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January 2013

Port Orange United Church of Christ 651 Taylor Road Port Orange, FL 32127 Office 386-788-0920 Fax 386-788-8255 Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net Website: portorangeucc.org

Sunday Worship Services

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Church Staff:

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner **Assistant Pastor of Education:** Beverly Schafer **Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert **Office Manager:** Kathy Shaffner **Minister of Music:** Dr. Tom Naus Worship Team Leader: Terri Zinke Dancing Angels Leader: Bonnie Morisset **Media Communications:** Bob Brewster

Senior Pastor's Message



Time is like a river... and its current is swift. No sooner does anything appear than it is swept away, and another comes in its place. - Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor and philosopher

Dear Friends.

1

Well, we are still here. I guess the Mayans were wrong! How quickly 2012 went! As we faced the end of another year, we experienced both great joy and tragedy, and it seems that life is moving swifter for me. I do not know if it's my advancing years or simply wishful thinking as I am moving toward a future that God is unfolding and waiting for me there. Much is happening in our lives and world. We are faced with challenges and opportunities at an ever-increasing pace. We have several new ventures ahead as a congregation. We need your love, support, and prayers in 2013 as always. The one thing I am intentional about doing this year is taking the time to read more. I came across the book, The Sun Also Rises, by Ernest Hemingway. I brought it home to read this month. I must confess that given the literally hundreds (probably thousands!) of books I have read over the past decades Hemingway has not been one – with the possible exception of portions of The Old Man and the Sea because of my love of fishing. Nevertheless - as my waistline increases, I am turning gray, I have a beard, and I now live in Florida – it seems time to read a little more Hemingway! Although I may look more and more like he did, I am not the writer he was, but I do promise to behave better. G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "There is one thing which gives radiance to everything. It is the idea of something around the corner." This year is a turning of the corner for all of us. We do not know what 2013 will bring, but we do know that God will be with us. As we pack up our Christmas decorations, return gifts and take on each day, may we also carry some of the Light of God with us. That is what Christmas and Epiphany are really all about anyway. I'll let you know about Hemingway. In the meantime, take God with you and may the Son rise in your lives every day.

God bless you all in 2013 and always!

Assistant Pastor



It was a Friday afternoon while I was at church fine-tuning my Christmas Pageant To-Do List when I received a text from my daughter asking if I had heard the horrific news about a shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, which I had not. I was soon to learn every available detail of this overwhelmingly heart-breaking and senseless brutality, for every TV and radio news station would be giving round-the-clock updates. Like so many of you, by day's end I was so deeply saddened that I refused to continue to watch or listen to the news as it was just too much to bear. The next

morning, before leaving home for our children's Christmas Pageant rehearsal, I searched for and found a station on my car radio dedicated to semi-classical Christmas music, which was the peacefully calming and reassuring break my heart and mind needed. Thankfully, no parent at our rehearsal mentioned the news -- most likely because they also were still suffering from initial shock; plus, as parents of young children within earshot, they were in a protective mode.

Following rehearsal, I had my wonderful Christmas music on as I drove to Publix -- safely wrapped in my protective cocoon -- when the gentle choral sounds of "Away in a Manger" came across the airwaves. The choir was singing the traditional words I grew up with. When they sang the words, "Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with you there," I crumpled in the driver's seat, barely able to drive, as I envisioned Jesus surrounded by those precious little children tragically taken from us the day before. This, after having just left the children of our own church family, was utterly unbearable.

How could we possibly celebrate this Advent Sunday of Joy when there was little joy in our hearts? What did God want us to do? Were we "permitted" to try to begin the healing process? Were we ready for that process to begin?

I believe Pastor Bill made the right decision for our church in particular that Sunday morning by continuing our service as planned -- but only after we solemnly recognized the devastating turn of events by uniting in prayer on behalf of those precious little children and their principal and teachers who lost their lives trying to protect the children, as well as their devastatingly heart-broken families and community. "Begin the healing process by celebrating the birth of the Christ Child through the gift of your children enacting the Nativity" was the message I heard, in addition to "I am weeping with you," as little Roman Wierzbicki began crying right as the Pack-Johndrow family lit our Advent Candle of Joy. God's healing grace embraced us through radiant beams of love shining upon the faces of our children as they presented their Christmas Pageant.

May we continue our prayers for God's healing grace to enter the hearts and lives of those so deeply affected by this tragedy.

