

Calvary *Connection*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.587.6011 | calvaryepiscopal.org

May 2020

Dealing with Uncertainty—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

As I write this the question that is all around is, “When can we get back together?” The answer, as of May 27, 2020, is definitely not before July 1, and not necessarily then. And when that happens it will not be like we have ever experienced it before, at least not for the foreseeable future. Holy Communion and singing, two staples of worship at Calvary, are dangerous in a pandemic! Take a deep breath with me. That helps.

I have realized that in this time of masks and social distancing I tend to hold my breath. I’m not sure why, other than that is a fairly typical sign for me that I’m anxious. You may be experiencing this as well, or you may have other ways of reacting to stress and anxiety. Breathe.

As you may or may not know, each Wednesday during this crisis the clergy of the diocese join on Zoom for a meeting with the Bishop. This has been very helpful and has given us the opportunity to learn what the National Church, our diocese, and surrounding dioceses are planning as we move into the new future. The Presiding Bishop has gathered a group of theologians and leaders to determine what the sacraments will look like in our new world. With the exception of marriage, all of the sacramental rites require the laying on of hands by either a priest or bishop. How can we safely do that and, if we cannot, how can we offer the sacraments in a way that does not compromise our understanding of the nature of the sacraments? These are the sorts of issues this group is addressing.

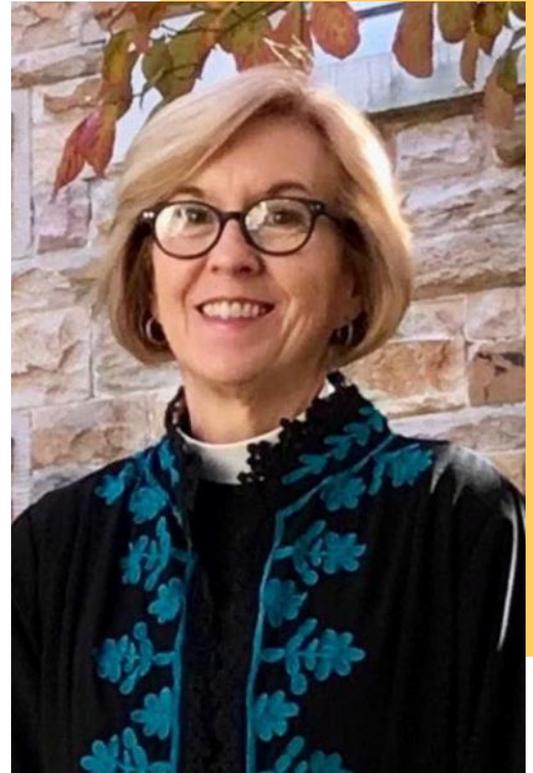
Here at Calvary an *ad hoc* committee is being formed to look at the details of how we safely begin to come together when our Bishop allows us to do so. Please keep the good work of this committee in your prayers as they deal with this complicated task.

Finally, when we clergy have gathered with the Bishop on Zoom, he has shared with us writings that he has found particularly helpful. Last week he shared a blog post from Nadia Bolz-Weber that I found helpful so I will share it with you on the following pages.

Know that you are very much in my heart during this trying time. When more information becomes available I will do my best to get it to you. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My cell phone number is available when you call the church office.

God’s peace,

Lee+





Optimism Won't Save Me . . . But Neither will Worrying About Stuff*

From Nadia Bolz-Weber's blog *The Corners*

Lessons from Jesus, and 2 former prisoners.

Here's a confession:

I realize now that when this global pandemic all started, I think I was trying to be as optimistic as possible, believing it the best way to get through. So I told myself, It's ok to spend a couple weeks at home, because after this we will be able to go to Holy Week Services!

Then it was, "Well...I still can't wait to preach Pentecost at the Cathedral at the end of May!"

Then it was "Well, at least my gigs in June will still happen."

Then it was "Well...ok not the June gigs, but the July ones for sure!"

Then it was "Jeez...at least there's that festival every September I love."

