## PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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# PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

**Prayer** 

**Prelude** 

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Charles Callahan

#### \*Call to Worship

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

Let us remember God's marvelous works.

Surely God has saved us in difficult times. How can we forget God's guiding hand?

When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged, God helps us turn the evil to good.

We need not be afraid whatever happens. We are in God's care wherever we go.

Sing the praises of God, our strength. Know that God is majestic and holy.

How great is God's mercy for all who worship! We sense among us God's kindness and patience.

\*Hymn #701

"God Is Here!"

#### Call to Confession

## **Prayer of Confession**

We are mindful that each time we come into your presence how willing you are to forgive seventy times seven. Yet when people betray us we bear grudges and think ill of them. We are quick to anger when we feel we've been wronged. We do not hasten to seek reconciliation even when we would rather things were less stressful and tense. Forgive us when we hesitate to emulate your example and help us to seek the peace Christ taught us to practice. Amen.

#### **Time of Personal Confession**

#### Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Exodus 14:19

Exodus 14:19 – 31 (NRSV p. 53 – 54; LP p. 106 – 107) Matthew 18:21 – 35 (NRSV p. 800; LP p. 1537 – 1538)

#### Children's Sermon

\*Hymn

"Go Down Moses"



- 4 When they had reached the other shore, let my people go, they let the song of triumph soar, let my people go. Refrain
- 5 Lord, help us all from bondage flee, let my people go, and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go. Refrain

Sermon

"Forgiveness"

**Senior Choir** 

"Wade in the Water"

arr. Mark Hayes

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Call to Offering**

Offertory

"Amazing Grace"

James Boeringer

\*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

We honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. Amen.

\*Hymn #486

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

\*Benediction

**Postlude** 

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

South African

Today's altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Grace Fox by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hoffman.

Today's bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Darlene's father, William P. Parker, Jr., by Rick and Darlene Jones.

<sup>\*</sup>All who are able, please stand.

#### Mission Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Our task is to proclaim the Living Word of God, which empowers us to care for and share with our community and the world.

#### Vision Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Serving the glorious God, claimed by Jesus, and inspired by scripture, honoring our history, with renewed commitment we will reach out to our community and the world through worship, spirit enriching programs, and outreaching mission.

# ... Things of Interest to Our Palm Schwenkfelder Family...

## This week, please keep in your daily prayers:

Donald Long, Jen Fries, Brad Hoffman, Vera Boykin, Richard Hoffman, Clark Schultz, Bryan Schwoyer, Jean Gentry, Doris Masemore, Wanda Gentry, Charlie Krauss, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Vern Weller, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Barbara Kirwin, Karen Freed, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, Betty Pope. Please also keep in your prayers the men and women serving in the United States Military. This month from our Schwenkfelder Prayer list we uplift the Board of Christian Education.

#### Gedächtnistag

Learn more about our Schwenkfelder heritage on Gedächtnistag Sunday, September 21st. Everyone is welcome to attend the combined Sunday school session, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Allen Viehmeyer, Associate Director of Research at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, will lead a discussion for adults and older youth on the question, "Why did the Schwenkfelders leave their homeland?" There will also be a lesson and activity for the children on this subject. The traditional bread and apple butter will be served at the conclusion of the hour.

## **Combined Sunday School**

On September 21<sup>st</sup> there will be no Opening Devotions. You may go directly to the Social Hall for the Day of Remembrance combined Sunday school class. There is a lesson and activity planned for the youth.

## **Bible Study**

Was 1 Samuel 16:7 a memory verse in your Sunday School? This week, the online Bible Study encounters that famous verse in its natural context. Take part in the discussion by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

## **Sunday School Teachers Meeting**

Today after worship, all youth Sunday school teachers please meet in the Library to go over upcoming events.

#### Children's Church

Children's church has started up for the new school year. After the children's sermon, all children from 4 years of age thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited upstairs to participate. Parent pick up is upstairs in the children's church room. A snack is provided, so please advise the leader if your child has food allergies or food restrictions.

## Children's Church Sign-ups

A sign-up sheet is posted on the wall outside of the church office. Please consider helping out with this very important ministry. If you would like to try it out for the first time, we can sign you up with another adult. Please see Barb Master if you have any questions.