Pastor Beverly

FNZ

Prayerfully,

Financial Update

Operational Budget as of 11/30/12

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	JanNov. 2012	JanNov 2012
Income	\$159,879	\$153,120
Expenses	<u>\$158,444</u>	<u>\$150,730</u>
Net	\$ 1,435	\$ 2,390

We are still on target to finish the year in the black. We've done pretty well thanks to higher than expected income. I expect that next year will be even better. Wishing everyone the best New Year ever. Respectfully submitted, **Susie Greiff**, Treasurer

OPERATIONS TEAM



O my gosh it seems like yesterday that the Operations Team's report for the February 2012 Newsletter just happened! Where DOES that time go!!! There was a lot going on for this past year for your Operations Team. We looked at just about all aspects of the physical plant, both inside and outside and have made significant changes in how the POUCC

operates our physical plant and have slimmed down our operating costs as a result. Lawn care is less and more responsive to our needs as Blaine Randall has been doing a great job. Kathy's office equipment is better with some upgrades and less expensive for the church. Our lighting system has been overhauled (thank you Billy Wiggins) and we are using less KWH's. Our church insurer has been changed for a significant savings. Our internet service has been upgraded and Pastor Bill isn't growing older waiting for something to download on his computer (which mercifully has been canned for a needed upgrade). We have added new toilets, removed an older water heater, increased needed storage, improved our outside security lighting (again, thank you Billy Wiggins), removed a nest of rats from our attic space over the Charlie Mix building (Yuck!), cleared the West Property and are in the process of grooming it, added shelving in the attic space over the Treasurer's office, cleaned out that same attic space, and added insulation to eliminate the summer heat from infiltrating into the Treasurer's office. The new sound system booth has been built in the rear of the Sanctuary (and even to Port Orange City code no less!!!) Much improved lighting for the Sanctuary itself. Replaced an outside grate for a water catch basin. Many of the changes have been very subtle, some have illuminated your faces. We will always be looking at the physical plant as that is part of our job description. We have heating/AC systems that are growing old and some will have to be replaced in the near future. There are still expensive issues with our asphalt parking areas and some breakdowns where folks, OUR MEMBERS, and others who use our parking lot, have parked too close to the edges and it's breaking down. At the very least our members should park in the designated parking areas and not in front of the church's sanctuary thank you very much. (or on the edges behind the church near the back of the Sanctuary and the kitchen. These will need to be fixed in the very near future. We may be able to delay the inevitable by prudent parking (and walking a few extra feet). Next Operations Meeting is *Monday*, January 14th. Dalen Mills, Operations Chairman

DEACON'S CORNER



PORT ORANGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PLEDGE FORM "Living Generously"

Dear Members and Friends:

The past couple of years have seen changes with new growth and new projects. We are moving ahead as a church family! We need your continuing support to continue to help us with our mission of reaching out while looking up.

We have been diligent and faithful stewards in the past and seek to be so in 2013. The Operations Team has presented a balanced budget to the Council, who has approved it for your consideration and approval at our Annual meeting on the 27th.

We are doing something different, however, this year. Following the trend of churches in our area, we are conducting our primary Stewardship Drive in February (given the large numbers of snowbirds and conflicts with holiday schedules and spending). We know you understand. We realize there are some who wish to make their commitments earlier, so we have placed cards on the Sanctuary table for your convenience. Thank you for your past, present and future support. May God bless you, your family, and our church family in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Joe Thompson, Chair of Deacons

Christian Education

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT MIRACLES



It has been a while since I have been involved with the Children's Christmas Pageant, and I am happy to say that it felt naturally wonderful to be "back in the saddle" again as director for this beautiful annual celebration of our Savior's birth. Almost traditionally in my past experiences, dress rehearsal became what I endearingly referred to as "a train wreck," but somehow the kids would "pull it off" on Pageant Day, thus becoming what I would joyfully call a Christmas miracle! This year, dress rehearsal



went surprisingly well -- making me, shall I say, a "bit" nervous and wondering if the "train wreck" was going to hit Pageant Day instead of rehearsal day. All of you who were present for this year's Pageant December 16th saw otherwise, as did I, so I can honestly say that, again, we had our Christmas Pageant Miracle. But this year, that miracle went far beyond what I had experienced in past years. When Bob Gaither approached me with tears in his eyes immediately following the Pageant, and the same emotions were shared by others as well, I realized that this year's Pageant became more than a miracle of presentation for the cast members and me -- it became a miracle in a far deeper and meaningful way, truly in the Spirit of Christmas as His Divine Spirit was aglow among us all! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this memorable blessing and miracle!