Then a friend who is in music business mentioned that the concert promoters are all saying Fall 2021 is the earliest they think we can return to concerts, festivals, and big events.



Nadia Bolz-Weber

And the exact same day I read a piece about how dangerous singing is. SINGING. And how even if we do get to go to church again this year . . . there can't be singing.

I had hooked my hope on something in the future and as each hope dissolved, I'd find another hook. Until finally, reality sunk in.

And then I spent the rest of that day and most of the next alternately worrying about the future and watching about 62 hours of television.

Now before you scold me, I know that Jesus himself said, *who by worrying can add a single hour to the span of your life? So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.* But sometimes I have to have that stuff* confirmed over and over before I remember to believe it.

So I wanted to share with you the thing that allowed me to get back to trusting what Jesus said. It was the words of two different men who spent a long time in prison, one 8 years as a POW in a North Vietnamese prison camp and the other 18 years as an inmate on death row for a crime he didn't commit.

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*indicates places where profanity was replaced from the original piece.



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Obviously stay at home orders and social distancing and the cancelling of events is not even remotely close to prison. But those who have grown as people and not devolved as people during incarceration might just have some helpful wisdom for us right now.

US Navy Admiral James Stockdale. Having never read a business book in all my life, I was unaware of “The Stockdale Paradox” described in the popular book *Good To Great*, but I sure was grateful a friend told me about it this week. (Most of what I know comes from conversations with friends who have actually READ THE BOOKS.)

An Admiral in the US Navy, James Stockdale survived 8 years as a POW in a North Vietnamese prison camp. When asked who of his fellow prisoners struggled to make it out alive he replied,

“The optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, ‘We’re going to be out by Christmas.’ And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they’d say, ‘We’re going to be out by Easter.’ And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart...”

So the “Stockdale Paradox” is the ability to hold two opposing but equally true things at once:

You must have faith that you will prevail in the end . . .

And at the same time you must confront the brutal facts of your current reality.

When I stop and check in with myself I must say I believe we will prevail. As crappy* as this all is, I have faith in the power of human love and creativity and resilience and kindness and humor. And I believe God to be the source of our love and creativity and resilience and kindness and humor, which means there is an eternal supply on which to draw when we just don't have what it takes.

Also, I have faith that God is already present in the future we keep pinning our hopes and fears to so maybe it's safe to let them go.

Damien Echols. Echols is one of the West Memphis 3, about whom the documentary series *Paradise Lost* was based. As an 18 year old he was wrongfully convicted of murder.

Jason Flom interviewed Damien a couple weeks ago on his *Wrongful Conviction* podcast about what wisdom Damien might offer as someone who spent half his life on death row before being freed. Listen [here](#).

What killed me was this quote from Echols: “The #1 thing that helped me stay sane was figuring out that I could not live for the future.”

Well, crud*.

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“What it came down to for me [in prison] was having to create a life for myself, not making myself insane constantly wondering when is this going to be over? . . . Whether it’s news about the pandemic, or your possible upcoming execution date, you can’t sit around dwelling on that stuff or you are going to stew in fear and misery.”

Here’s what these two men taught me this week: I think I need to recalibrate.

Because: We will not get through this by setting our hearts on any events in the future.

And we will not get through this by setting our minds on any fears about the future.

To be sure, today has troubles of it’s own. Plenty of them.

So its a waste of energy to import our imagined troubles of tomorrow that aren’t even true or real yet.

It’s maybe not the healthiest thing for my happiness to be contingent on the future having to look a certain way.

So, here’s the thing—we can turn resolutely to these brutal facts and even so, we will prevail. There is a global pandemic, and we will prevail. There will be death, and we will prevail. There are long hoped-for events in the future that will not happen and we will prevail. There will be lost things and people and income and dreams and still, we will prevail. And all we really have is this day. And it is enough. It ends up, maybe Jesus was right.





The Vestry Voice—*Donna Duvall, 2020 Vestry Secretary*

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the Vestry met on April 27, 2020 on Zoom, with the following items of note:

The Rector said that the Bishop is meeting with clergy weekly, and the House of Bishops are meeting weekly as well. It is not clear how or when Calvary’s doors will re-open, but the Bishop will be providing guidance.