#### Snack Donations for Children's Church

It's time to stock up on some tasty snacks. Please drop off snacks in the Narthex. Favorites: popcorn, gold fish crackers, pretzels, fruit snacks, frosted animal crackers.

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:19 We are continuing our acts of kindness punch card program for our youth members. You may begin at any time to recognize an act of kindness being carried out by our youth. Together we can help shape Christian behaviors that will last a lifetime.

#### **Sunday School Food Tower**

Let's have a little fun while we collect food for our local food pantry! For the next 3 Sundays we are calling on all youth to bring in food items to their classroom to build a food tower. Watch your tower grow each week. **During Opening Devotions** on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, each class will get their picture taken with their tower and then bring all the food items into the Sanctuary. All youth and all teachers, please be at Opening Devotions on that day!

#### **Youth Food Drive**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the youth at Redner's. Thank you to the youth and parents who came out to help collect donations.

## **Open Link Delivery**

Help is needed on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm to deliver the Harvest Home food collection to Open Link. If you can help, contact Barb Master at 610-295-2190 or sign up at the Open Link collection table in the Narthex. All participating youth will receive 5 card punches.

## **Younger Youth Fall Event**

If you are in  $4^{th}$  grade or younger, join us on Sunday, October  $12^{th}$  after worship in the social hall for pumpkin painting and seed cooking. Pumpkins and lunch will be provided. Wear your Halloween costume! Parents do not have to stay, but we are looking for 2 additional adults to help with the event. Kids need to be signed up by Sunday, October  $5^{th}$  so the correct amount of supplies can be purchased. Please see the flyer in the Narthex for more details.

#### **Older Youth Fall Event**

If you are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or above, join us on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Wilcox Farms for 8 miles of corn maze trails, followed by a sleep over at Palm Church! Bring your flashlight, snacks, and sleep items. We are looking for 2 additional chaperones and we are asking that no younger children attend. Please see the flyer in the Narthex for details.

#### **Nursery**

When there is no one available to supervise the nursery, parents are welcome to use the nursery but are responsible for their children. If anyone is interested in providing child supervision, please contact Gregg Hoffman.

#### Children's Choir

Attention, past and potential Children's Choir members!! Whether you are a former member or someone looking to join our enthusiastic group, the new season is here! We practice every Wednesday in the Adult Sunday School classroom from 5:30-6:00. Our first performance will be Sunday, October  $12^{th}$ . Again this year there will only be ONE children's choir. Come on out and join in the fun!

#### **Junior Bells**

The junior bell choir is looking for a few new ringers for the 2014 - 2015 season. Children in grades 2-12 are welcome to come out and join us. We start practices promptly at 6:00 on Wednesday evenings and play in church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. No previous musical experience is required. Contact Beth Croll (betheroll@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

PA State Senate Recognizes Schwenkfelder Day of Remembrance On Wednesday, September 24th, at 11:00 am in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg, a Schwenkfelder Thanksgiving Day of Remembrance Resolution will be introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate, to be adopted by unanimous consent on the floor of the Senate. Sen. David Argall (29<sup>th</sup>) – a Schwenkfelder descendant – is sponsoring this legislation with cosponsors Sen. Bob Mensch (24th), Sen. John Rafferty (44th), Sen. Daylin Leach (17th), and Sen. Anthony Williams (8th). Prior to adoption of the resolution, the Senate session will open with a prayer from guest Chaplain of the day, Rev. Dr. David McKinley, Senior Pastor of Central Schwenkfelder Church and currently the Conference Minister of The Schwenkfelder Church. Church members and others will be attending with Rev. McKinley and will be meeting the Senators for lunch following the morning session. Copies of the resolution will be put into final form with a nice folder for display, with additional copies printed so that each one of the churches will have a copy. A limited number of people will be able to attend the session in the Senate with a luncheon and a tour of the Capitol Building. To reserve a space, call Julie Apple at the Central Schwenkfelder Church office by Friday, September 19th. 610 – 584 – 4480.