A special note of appreciation goes out to Lisa Wassner for her patience and fine piano accompaniment not only for the Pageant, but also during 2 rehearsals; to Jackie Gaither for helping me retrieve costumes from the attic; to Lauren Tromley for washing and pressing costumes and also holding up the words for the children to view as they sang "Away in a Manger;" to Sara Bryan and Shannon Wierzbicki for creating such <u>adorable</u> lamb costumes; to Larry Strickland for making shepherd staffs; to Cassandra Higgins, Jackie Clough and Sher Buller for helping the Pageant flow so smoothly by readying the children for their entrance; to Sher Buller and Dalen Mills for helping me return costumes to the attic, and to Dalen for hanging the costumes on that 7-foot high wardrobe bar; and to Janna Thompson, Sara Bryan, Cassandra Higgins and Lauren Scalf for putting together during rehearsal the Links of Love (which you will have learned more about on December 23rd). Of course, thank you, Pastor Bill, for writing a Pageant which was easy for the children to perform so well. They enjoyed it so much that they are already asking to be in next year's pageant!

Last, but not least, to our fine cast of characters: Aydan Buller (Isaiah), Payton Bryan (Gabriel), Hunter Bryan (Mary), Trey Thompson (Joseph), and Kaylei Wierzbicki (Angel to Shepherds); Skylar Davis,

Rowan Schafer-Ramoutar, Van Thompson, and Elijah Buller/ speaker (Shepherds); Aidan Bryan and Roman Wierzbicki (Lambs); Blake & Tommy Buller, Colten Pack/speaker (Magi); Lauren Scalf (candle lighter); Delana Pack (placing of Baby Jesus into the Nativity Set on the Altar) -- APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

Lovingly and Proudly, Pastor Beverly



TERRIFIC TUESDAY



Terrific Tuesdays

After our holiday break, we will resume our regular schedule on *January* 8th. We're looking forward to a great line-up for the new year beginning with our trip to the *Walk on Water Conference in Miami, January 18th* to the 20th (See article Page 8). Make sure to mark your calendars and we'll see you on January 8th.

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



A special thanks to all our volunteers that make working and shopping at our store so enjoyable. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated. Just a reminder, the shop will reopen and accept donations **Wednesday, January 2nd at 9:00 AM**. *Barb Pountain*

POUCC ANNUAL MEETING



On *Sunday, January 27, 2013* we will have our annual meeting after a *Combined Service* beginning at *9:45 AM*. Topics to be presented are the 2013 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees will be posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. A lunch will follow the meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Annual Reports are due by *Friday, January 11th*. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office.

MISSION NOTES



This has been a busy time with all the activities of the season but we have managed to provide for the needs of some. The proceeds of the bake sale (Grand Total \$1,222.51) allowed us to provide \$100 to the Palmetto House Stocking project, \$100 to the Crisis Pregnancy Center along with some supplies, \$100 to Palm Terrace School students, with 24 each getting two gifts Remember the First Sunday Food Project. Please don't forget the sock box, glasses, coupons and last but not least, the mission boxes strategically placed at the outside door of the Jim Reed Room and at the entrance of the Sanctuary. Ten afghans (prayer shawls) were delivered to Boggy Creek last week. A reminder that we have prayer shawls available for those who need comforting. Thanks to all who con-

tinue to provide these items. We are always looking for ways to reach out, so if you have any suggestions for projects, please contact a mission team member. *Jackie Gaither, Missions Chairman*

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING FUND: To date we have collected **\$268** to this Special Mission Offering of the UCC that affords us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who served our beloved Church. Thanks you for your generosity.



PLEASE HELP: Mission Boxes are located throughout the building. Please remember your gift goes a long way in helping so many who are in such great need.



We recently received notes of thanks from the HUM Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church, the Pregnancy Crisis Center and Donna Peterson for all our donations and prayers. Copies of all the notes are on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

We continue to collect food items to donate to the Episcopal Help Center. **Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday.** Over 15 bags of food were donated on the first Sunday last month. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates (clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers). There is a specific need for rice and peanut butter...PLEASE donate ONLY 1 pound bags of rice and 1 pound jars of peanut butter so they can be given to individual families.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Help those in need

We recently received a request from the Northeast Region Disaster Team inquiring if anyone in the congregation had a "covered" space to store the Disaster Management Team 2005 Pick-up for a short or possibly long term. Also, they are looking for a "secure" space that someone may have to offer to store the tool trailer. If anyone is able to help, please contact the Church Office.

