



# The Central Connection -Messages and Opportunities-

June, 2012

## *“God Be With You”*



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You are the best congregation I have ever served! I have been so privileged and blessed to be with you these four years. I will always carry you in my heart and give thanks to God for you. I know God is in your midst and I know you will continue to serve God and love one another and reach out to others in the community and world, in the name of Jesus. You are a light on a hill, and people will be drawn to God because of you.

I thank God for you.

So, as I struggle to say a good “good-bye”, it helps to remember the origin of those words:

“Good-bye” is a contraction of “God be with you”.

I can easily say “God be with you” to each one of you, even while I’m

Who likes good-byes?

Nobody I know.

How do you leave the ones you love?

With difficulty. . . but also with gratitude. You have been a gift from God to me.

going to miss you.

“God be with you” speaks of the presence of God with all of us, the One who holds us all in His hands. We will still be connected in the Spirit. We can sing together with love:

Hymn 672: *God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you . . .*

*God be with you till we meet again; ‘neath his wings securely hide you, Daily manna still provide you . . .*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you, Put his arms unflinching round you . .*

*God be with you till we meet again; keep love’s banner floating o’er you, Smite death’s threatening wave before you . . .*

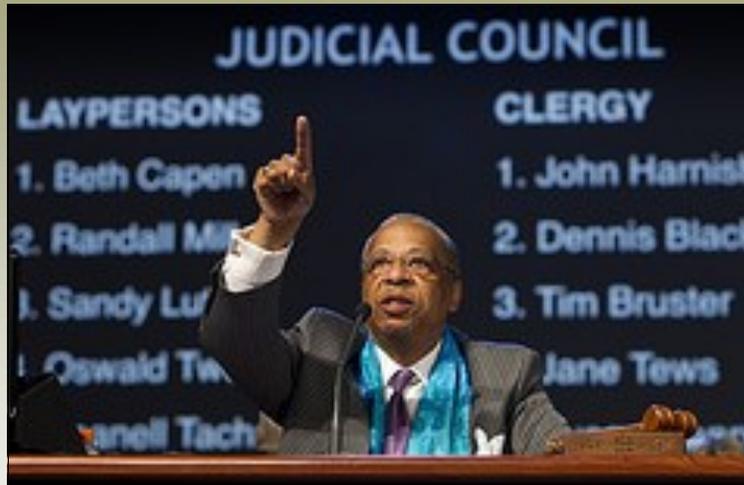
*. . .God be with you till we meet again.*

In Christian love and with much gratitude,

Pastor Stephanie

# The Connectional Church

## Part 2



The General Conference of the UMC rapped up May 4<sup>th</sup>. It was quite interesting and at times entertaining to watch it via live stream. It was not something that I could have done every moment of each session, however, just a little was enough to realize what a complex, necessary process it is. So, below are the results from the conference as reported by Tim Tanton, News Media Contact at the General Conference. The delegates:

- Retained the church's position regarding homosexuality, deciding not to adopt language that would have said United Methodists are not of one mind on this issue;
- Did away with "guaranteed appointments" for clergy;
- Rejected a proposal for setting aside a bishop to serve as full-time president of the Council of Bishops;
- Entered into full communion with a number of historically black pan-Methodist denominations;
- Approved making the United Methodist

Women an autonomous organization rather than operating it under the church's missions agency (This has already been discussed in our circles);

- Created a national ministry plan for Pacific Islanders;
- Adopted a \$603.1 million budget for the 2013-2016 period (a 6% reduction which will not affect the budgets of the local churches).
- Decided not to divest from three companies whose products are used by the Israeli military in the occupied Palestinian territories.

It may feel like some of these issues are a bit distant from us, but they really aren't. This is a daunting list with very weighty decisions and there are probably things on that list about which some may have strong feelings. None of these decisions should change our faith and our worship in community.

What brings this entire conference full circle is how the conference began with an "An Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples," recognizing and repenting of actions taken against Native peoples of all nations.

Con't next page



The Rev. George Tinker preaches during an "Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples" on April 27. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

In a moving ceremony in the plenary hall, they confessed that the church has "participated in the violation, the exploitation, and even the killing of indigenous people."



At the close of the service of repentance delegates picked up symbolic stones from the "river of life" scattered in the worship area. They were asked to take them back to their communities "as a covenant to continue to listen and to walk the journey of healing with one another."

-Anita Jackson  
Lay Leader



A few of the new members with Pastor Stephanie



We are so excited to announce the reception of many new members here at Central UMC.