## **Endowment for Continuing Education**

The Palm Schwenkfelder Church family extends its congratulations to Christopher Mundy, the recipient of our 2014 Endowment for Continuing Education Scholarship award. Christopher is enrolled in a four year program at the University of Delaware Honors College and will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in the field of Chemical Engineering. He is a graduate of Upper Perkiomen High School and ranked fourth in a senior class of 263 students. Christopher is a past recipient of the American Chemistry Society award and was a member of the Technology Student Association and the National Honor Society. He also served as the captain of his high school's soccer team and has participated at Palm Schwenkfelder Church with the youth group, bell choir, and the Men of Palm Chicken Barbecue. Christopher's future goals include using his background in chemical engineering in the development of alternative energy sources! Since 1997 – 98, The Endowment of Continuing Education scholarship has been awarded to 18 members of our church. Thank you to all who have supported our students through annual giving and estate planning. The future of this program depends upon your generosity. To learn more about the Endowment for Continuing Education, please contact the church office or any member of the endowment committee. Committee members include Kathy Bieler, Carol Carlin-Woodward, Anne Goda, Tom Long, and Emily Ross.

#### A Fresh Take on the School of Christ

Our upcoming School of Christ will take place on Sunday afternoon October 19, 2014. The theme will be "Faith Journeys", and this gathering will help us recognize where and how the Holy Spirit has been with us in our individual lives. Schwenckfeld believed that sharing these experiences in small groups helped to nurture believers. We hope that, through small-group sharing, believers will be more aware of God's presence, grow stronger in faith, and become more at ease in sharing with non-believers. Mark your calendar and look for more information in the next newsletter.

## Mark your Calendar! Ladies' Aid Annual Harvest Dinner Buffet

The annual Ladies' Aid Harvest Dinner Buffet is scheduled for October 4, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Please plan to join us for a delicious dinner featuring roast beef and turkey and all the trimmings. Price is \$12.00 for adults--\$6.00 for children 6 to 12—and free for children under 6. We need your help with desserts! (Please) Since Schwenkfelders are famous for delicious homemade baked goods, it is our hope that you will consider donating an item or two. Fancy cakes, pies, cookies and cupcakes are always popular items for the dessert table. Thank you in advance for helping us to make this our best dinner ever! Hope to see you there! We will not be having a bake sale table at the dinner this year. We are saving those goodies for our Election Day bake sale on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Neighbors in Need**

On Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be receiving the annual Neighbors in Need Special Offering on behalf of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This year's theme is 'Imagining' and focuses on literacy, and educational, initiatives. For more information visit ucc.org/nin, or see a member of the Mission Board. We thank you for your prayerful consideration of this offering.

#### Welcome Back, Pastor Nick!

Join with your church family for a Covered Dish dinner on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate Pastor Nick's return. Bring your favorite hot dish, salad or dessert to share. Dinner will begin at 5:00pm. After dinner, Pastor Nick will regale us with pictures and stories from his time of sabbatical. It's sure to be fun! Hope to see you there!

## **Electronics Recycling Day**

Be environmentally friendly. Start thinking about what old, unwanted, or outdated appliances you'd like to get rid of and bring them to the Relay for Life Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Smaller items are free, and larger items and appliances carry a small fee. Monetary donations will be accepted and go directly to the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team.

## **United Schwenkfelder Choir Seeking New Members**

The United Schwenkfelder Choir is a non-denominational choir that is made up of 80+ voices, representing membership in over 30 churches from Montgomery and Bucks counties. We have begun rehearsals (at the Central Schwenkfelder Church in Worcester, PA) for our annual concerts. We will present a program of traditional and contemporary Christmas music at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Any individual who enjoys singing is welcome to join! No auditions are required. Rehearsals are held in the air-conditioned Central Schwenkfelder Church, located on Valley Forge Road (Route 363), just north of Skippack Pike (Route 73) from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. each Monday evening from September 8<sup>th</sup> until the concerts. For additional information, contact choir president Dennis Alderfer at (215) 393–9974.

## **Ladies' Aid Christmas Stockings**

We are asking for your help again this year with monetary donations. We make 75 stockings each year to be sent to the Pennsburg Manor and to Norristown State Hospital, and we try to fill each of them with at least 5 items. With your donations we can do this. Thank you in advance.