Church activity does continue in the meantime. The Food Closet continues to feed more and more people. Over 700 bags in a few weeks have fed approximately 1,287 people. Margaret Dickinson, Tim Duncan, Billy Hower, Joseph Reese, Hannah Bradley (from Christ Church Cathedral) and Amy (from the Unitarian Church) have been helping. Judy Wilson is continuing to teach Calvary’s violin students online using a Zoom room.

Online activities include the Sunday service at 11, preceded by Sunday Forum at 9:30 am. Check the website and Facebook for details on these and other online activities.

The Rector discussed two personnel changes: Britt Shelton will be moving to California in May. She can continue to do some online work from that distance, but we will need on-site work, such as video, and we need improved equipment, as well. Keira Wooden-Brown resigned, and interim assistance is being provided by Sally Reisz and by our former bookkeeper, Melissa Kay.

The Treasurer reported that as the end of February, the year-to-date operating revenue was \$132,004.10, and expenses totaled \$94,268.94 for a net operating revenue of \$37,735.16 over budget. The operating revenue for March was approximately \$47,000 and expenses were approximately \$43,500. She noted that the value of the Endowment had dropped approximately 17 percent during the first quarter of 2020.

Upcoming Schedules

Watch Calvary emails for opportunities to come together online in these extraordinary times.



The Sweet Sixteen—Linda French, Senior Warden How You can Help During Covid-19

One of the new buzz phrases this spring is, “We can’t be doin’ that.” We all know it represents a list of activities which could lead to the spreading of the pandemic Coronavirus.

Let’s now examine an important question of the times where we ask, “What can we do to help others within Calvary?” With most of us quarantined at home, it took just a week or so for many of you to step to the front with aid in a plethora of ways.

Aware of our many parishioners who are quarantined alone, card writing became my own way of checking on others and seeing if there is a need we could meet.

That certainly wasn’t enough! Through notes and emails from others, I’m sharing the list of deeds provided by our parishioners for other parishioners. If you feel you haven’t had the opportunity to safely help, perhaps this list will give you some ideas. I have been truly amazed by the thoughtfulness shown by all.



Sweet Sixteen Ideas for Helping Others

1. Write cards.
2. Make phone calls.
3. Send emails.
4. Forward Calvary information about church services and Sunday Forum.
5. Have a restaurant deliver a special meal.
6. Set up grocery delivery for someone who needs help.
7. Help someone contact their doctor.
8. Call a taxi for someone (with their consent!)
9. Leave a homemade frozen dinner on a friend’s porch (pre-arranged, of course.)
10. Leave books on a friend’s porch (again, pre-arranged.)
11. Mail a friend a grocery or delivery-restaurant gift card.
12. Sew and mail masks to others.
13. Call a senior living facility to ask if cookies or candy could be delivered to a resident.
14. Deliver ordered prescriptions to the porch (pre-arranged.)
15. Donate groceries to our Calvary Outreach Program because food is being provided for some of our own parishioners.
16. Add names to our Prayer List and remember the world in our daily prayers.

In closing, all 16 of these ideas have been used and are continuing to be used daily. Our sincere thanks go to those who have participated or will begin participating. We praise God for giving us caring hearts and helpful hands especially during these trying times.



Calvary Food Bags Cross 1,000 Threshold—Margaret Dickinson



When the coronavirus forced Calvary to close most of its physical doors in mid March, a core group of outreach volunteers got together with our Rector Lee and determined that our outreach food door would not close, but would expand to feed anyone in the neighborhood who needed it. CMCL (Help Ministries) and the Unitarians jumped on board with great enthusiasm and donations, and on March 14, we opened the door (actually the GATE!) to what has been a rewarding, wondrous, mind-boggling, terrifying, unbelievable adventure that is ongoing at this writing more than two months later, May 28, 2020.