Rick and Pat Davis transferred their membership to join the family here at Central Church April 15. Rick and Pat live here in Staunton and are excited to be a part of what the Lord is doing here at Central Church. Welcome Rick and Pat!!

Jing Ma was baptized and joined the Church on profession of faith May 6. Jing is from China and is a student at Stuart Hall School. Welcome Jing Ma!!!

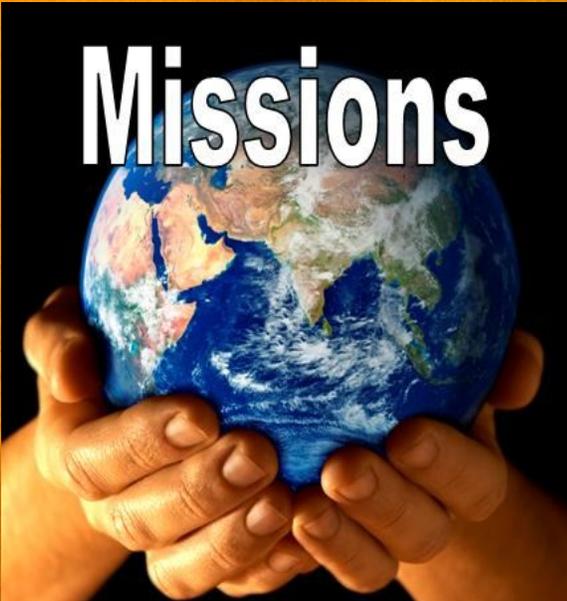
Sebin Song was baptized and joined the Church on profession of faith May 13. Sebin is from South Korea and is a currently a student at Stuart-Hall School. Welcome Sebin!!

Lastly, Aubrey Sparks was baptized and joined the Church on profession of faith May 13. Aubrey is from Adamstown Maryland and is a student at Mary Baldwin College.

Let's give thanks to the Lord and praise Him for our wonderful new family members here at Central Church.

## Mission/Outreach

# Missions



Our work team recently made its fourth, and possibly final, trip to Pulaski on May 11 and 12. The team consisted of six members of Central and was lead by our friend Joe Riley, a local building contractor. We worked on one house, installing replacement windows and vinyl siding on one side of the house, and scraping and painting two sides. After a year of receiving volunteer help, the Pulaski community is nearing recovery. We will be exploring our options as we look for other mission opportunities. There will

continue to be work in Pulaski if we choose to return, but there are other areas with greater need. We also may want to consider participating in the district mission trip to the Henderson Settlement in Kentucky Sept 16-22.

We have received information from Martha Reynolds, Staunton District Program Director, regarding the Henderson trip. The cost of the trip will be \$400-450 per person, which will cover housing, meals, building materials, insurance and transportation. The team will consist of at least ten members. If you are interested in the Henderson trip contact Jim Printy at 292-2029, or Martha Reynolds at 932-1055 for more information.

Jim Printy

**Isaiah 6:8** *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me."*





The Circles will meet in June. All ladies are welcomed to participate. Rebekah Circle will be held at Baldwin Park June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Emily Morgan will provide the refreshments. That evening at 6:30 Susanna Wesley Circle will gather at Connie Davis' home. Bring a dish to share. Following dinner the program will be on Haiti.

*Ellen DeLong- President*

## Staff Parish Relations Committee

Invites the congregation to contribute to a gift of love and farewell for Pastor Stephanie and David. Their journey into retirement will take them to California and we hope this gift of gratitude will help defray the expense of the move. Please mark your contribution envelope "Love Gift for Pastor Stephanie". It will be presented to them at a reception for her June 10.



## Coming Soon- A New Adult Sunday School Class

Central presently has two adult Sunday School classes, the Francis Asbury and Wesley Fellowship classes, that both meet on the first floor of the Education Building. Beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>, a new class, with the name to be determined, will be offered. The class will be co-lead by Jeff DeLong and Jim Printy, and will follow a book study/discussion format. The class is open to anyone, but we are especially inviting the parents of our children. This class will give those parents a class to attend while their children are in the nursery or attending childrens' classes. Our study will begin with The Seeds of Heaven, by Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal minister; a book of sermons based on passages from Matthew. We will meet at 9:45 in a classroom on the third floor of the Education Building. Come check us out!