Ethel Soffa, Sandra Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sallie Wright, Ruth Weaver.

#### **Perkiomen School Settlement**

On August 14, 2014, during Mediation before Judge Ott of the Montgomery County Orphan's Court, an agreement was reached in principle to settle the dispute between The Schwenkfelder Church and the Perkiomen School. Subsequently, the Executive Council of the Church, the Board of the School, the Attorney General and Judge Ott approved and confirmed the settlement terms. No information regarding the terms of the settlement can be released until the appropriate documents have been prepared, approved and submitted to Judge Ott and an Order is released by him. That Order is not anticipated for at least several weeks or possibly longer.

Drake Williams

## Treasurer Report - January 1 - August 31, 2014

Total Budget Income: \$174,369.26 Total Budget Expenses: \$200,239.38

Note: Includes \$20,000 withdrawn from endowment interest; \$30,000

anonymous donation

For the detailed income/expense report, please see Treasurer David Luz

#### **Bulletin and Flower Sponsorships**

There are several upcoming dates open for sponsorship of our Sunday flowers and bulletins. We have one remaining opening for flower sponsorship:

November 30th

We have four remaining openings for bulletin sponsorships:

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>; December 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

The cost for flower sponsorship is \$50, and the cost for bulletin sponsorship is \$15.00. Please sign up on the chart in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

## **Grand View Hospital Hospice**

Grand View Hospital Hospice, offers individualized care to terminally ill patients and their families in homes, personal care, assisted living, and nursing home environments. Care is provided through an Interdisciplinary Team and includes:

Physician directed pain and symptom control

Skilled nursing visits

Social worker visits

Home Health Aide visits

Emergency on-call services, 7 days/week, 24 hours/day

Chaplain services

Volunteer Services/Complementary Therapies; Massage, Music, Pet Therapy Bereavement Services

Our Hospice Volunteers are the "Heart of Hospice," and through their caring support they help to meet the holistic care needs of our patients and their families. Training for volunteers occurs twice a year. Volunteers are trained in Hospice philosophy, listening and communication skills, psychosocial issues of death, dying, and grief and the practical information necessary for assisting patients and their families in the home. A new training class will start on September 15, 2014, and will be held on Monday evenings 6:00pm – 9:00pm in the Hospice office. If you are interested in learning more about Hospice care, or to explore volunteer opportunities, please call Michelle Bongiovanni, RN, Volunteer/Bereavement Coordinator at 215 – 453 – 4149.

September 14, 2014

## **RBCC Offers Church Growth & Health Workshops for Fall 2014**

The Reading Berks Conference of Churches (RBCC) is looking forward to working a team of 3-5 persons from your congregation in the upcoming schedule of workshops that will be offered as one-session, two-hour events. Full descriptions and registration information available at *readingberkschurches.org*.

**Tue, Sep 16 - Leadership: Team Formation & Meeting Management** at St. Michael's Church, 529 St. Michael's Rd, Hamburg, 19526 from 6:30-8:30 pm. How do we share the workload, identify others who are a great fit, and make the most of your meeting time?

Sep 20 &Oct 23 - Growth: Attracting, Retaining and Engaging Members Build on what your congregation is called to be - what is attractive, where to connect guests, how to engage everyone. Sat, Sep 20 from 9-11 am at Christ UCC, 4870 Kutztown Rd, Temple, 19560. Thu, Oct 23, 6:30-8:30 pm, at St. Paul's Lutheran, 117 E Arch St, Fleetwood, 19522.

#### Sep 30 - Church Communication 101

at St. John's Hain's UCC, 591 N. Church Rd, Wernersville 19565 from 6:30-8:30pm. With so many communication tools at the church's disposal, how do we know what to use and when?

#### Oct 19 - Hospitality 101

at Reformation Lutheran Church, 3670 Perkiomen Ave, Reading, 19606 from 9-11 am. The goal is not just to make a good first impression, but to help you connect.

