was the best work camp so far. It was so much fun and I made so many new friends. When we met our crew members I was a little nervous. But I quickly realized I had no reason to be. I only had three other crew mates, which is small for a crew. But they were so amazing to work with. My crew leader was just as awesome. Her name is Sarah and she's from Maryland. She grew up in Minnesota and is now a pastor at the Prince of Peace church. I was a little iffy about having a crew leader that was a pastor but throughout the week I almost forgot that she was! Sarah was so much fun and she didn't try to push us into praising God 24/7 or being really religious during our work day devotions. She let me and my crew mates have a lot of fun but still made sure we were on task and working hard. She definitely made my work camp experience so much better.

On my crew I had another girl, Meg, and two boys Tom and Lee. Meg, my fellow female (we called each other that all week), is from Belford, NJ about ten minutes outside of Keansburg. She is going to be a senior in high school this coming year. Tom is from upstate New York. He lives in a little town called Canandaigua and he is 19. He's going to school in the fall for music. He plays the drums in a band that plays modern religious music. Lee is from North Carolina. He works as a lifeguard at his local YMCA. As you can see, my crew was made up of probably the 5 most random people at work camp 2011. I didn't think any of us would get along and we would have nothing in common. It turns out we had the best time and we all became the bestest of friends.

Anyways, we ended up having to paint the entire interior of a house. The first night we met we got a piece of paper that told us about the house and what to be careful about. It only said one thing: six dogs, five cats. Immediately my mind started to think "what does their house look like with all of those animals running around everywhere?!" Well the next day we headed over to Carol and Bob's house. We took the first steps inside, and the house was unbelievably clean! Carol turned out to be an extremely nice person. She did suffer from anxiety and depression but she took care of her house and animals. Bob is her husband and he just tried to take care of Carol the best he could.

Unfortunately we could only spend 3 days at their house because they were going away for Thursday

and Friday. We finished their house anyways and moved on to help another crew. At the second site, we had to paint one side of the exterior of a house. We finished by noon time on Friday so my crew and I was able to head to the beach and hang out for the rest of the day. All in all, I had an amazing time with my crew and my residents. I'm still talking to my crew every day and we plan to have a reunion sometime next year. I cannot wait for next year and hope it is just as fun!

Courtney Cochran

My crew was assigned to a resident and her son. Her son was about to have a surgery that would leave him wheelchair bound, so my crew was tasked with building a wheelchair ramp. It was eight feet one way with a platform in the middle and then sixteen feet of ramp the opposite direction. It was a very time consuming project and we ended up staying late Friday, but without the help of our blue shirt and our fearless crew leader we would never have finished at all.

We gave our resident a picture of our crew, her and her son in a frame and we also gave her another frame to put the pictures of a crew she had had three years ago. She joined us each day for devotions, bought us lunch one day and was very grateful and caring. Besides the ramp, we also rebuilt her porch stairs and she was very pleased when she stepped on the new ones and they did not sink down like the old ones. My crew worked well together and hopefully managed to make our resident's son's recovery process a little smoother. I learned many useful carpentry skills and was amazed by the faith our resident had. It was a productive and faith filled week that flew by and I had a great time while being productive and taking some time to reflect upon my relationship with God.

Elena Cochran

I kept hearing from the returning work campers in my youth group that every year of work camp gets better and better. After my amazing first trip to Cornwall, I could not imagine Keansburg topping my past experience but it indeed did surpass my expectations. I was assigned to a wonderful double crew and all of our personalities clicked the first day we met. Even though we were all from different states, were involved in different activities and were different ages, we were all commonly unified by our faith and our desire to give our time to helping a family that week. Our job was to paint the outside of our resident's two story house and our other crew would be painting the entire inside.

My resident family was comprised of a middle-aged woman named Lisa and her eleven year old adorable tomboy daughter, Channing. I really enjoyed my resident family because they were so involved in our work the entire week. Lisa was

always supplying us with drinks and popsicles, and was always around chatting with one of us. Channing followed us all around and was always there to help paint or to make us smile with her insightful comments and comical stories. It was also very inspiring and moving for me when towards the middle of the week, Lisa shared some personal stories about her life and her own experience with God. We learned that within the past six years she had lost her husband suddenly and then shortly after was diagnosed with breast cancer. To make matters even worse, during surgery to remove the cancer, the doctors also diagnosed her with stage four kidney failure. She is now currently going through dialysis multiple times a week. I was inspired by her openness and willingness to share her personal struggles with all of us, but what impressed me most was the strength in her voice as she talked. She explained that God has been with her the entire time and that she owes everything to him as He is her rock. I was very blessed to meet my resident family as I learned many important things from them that week.