How to do it safely? Masks and gloves for both volunteers and clients are a must. We've given out 442 masks that are hand-made donations,

including many from Cindy Allen and Elyse Hensley, Sue the Unitarian, and Kentucky refugees. The distribution venue is the Calvary garden. Everything is outside, which presents a challenge in the rain but helps keep the virus at bay. Amy Simpson (from the Unitarian Church) and Larry Davis have provided tents on site. Tim Duncan and Jim Barnes send clients from the gate to a table containing the food bag that's six feet away from Amy Simpson and Joseph Reese, the bag distribution people. Clients select fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, excess breads, toiletries (yes, toilet paper!!), diapers and unique items such as guacamole as desired extras, and Hannah Bradley from the Cathedral records the names and number of family members so I can keep up with the stats. Cindy Allen and I pack the bags inside as we are kindly protected victims of chronological discrimination, while Joan Wempe packs the dog and cat food, also a big part of the ministry. Lee Shafer answers the phone and receives donations. We have purposely kept the number of volunteers small and the same in hope not to infect each other, so we apologize to many others who have offered to volunteer. All this takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and as we complete our eleventh week, I am both proud and astonished to report that we have given out 1,168 food bags feeding 1,991 people!

Donations have come from everywhere, enabling us to save our Calvary budget money for later in the year. At the risk of surely leaving out important ones, we especially thank Help Ministries and Linette, Pastor Lori at First Unitarian and its many people, Saints Mark's, Matthew's, and Andrew's, the Cathedral people and Dean Matt the Shopper, Calvary, Advent, Bishop White, St. Matthews Area Ministries, Tom Gift and Costco, Jeffersonville Community Kitchen, Northeast Christian, and many individuals who drop off food daily. The most startling thing has been that when we run out of something, the next donation almost invariably has that very item. This has happened so often that we have to believe it's God at work. Donations are ongoing, as are we, and we welcome peanut butter, cereal, tuna, canned chicken, beef stew and anything else good. Want to contribute but are still staying at home? Joseph Reese will come get it! Just call the church. Bless the food door and may it always be open to the poor. Thanks be to all!



Spotlight on Calvary’s Youth — Deborah Stewart

In another of our ongoing series on Calvary’s Children, this month we introduce you to Henry Collier Vail.

Henry is six years old and a kindergarten student at Second Presbyterian Church School. He is the son of Will and Beth Vail and the older brother of Anna (4 years) and Edith (2 years).

In the fall, Henry will be a first grader at Collegiate School. He loves riding his bike and his favorite book is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. His favorite song is “Carrying the Banner” from the musical *Newsies*.

Henry wants to be a construction worker and a firefighter when he grows up and lists pizza as the food he likes best. Among his first memories of Calvary Episcopal are playing on the church playground during the 9:00 am service. His mom says he must have been one or two at the time. “He especially remembers me taking him to the green slide on the playground during the 9:00 service,” she recalls.

Henry says the inside cross is the first thing he thinks of when he thinks of Calvary. If he had the power to change one thing about Calvary he says he would bring back the scaffolding. He would love to climb on it.

He loves the color blue and would like to learn French as his second language.

Like so many of us, Henry and his family have sheltered in place during the Pandemic. Occasionally they listen to the five o’clock updates on WFPL. With that in mind, here is [Henry’s sweet imitation](#) of our Governor’s reassurance to the Commonwealth.



Henry Collier Vail, on Easter



Books to Read and then Binge Watch — Mary Redden

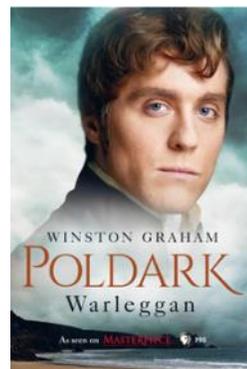
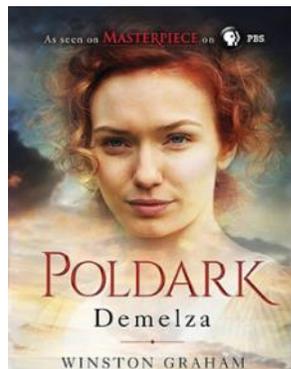
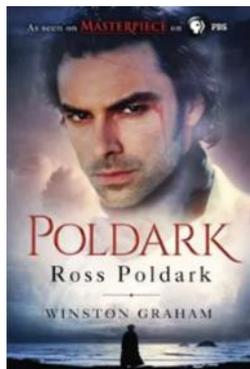
Poldark Series by Winston Graham

The bestselling **Poldark** series is loved across the world for its blend of romance, drama, unforgettable characters and evocative portrayal of Cornwall.