Jim Printy





# June Lectionary Readings

## Sunday 3rd

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

## Sunday 10th

1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)  
Psalm 138  
2 Corinth. 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

## Sunday 17th

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Psalm 72  
2 Cor. 5:6-10 (11-13),  
14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

## Sunday 24th

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11,  
19-23), 32-49  
Psalm 9:11-20  
2 Cor. 6: 1-13  
Mark 4:35-41



**WANTED! A ~~FEW~~ A LOT OF GOOD MEN-----A UMMEN REMINDER**

Central has an active UMMen's group, and all men of the church are invited to participate in our activities. We hold a monthly meeting at Rowe's Family Restaurant at 8:30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, which is a time for planning, and Christian fellowship. We participate in many work projects around the church, as well as supporting the work projects of the Mission/Outreach ministry. We provide luncheons at the church, normally scheduled on months when there is a fifth Sunday. If you have never participated in our activities, or haven't participated recently, please consider coming to breakfast on June 3, or July 7. Your first breakfast is on us!

## June Birthdays



- 1 Peggy Rosen
- 2 Frank Wade, Jr.
- 3 Reed Ambrogi
- 9 Jan Painter
- 11 Elizabeth Fillman
- 14 Ben True
- 20 Jim Hill
- 21 Shawn Harrison, Seth Mowry,
- 23 Dorothy Lindamood, Jake Morris
- 24 Howard Harner, Jr.
- 28 Julian Shoemaker
- 29 Martha Bushman
- 30 Jeff DeLong



**May God Bless Your Special Day with Joy and Love!!!**

Please contact the church office if your name is not on the list and should be (or vice versa) \*so that we may correct our records.

# Single Mingle

**Sunday, June 17**

**Lunch Following Worship  
(T-Bone Tooter- Churchville)**



All single adults are invited to join the group for a meal with great conversation, and laughter.

Invite a friend for  
Worship and Lunch!



## United Methodist Family Services

UMFS focuses on the work of building up families in the midst of a broken and hurting world. In VA, there are 5,800 children in the foster care system. The agency works to help many of the hardest-to-place children find a family in which they can be loved and supported. For more information- visit them on the web at [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org) or call toll free (855-367-8637)



# Music Notes



Sherry von Oeyen

I found two interesting stories in a book recently. The book began by saying- "Music speaks a universal language and breaks across all barriers." These stories share the wonderful influence that our Christian songs have had on many diverse groups of people.

The first story involves a small band of white men making camp after a hard day's journey. Soon after the campfire had been lighted, a party of fiercely painted Native Americans came from a nearby ravine and prepared to make camp near them. The white men were worried and prepared to defend themselves against a possible attack. The wagons were drawn up in a circle, fires were put out, and weapons were made ready.

But the Native Americans seemed in no hurry to attack. Their campfires blazed merrily, as they prepared and ate their evening meal. All at once the white men heard them singing. They gripped their guns and thought this was the beginning of the attack, yet nothing happened. Suddenly, they heard a strangely familiar melody as the Native Americans sang. The white men began to listen more intently. Then, with a smile on their faces, they laid aside their weapons and reached for their blankets. The Native Americans were singing... "In the Sweet By and By."

Some wandering missionary had taught these savages this great old hymn of love and peace; and while the white travelers could not understand a word of the Indians' language, they could understand the language of the music with its message of peace and safety.

The second story is about E. P. Scott, a missionary to India who, against the advice of his friends, visited a distant tribe of murderous mountaineers. When they saw the missionary, they

captured him and pointed their spears at his heart. He fully expected to die instantly, but had the presence of mind to get out his violin which he had brought along and, closing his eyes, he played softly and sang... "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"... When he came to the last verse, which begins with "Let every kindred, every tribe," he opened his eyes to find that the attitude of the natives had changed completely.

This was the beginning of two and one-half years of fruitful service with this particular tribe as the missionary was permitted to teach these humble people "to crown Him Lord of all."

## ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME

All hail the power of Jesus' name  
Let angels prostrate fall  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race  
Ye ransomed from the fall  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
And crown Him Lord of all  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred every tribe  
On this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Keep on Singing for the Lord!!

# Update on Church Renovations



As most of you know, we have been and continue to do lots of work both inside and outside our church facilities. I've heard comments about everything from: why are we doing this or that to where is the money coming from?

I'll try to explain the answers throughout this article.

Let's go back to the year 2007, when we discussed whether we should move the church or stay where we are. As a congregation, we decided to stay here. We were told then that we would need to spend a considerable amount of money to repair and renovate our facilities.

Praise God, we didn't have to conduct a Capital Improvements Financial Campaign to acquire the funds needed to do this work. Several dedicated members, remembered Central U.M. Church in their estate planning with some very generous bequests.

According to the United Methodist Discipline-Memorials and Bequests should **not** be used for General Budget items. This means, we as Central U.M. Church members need to continue to give as generously as we can to support our ongoing Church Budget.