Another reason why this trip was so enjoyable was because of the time spent at the school, during evening program and during devotions with our youth group. There was a noticeable amount of energy this year amongst all of the work campers, and there was a pure excitement about spending a week not only doing God's work but also about taking the time to become closer to God and to connect with Him. My personal connection with God grew during that week and I also received the tools to help continue growing my individual connection with God in my everyday life.

Overall, I had a truly wonderful experience yet again that I will forever remember and I can't wait until next year's trip because I hear that it will be even better.

Nicole DeMichele

On the way to Keansburg NJ, I was reminiscing on all of the experiences that I had during my previous, and first, year at work camp. I thought about my crew, the food, the school, and the work camp as a whole from last year and thought to myself "this year is going to be so much better!" And even though a huge life-changing event took place while I was away, the 2011 work camp still came out on top. The first night there was an unspoken tension in the air because everyone was nervous, excited, or just downright afraid to meet their crew (whom they would be spending most of the week with). As everyone parted from the large group at the Sunday evening program and went to find the number of their crews, I admit I was a little nervous too. I thought maybe my crew wouldn't be good at talking and things would be quiet and awkward, or maybe everyone would be way too

energetic for my liking and I wouldn't be able to get a break; but as everyone in my crew began to get to know one another, we realized that we all meshed really well. What a relief!

That night after everyone settled down, we tried to get used to our new air mattresses which were strategically placed in the classroom along with school desks and other things. And before we knew it a deep bellowing voice came over the school intercom in the morning saying "wakey wakey work campers!" which never failed to be followed by an upbeat and somewhat annoying song. Monday had begun like any other day, and I went off to the morning program after breakfast with all of my tools. I was ready to get to work! When the morning program was over, we hopped in the van and drove less than two minutes down the road to our resident's house. When we pulled in and went to the door, our resident, Kelly, and her daughter, Samantha, were there to greet us all. We didn't waste any time. Kelly showed us what needed to be done and we got to it. Within the first day, we finished the first coat of paint in the master bathroom and more than half of a bedroom. We were all so proud of how our work was coming along that we cleaned up a little early and got to know each other better by talking. Once three o'clock rolled around, we all piled back into the van and drove back to the school. I walked back to the room, kicked my shoes off, and got my things ready for the shower...which ended up being scorching hot!

After I got back to the room, free of paint and sweat, I was discussing my work day with Mel and McKayla when I got called out by Linda B. I yelled "what did I do now?" but upon walking into the hall I was filled with an overwhelming sense of emotion. Linda softly placed her hand on my back and began comforting me while telling me that my Dad was on the phone and had some news for me. The possibilities of what could have gone wrong were endless and ran through my head so fast I felt like I couldn't breathe. When my Dad finally said, "we have some bad news". I knew it was about my Grandma, and his next statement reassured what I was thinking. He said "Gramma passed away this morning". Before I even knew what to say or do I was in the comforting arms of Linda, and a few seconds later, the arms of my two best friends. Once I had fully understood the words that my father said and I hung up the phone, I wasn't sure what was more overwhelming; the shock of the news or the amount of empathy that I felt coming from others. I was given the choice to leave that night or to stay until Thursday and the decision was easier than I thought. Without even weighing the possibilities, I knew I was going to stay as long as I could, because my Gram would have wanted me to.

The next few days were full of hard work and excitement which helped me push right through the week. I felt that many offered their sympathy towards me whether it was in the form of kind words or keeping me smiling throughout the week. A few wonderful people even offered to drive me all the way back home to Westborough so that my parents didn't have to. Having a tremendous amount of people that all knew what had happened made coping with the situation that much easier. The group and my crew kept my spirits high all week and I went home without any regret in my mind. By the end of the work day on Thursday, my crew had finished all of the things on the list except for a small piece of weather stripping for the door (which would take about 10 minutes). I was so relieved that we got almost everything done. The one thing that I didn't want to happen was for my crew to be down a member and scrambling to get their job done. On Thursday, as I said my goodbyes to my resident, her daughter, and my crew, I realized that even through the unfortunate event of my Gram passing away, I had a great week.

After dinner on Thursday night, I got all my stuff together and headed down towards the main entrance where a ton of people from our group had gathered to say bye and send me on my way. The kindness from everyone was amazing, and made my departure a lot easier. Although I received bad news at the beginning of the week and had to leave a day early this year's work camp was the best yet because of all of the kind people that reached out to my family and me in a difficult time. Work Camp in Keansburg, NJ will be forever engrained in my heart.

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