The books, which span the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, follow the life of the brooding but principled Ross Poldark; a young man who returns from the American Revolutionary War to find his father dead, his copper mine failing and his childhood sweetheart engaged to his cousin. Romance, intrigue, and betrayal ensue as Ross falls in love with the charming Demelza and tries to build a better world for her and their children whilst fighting his arch-enemy, the swaggering and ruthless financier, George Warleggan.

Written by Winston Graham between 1945 and 2002, the twelve novels were developed twice into BBC series. The most recent aired for five seasons (ending last year) and are available on Netflix, Amazon Prime or PBS Masterpiece.

The books:



Ross Poldark

Demelza

Jeremy Poldark

Warleggan

The Black Moon

The Four Swans

The Angry Tide

The Stranger from the Sea

The Miller's Dance

The Loving Cup

The Twisted Sword

Bella Poldark

The Expanse by James S. A. Corey

The Expanse is a series of science fiction novels written under the joint pen name of authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck.

The books are set in a future in which humanity has colonized much of the Solar System, but does not have interstellar travel. In the asteroid belt and beyond, tensions are rising between Earth's United Nations, Mars, and the outer planets.

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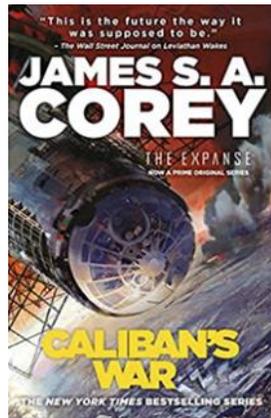


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Earth colonized Mars, and Mars has recently become an independent nation planet. 'Earthers' and 'Martians' are called 'Inners' because they live on the Inner Planets. The 'Belters' living on the various space stations around the asteroid belt and outer planets are in constant competition for the limited resources available – particularly water and oxygen. The central characters are the crew of the *Rocinante* (named for *Don Quixote's* horse), a salvaged Martian naval gunship. The main crew consists of an unlikely combination of two Earthers, a Belter, and a Martian. The novels are told from various points of view, with different chapters in different character's voices.

The Expanse was originally produced on the SCYFY Network and was later picked up for additional seasons by Amazon. The first four seasons are available on Amazon Prime with the 5th season due to be released later this year.

The books:



Leviathan Wakes
Caliban's Ware
Abaddon's Gate
Cibola Burn

Nemesis Games
Babylon's Ashes
Persepolis Rising
Tiamat's Wrath

Note: A 9th book is currently in development.

(What are you reading right now? Send your choices to Book Editor Mary Redden at chesteralways@yahoo.com. Thanks!)



Staying Active (Online) During the Plague—Jonathan Smith

(Continuing the compilation of ideas for keeping yourself occupied while you're trapped at home. For last issue's list, [click here.](#))

Cultural

[Kentucky Opera's Art From a Distance](#)

[Speed Museum From Home](#)

[LO Online](#)

[Virtual Frazier](#)

[Explore the British Museum From Home](#)

[Chautauqua Lectures on YouTube](#)

[Virtual Learning with Road Scholar](#)

Movies

Atlantic's Movie Recommendations:

[Thirty Underrated Films](#)

[Ten Perfect Films to Watch While Stuck at Home](#)

New York Times' Movie Recommendations:

[Fifty Best Movies on Netflix](#)

[Best Films of 2020 \(so far\)](#)

[Cinemark Movie Music](#)



Recent acquisition at the Speed Museum



Jonathan Mueller and Teddy Abrams play duet on LO Online



British Museum Virtual Tour

Share your suggestions for staying both sane and healthy in this time of "social distance." Send all to smith@hanover.edu, and if I get enough material, I'll put it all together in the next *Connection*.