The repairs started when the Education Building roof started to leak and we had to replace the roof. That led to the removal of asbestos in the third floor ceiling and the renovation of the entire third floor.

Since then, we've had to replace the A/C unit in the Gathering Area; repair the sinkhole in the Willson parking lot; put in a security system; paint and repair the outside trim work; paint the kitchen and fellowship hall; purchase new chairs for the choir loft; purchase stools for the handbell choir; purchase a defibrillator; purchase 4 new HVAC

units for the offices; repoint the old brick on the Sanctuary Building; replace the flat roof around the tower; remodel 2 offices (that were 40+ years old); install storm windows over our exterior stained glass windows; put hot water in the Education Building bathrooms and louvers in the doors for air circulation; and finally we scoped the inside of the balcony to check the structural integrity- which all checked out fine. We are presently installing taller rails in the balcony (OSHA requirement) and replacing the leathers in the organ and thoroughly cleaning it.

Our next project will be renovating the sanctuary: (widening the center aisle, better spacing of the pews, new pew cushions, sanding the floor under the pews, new carpet, and painting the sanctuary.) Dixon Studios is working with us to come up with ideas on what we need to do. We may get to start this in June.

The more expensive projects all needed to be done 15-25 years ago, but funds were not available.

We still have items that need attention, namely: sealing or repaving the parking lots; repair or replace the blue tile on the Education Building; a new programmable sign in the Willson parking lot; and the rooms behind the balcony on the third floor need lots of work.

I hope I've answered your questions. If not, ask one of the Trustees. Please continue to pray for our great old Church and thank God for the many blessings He has given us.

God bless you and God bless Central U. M. Church

Yours in Christ,

*Ed Smith*, Ch., Board of Trustees

# Central Continues to Assist with Civil Rights Efforts



You may have noticed several articles, including an editorial and letter to the editor, in the Staunton News Leader recently which mentioned Central's involvement with efforts to restore civil rights to convicted felons. Central began offering this ministry at the direction of Hunter Mabry in 2005. In Virginia, as in most states, when a person is convicted of a felony offense he loses his civil rights which include the right to vote, hold public office, serve on a jury, and serve as a notary public. Most states automatically restore these rights after the felon has completed his sentence; after release from incarceration or probation supervision, and payment of fines, court costs and restitution. The thought is, the person has "paid his debt to society", or "served his time" and should now be allowed to become a "full member of society". It is important to note two things not included in restoration—it does not provide a pardon, or expunge a felon's record, and does not

automatically return the right to possess a firearm.

Virginia is one of four states that do not automatically restore rights. In Virginia, a felon must complete an application process which varies based on the type of offense committed. In some cases, after the felon remains free of offenses for two years after completion of his sentence, he then submits a relatively short application to the governor. In many cases, the felon, after remaining free of offenses for five years, needs to complete a lengthier application which includes providing certified copies of all records associated with all of his offenses. This can be a daunting task, especially if the person has been convicted in areas miles away from Staunton. At times it seems the process may be designed to discourage applications; and applications can be denied with no explanation given. The role of Central's volunteers is to help direct and encourage the applicants through this process. Central offers this service as a ministry. We believe in God's forgiveness of sins, His search for the lost sheep, and rejoicing over the return of the prodigal son. If you would like to know more about this ministry, ask Jackie Beals and Jim Printy; they would be glad to share their experiences.

-Jim Printy



## A FATHER'S DAY POEM

by Luz de Tablan

### ***The Great Commandment***

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

***(Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NRSV)***

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord **Ephesians 6:4**

While I was walking on the shore one day I met a father with his little son. Both of them happy and busy picking up shells along the way.

I know that they were Father and son because I heard what the little boy said..... "Father", he said, "I am so glad you are here with me enjoying the shore, the shells and the sea".

The father said to his son,..."my joy is full today, you are my treasure, my precious one. You are my life, my own little son. You have given me hope, strength and fun." As these two souls walked along the shore I could see the love of the father to the boy and the son to the father as he held his father's hands. He's holding them with trust and confidence.

I remember what the Bible had said:

Our father on earth,  
the source of our delight and splendor of home. He's really the mark of home sweet home. Listen children, listen very well-

Though our dad is neither rich nor poor, bringing little gold or no fame to home, but his love for us never fails at all. He smoothed the way for all his children. Toiling striving from day to day, facing whatever may come his way. But happy is his heart on his deeds all day.

My poem is a tribute for all the fathers. No matter if they bring no gold or fame. The role that they played in all our homes are to be remembered and to be cherished by all.