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room. If you have attended, you already know that we EAT, TALK, LAUGH, SING and ENJOY each other's company.



Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday January 10th Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON



We're forming a Lunch Bunch that will meet once a month to share a bite and fellowship. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Jeanette Campbell (788-4959) or Thea Cloutier (761-4736). All are welcome.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE



Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

January - Deacons

February -Teaching

March - Operations

NOTES OF THANKS

Over the past month, so many members have volunteered to help with all the various projects going on in the congregation and we are very thankful.



Thanks to Bob & Ruth Brewster, Barb Pountain, Jeanette Campbell, Jackie & Bob Gaither, Tom Sumners, Louise Johnson, Bill Greiff and Beverly Schafer for the beautiful job decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Thanks to Kathy Shaffner for decorating the Jim Reed Bulletin Boards! **Decorations will be taken down beginning** *January 7th.* **Come by if you can help.**

Thanks to Bob Brewster for cleaning, painting and hanging the Advent Banners on the back wall of the Sanctuary and the banner in the entrance way. What a great improvement a little paint can make!





As you can see, the Root Party that was held on *Saturday, December 1st* was a great success. A big thank you to all the hard workers: Ric Pountain, Bob Brewster, Cindy Deitch, Jackie Clough, Janna, Van & Trey Thompson, Bob Gaither, Jim & Sue Turner, Bill Greiff, Dalen Mills, Kathy Cratin, Pastor Bill, Russ Karel, Elijah Buller & Lauren Tromley that cleared roots, raked and seeded the property.

Both Lisa and I want to personally thank all for your Christmas cards and greetings. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. *Pastor Bill*







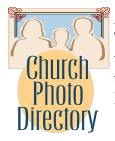
Sunday, January 27th at the 9:45 AM Combined Service we will celebrate Beverly Schafer's licensure and new position as Assistant Pastor of Education as well as Rev. Bill Ebbert as Minister Emeritus and Rev. Raymond Hargrove's position as Regional Conference Minister of the East Coast of FL/UCC. A small reception will follow the service and Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend and help celebrate their achievements.

WALK ON WATER CONFERENCE: We will have eight of our youths attending the Walk on Water Conference, January 18th through the 20th in Miami. Sher Buller and Tracy Davis will serve as chaperones and drivers. Luggage drop-off will be Thursday, January 17th at 6:00 PM. Travel details will be forthcoming.





CELEBRATE WOMEN! We will be hosting the St. John's Mission Council Meeting on Saturday, January 26th from 9:30AM-2:30 PM. The Speaker/Worship Leader is our former pastor Rev. Bonnie Lipton. The meeting will center on the celebration of women in all settings, work, home, caregiver, etc. Make sure to save the date and join us for invigorating skits, inspiring programs, awesome worship and special surprises! More Woner information to follow in the bulletin.



At present, we are in the process of designing the new directory to submit for publication. There are so many great pictures for our activity pages that it's hard to choose between them. We'll keep you posted on the progress and we are looking for a February distribution. A BIG THANK YOU to Bob Brewster, Sara Bryan, Bob Gaither, Cassie Higgins and Lauren Tromley for their help on this project. We couldn't have done it without you!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER: To Bob Brewster who recently received his Real Estate License. Way to go Bob!

Levi Zinke had a great swimming season at Mainland High and was chosen to the All Area Swimming Team which includes swimmers from surrounding high schools. Great Job Levi!



PORT ORANGE MUSIC ACADEMY: Took FIRST PLACE in the "school/youth category" of the Port Orange Christmas Parade. The group is planning to a Winter Concert here in January or February. More information to follow in the bulletin.

For 2013 may be picked-up in the Jim Reed Room.

PRAYERS



Lord,

Thank You so much for all that You have done for me, my friends, and my family. Your hand on our lives is so much more than we could ask for, and Your blessings are so greatly appreciated. I know, Lord, that You have seen our challenges, wept at our weaknesses, and rejoiced in our successes.

As You know, we are now entering a New Year. You know I have made resolutions to change the areas of my life that need it, and I ask for Your strength to make those changes. I ask for Your continued blessings and guidance to make me more like You, to walk better in Your path, this year.