CHILDREN'S

—please share with the children in your life

ORNER

Aesop Be-bop

(The Fables of Aesop versified by Jonathan Smith)

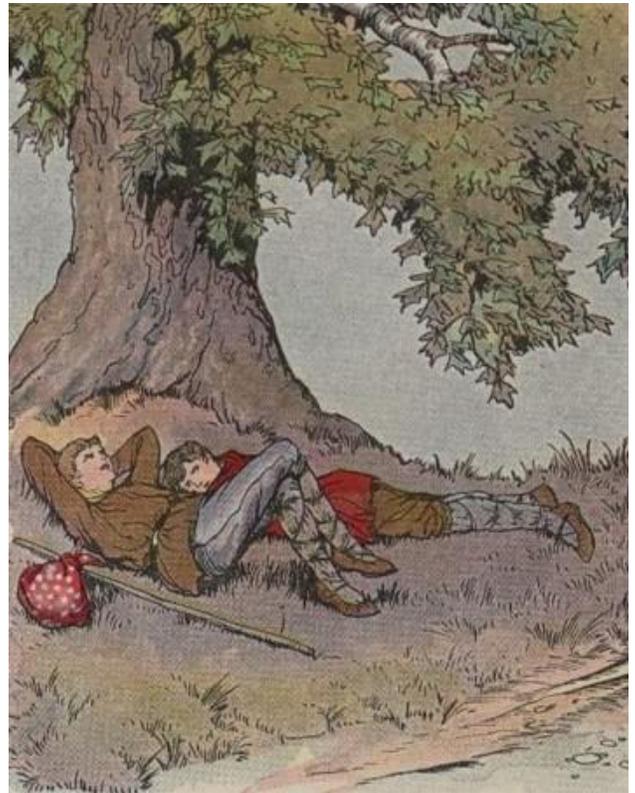
The Plane Tree

Two guys on a hike in the summer heat
Spied a tree beside the street.
“Let’s lie down here and take a rest,”
Said James, “for here the shade is best.”

But barely had they settled in
When Andrew’s carping did begin:
“This Plane tree,” he said, “bears no fruit;
It’s basically worthless from top to root.”

Offended, the tree began to talk:
“Think how ungratefully you squawk;
My cool shade is your resting spot,
A gift too quickly you forgot.”

If trees did talk, they might just teach us
How many quiet blessings reach us.
The greatest wealth on earth may be
The simple gifts we fail to see.



If you are reading the Calvary Connection online, click [this link](#) to go to delightful Aesop-related coloring and age-appropriate printable lessons. Enjoy!

Children’s Corner is a regular feature of the Calvary Connection. Submissions and suggestions are welcome.



Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

Facebook feed of services only

Thursdays

12:05 pm Holy Eucharist with Anointing (**suspended**)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm (**suspended**)

Food and Clothes Closest (**food only, MTT**)

Contact Us

Calvary Episcopal Church
821 S. Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203
502.587.6011
calvarychurch@calvaryepiscopal.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector
Jim Barnes, Verger, Parish Administrator
Shawn Dawson, Organist/Director of Music
Britt Shelton, Communications Coordinator
Jordan Williams, Children's Education Leader
Leroy Malone, Sexton

Lay Leadership

Linda French, Senior Warden
Stephanie Smith, Junior Warden
Sally Reisz, Treasurer
Donna Duvall, Secretary

Communications

Mary Redden, Chair of Communications
Jonathan Smith, Calvary Connection Editor



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rector@calvaryepiscopal.org
verger@calvaryepiscopal.org
music@calvaryepiscopal.org
britt.shelton@calvaryepiscopal.org
childrensed@calvaryepiscopal.org
leroy.malone@calvaryepiscopal.org

lfrench444152@gmail.com
ssmith@unistarps.com
sallyreisz@gmail.com
duvall.donna@gmail.com

chesteralways@yahoo.com
smith@hanover.edu

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