### **Proverbs 3:11-12**

11 My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord re-proves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

# Children's Activity Page



## ★ A FATHER'S ★ INSTRUCTION

★ Although babies don't come with instructions, ★  
God tells parents how to raise their children. ★

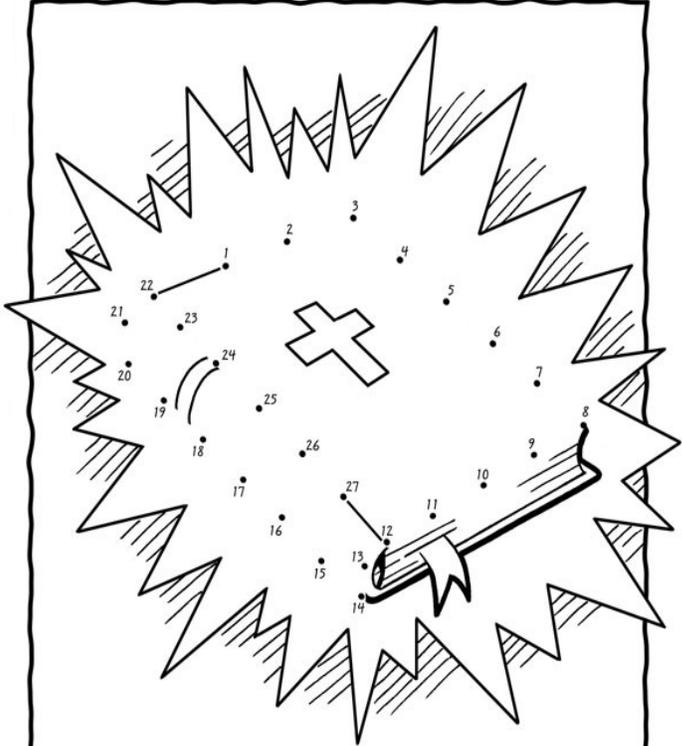
Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, and the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

“...  
2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2  
6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3  
5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1  
4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3  
3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1”

**EPHESIANS 6:4, NIV**

Answers: “... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

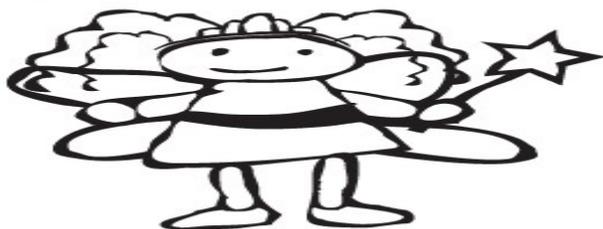


Go dot-to-dot  
and see the Word of God!

## Smiles for Kids

FOOD SEARCH: Help us find these foods!

P	P	A	S	T	A	E	U	B	J	W	F	G	H	D
J	D	B	C	O	P	S	H	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
Y	O	M	I	M	P	E	A	N	U	T	P	U	O	S
C	E	R	E	A	L	E	E	D	N	E	I	S	L	L
A	R	S	P	T	E	H	A	R	C	R	C	T	Y	E
R	M	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	M	K	I	O	T
R	C	E	L	R	Z	C	S	S	R	I	L	U	G	T
O	T	A	A	M	I	Z	D	C	E	L	E	R	Y	U
T	U	N	A	T	S	C	A	E	E	K	H	F	R	C
M	O	S	A	N	G	E	E	P	F	R	U	I	T	E



- |             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Apple    | 8. Corn     | 15. Peanut |
| 2. Beans    | 9. Cracker  | 16. Pickle |
| 3. Broccoli | 10. Fruit   | 17. Rice   |
| 4. Carrot   | 11. Lettuce | 18. Soup   |
| 5. Celery   | 12. Meat    | 19. Tomato |
| 6. Cereal   | 13. Milk    | 20. Tuna   |
| 7. Cheese   | 14. Pasta   | 21. Water  |

**Clue:** The words are in all directions — vertical, horizontal, diagonal, even backwards!



**Central United Methodist Church**

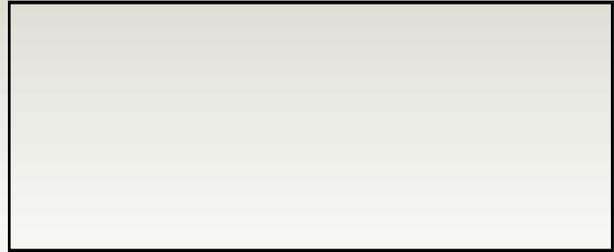
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