I also ask, Lord, for Your continued blessings on those around me. I ask that this year be one of peace and joy for my family and friends. I ask that You continue to be a presence in all of our lives. I ask that You give each of us a heart for You and a desire to serve to make the world a better place. I also ask for peace and blessings on those far from home, for those who suffer, and for those who need You a little more each day.

Thank You, Lord, for all You do in my life and for all Your continued blessings and love. In Your name, Amen.

Since January 1st is a day for praying for peace, the Prayer of St. Francis may also be said.



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Good Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.





January Birthdays*

•	•
Margaret Procter	1/2
Aydan & Blake Buller	
Timothy Wierzbicki	1/3
Natalie Wheeler	
Richard Devins, Jr.	1/4
Shirley Harper	1/9
Jack Hilgenberg	1/10
Erika Wheeler	1/13
Dee Dardeen	1/15
Garrett Zinke	1/18
Roman Wierzbicki	1/19
Mary McDonald	1/20
Kay Schweitzer	1/26
John Shaw	1/27
Luke Moss	
Kaitlyn Wheeler	1/29
Rev. Raymond Hargro	ve 1/31
Reid Hughes	
-	



January Anniversaries*

Harold & Sandy Kransi	1/1/1982
Fred & Jeanette Campbell	1/5/1951
Tracy & Milissa Davis	1/16/2000



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Jack Barrick Member of POUCC Friend of Milissa Davis Linda Carey Dee Carroll Mother of Sher Buller Ande Danhauer Friend of Joe Thompson Karen Donahue Sister of Harold Kransi Connie Ferrari Granddaughter of Thea Cloutier and her husband in loss of their infant daughter Sophia Son of Joanne Flatt F/F of Gary Crippen F/F of Terry Ruehmer Family Member of Pastor Bill Grandson of John & Anne Shaw Susie Greiff Member of POUCC Cheryl Harper Daughter of JoEllen Hopkins Nancy Hosford Bill Wheeler's Sister Cecilia Kearney Friend of Jeanette Campbell Father-in-Law of Diane Kirlin Helen McGuffie Member of POUCC Melodie Moore Friend of Pastor Bill Shon Owczarzak Grandson of Mary Ann Stewart Calvin Poole Friend of Pastor Bill Member of POUCC Tim Schafer Shelby Thompson Mother of Joe Thompson Walker Family Sister of Doreen Wheeler Katy Wilson Friend of Brewster Family Friend of Thompson Family Jean Wishart Friend of Jeanette Campbell

In Care Facilities:

Rosemary Smith Delores "Dee" DeRonde

Tyler Graf

Bob Kirlin

John Winn

Member (Sterling House) Mother of Suzette Wheeler (Avante Nursing Home)

Special Needs:

All of Our Military & Their Families

Westview Christian Church (Pastor Bill's first Church in Indianapolis) in the loss of their Sanctuary due to fire

*Please contact the Church office (788-0920) or Jeanette Campbell (788-4959) with your prayer requests.

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your birthday or anniversary.

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Gift & Thrift Store reopens	3 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	4 CPT 6:30 – 9 pm	5
6 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	7	8 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	9 Palmetto House 5:30 pm Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	10 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	11 CPT 6:30 – 9 pm	12
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	14 Operations 6:00 pm	15 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	16 Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	17 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Retreat Luggage Drop-Off	18 Walk on Water Conference Departure CPT 6:30 – 9 pm	19
20 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	21 Council 7:00 pm	22 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	23 Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	24 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	25 CPT 6:30 – 9 pm	26 St. John's Mission Council Meeting 9::30 am - 2:30 pm
27 Recognition/ Annual Meeting Combined Service 9:45 am	28	29 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	30 Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	31 Line Dancing 6:00 pm		

Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

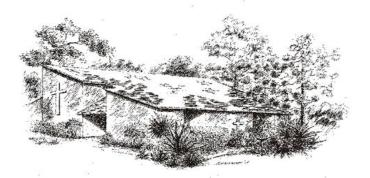
Port Orange United Church of Christ 651 Taylor Road Port Orange, FL 32127

Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner Assistant Pastor Of Education: Beverly Schafer Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus Worship Team Leader: Terri Zinke Dancing Angels Leader: Bonnie Morisset Media Communications: Bob Brewster

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM Monday—Friday Sunday Services 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM



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