Nov 6 - Inviting & Creative Outreach for Ordinary Congregations at Frieden's UCC, 337 Main Street, Oley, 19547 from 6:30-8:30pm. We'll discuss some easy, low-cost, low-stress ways to let your community know you're there, and invite them to get to know God through your congregation.

## November 8 - Gather Together, Imagine Together, Go Together

Mark Your Calendar for the **Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference** on Nov 8 at St. Paul's (Amityville) UCC in Douglassville.

# United Nations International Day of Peace to be Celebrated in Wernersville

On Mon, **Sep 22 from 9:30 am to 2 pm**, Phoebe Berks, One Reading Drive in Wernersville, will sponsor their 9<sup>th</sup> annual observance of the **United Nations International Day of Peace**. The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of Peace on a shared date. Its intent is to mark the individual and collective progress toward building Cultures of Peace and serve as a reminder of a permanent commitment to Peace, above all interests and differences of any kind.

The event will begin with a morning seminar led by speakers from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding of Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg Virginia. Phoebe Kilby of the center staff will share the work of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. Student speakers Najla El Mangoush from Libya and Fabrice Guerrier, born in Haiti and now living in the USA, will also share stories of their work. The event includes a free lunch and will conclude with prayers around the peace pole on the village green.

The event is free and open to the public but registration is required. To learn more or register, please call 610-927-8515 or 610-927-8200. Deadline: Sep 15.

## As You Prepare Your Church Budget for 2015 . . .

The UCC Pension Board has recently announced that after two consecutive years of no rate increase, the Non-Medicare Health Plan will experience an average increase of 4%. Individual contribution rates will vary depending upon changes to tier and/or ages bands as of January 1, 2015. There will be no increase in the dental or vision plans for 2015. Specific contribution rates will be communicated to churches and participants in the very near future.

## Clergy, Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

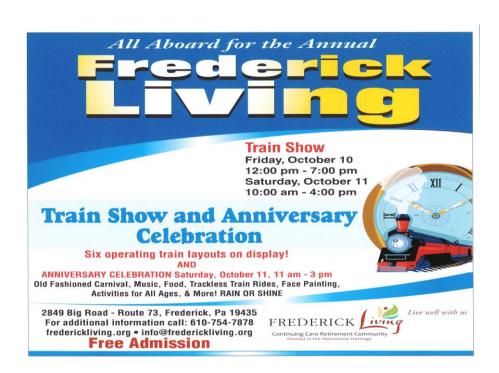
2014 - As part of the PSEC Pastoral Excellence Program, we are scheduling a learning/support group for the spouses/partners of clergy. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please contact Rev. Sharon Morris at morris@psec.org or 484-949-8774 x 302.

2015 - Jan 7-9 - Clergy Women's Retreat
Mar 10-12 (tentative dates) - Clergy Men's Retreat
Feb 5 (Pre-Lent), Apr 13, Sep 13, & Nov 15 (Pre-Advent) - Days Apart
for Clergy



Prayers are requested for St. Peter's UCC in Frackville and Rev. Kerry W. Smart







## This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## Sunday, September 14

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

## Monday, September 15

2:30pm Music Committee Meeting

7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting

## Tuesday, September 16

8:00am Quilters

7:00pm Boy Scouts

7:00pm Mission Board

## Wednesday, September 17

5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, September 21

9:00am Combined Sunday School

10:15am Gedächtnistag Sunday Worship Service

3:00pm Day of Remembrance Celebration @ Olivet

Schwenkfelder UCC

# PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

PO Box 66 Palm PA 18070 Office Phone: 215 – 679 – 5321

833 Gravel Pike

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Pastor Nick's Cell Phone: (267) 374 - 5691

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

<u>Church Office Hours</u>

Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmadministrator@comcast.net

Church Office Email: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Pastor's E-mail: palmpastor@comcast.net

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## Serving You at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Pence Pastor Emeritus: Ronald R. Krick Director of Music: Ed Bieler Children's Choir: Gail Ferry

Children's Choir Accompanist: Joan Pusey

Junior Bells: Beth Croll

Senior Bells: Joanne and David Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob

Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master 484 – 358 – 1684

Greeter: Rick Jones

Ushers: Karl Badman, Craig Kriebel, Gregg Hoffman, Tim Hoffman

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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