

## Word from the Pastor

### Winter Greetings!

I'm writing this as the State digs out of what was predicted to be a major winter blizzard. For those of us on the western side of the State, we fared well. There were no power outages, the roads were cleared by mid-afternoon, and the amount of snow was manageable (as opposed to the predictions).

It was very interesting listening to the radio as it became clear that the storm would not be as severe as expected in our area. Criticism began to flow about the Governor's decision to close State roads today. My take is that the situation required a plan. The weather forecasters may not always be correct, but when there is a reasonable probability that bad weather that could bring life-threatening conditions, it is prudent and wise to implement the plans the State has to ensure the safety of its residents and to recover from the storm as quickly as possible. You may not like the plans when things don't turn out as bad as predicted, but knowing what we need to do is important in challenging situations. Had the weather been as bad as predicated in the Northwest Hills, we would have really benefited from the plans.

Just as the State has all kinds of plans, our Church also has plans. Plans are always made by a group of people. No one in our church makes plans on their own. Back in 2005, we as a Church family were facing some difficult times. We weathered a series of short term pastorates. Financial pressures required us to withdraw a significant amount of our investments each year to balance the budget. We were uncertain as to what God wanted us to do. So we created a plan. That plan called for us to focus on God and trust that Christ would lead us to do the right things. It also called for concrete actions each year that were intended to get us back on our feet financially. The plan was executed with precision. Every objective was met. We have been focused on ministry and mission for many years. While we don't have an over-abundance of money, we've been able to make ends meet with the contributions we receive each year. Attendance at worship services are more than double what they were in 2005.

The plan, which was developed by myself and the Pastoral Search Committee of the time, required me to advise the congregation when we had met the objectives of our plan. We knew back in 2005 that when the objectives were completed, new Pastoral leadership would benefit the Church. For that reason, I did as the 2005 covenant contemplates at the Annual Meeting a few weeks ago. I announced that by working closely with the Church Cabinet, we will be implementing a transition in Pastoral leadership in the next few months.

I thank God daily for the love and support you have shared with me since I became Pastor of First Church. My passing the baton to another Pastor is not a sign that anything went wrong. It's the exact opposite. Things went very well and our plan was successful. With God's blessing and help, we have accomplished the things we set out to do.

Change will always bring some level of uncertainty. But I have total confidence that God will continue to bless the ministry of First Church and that we have built a solid foundation for future growth. We will share with you information regarding the transition, but if you have any questions, please feel free to speak with any of our Church leaders or myself.

Yours in Christ,  
*Mike*



**FEBRUARY 2015**

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# Church News...

## Help Wanted!

Camp Wightman is recruiting men and women to serve on our summer staff. Energetic? Enthusiastic? Creative? Interested in helping children grow in their faith? Want to make an eternal difference in the lives of children? If so, please contact us at 860-376-2179 or [wightman@abcconn.org](mailto:wightman@abcconn.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

If you can't spend the entire summer at camp, then you might consider spending a week or more as a volunteer. We have opportunities for people to serve as counselors, chaplains, program specialists, village "grandparents," maintenance assistants, and lots more. Please contact us for more information.

Camp Wightman has some open retreat dates in February. If your church can coordinate a last-minute retreat, we can offer you a great deal on lodging. Call us at 860-376-2179 or write us at [wightman@abcconn.org](mailto:wightman@abcconn.org) for details. We look forward to serving you!

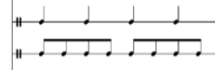


## POOL & PIZZA PARTY

**Tentatively set for Feb 21st** at the Winsted YMCA...details will be announced as they are still being firmed up...stay tuned!



Walk-ing walk-ing



Running, running,  
Running, running

Hey do you feel  
the rhythm?

Rock Starz 4 Jesus will begin rehearsing after church service beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet for 25 minutes, in the music room downstairs during coffee hour. Children interested can get a quick snack and then come down for some music time.

Open to children 3 years and up...! We will use the buddy system for non-readers.

Please call Debbie 860-482-3491 if you have a little Rock Star!

## First Church 2014 Annual Report available online at:

[http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org/files/Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org/files/Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

## What Did Jesus Say About Love...?

**John 15:9**-As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## Prayer Gives Peace

Things may look bleak and there might be no obvious way out of the challenge you're facing. You might even be getting desperate. When you pray and pour out all your heart to Jesus, you are given the opportunity to choose to lay your troubles at his feet. When you do this, you rely solely on his grace. As the Bible says, God's grace is sufficient. Realizing this, our prayers give us a deep and abiding sense of peace that can help us weather all sorts of challenges.

## Prayers Strengthen You

When you pray, you are given an opportunity to put yourself at the mercy of the Lord. When you do this, you stop relying on your ability to solve your problems. Your problems become His. Since He created the world and everything in it by simply speaking, I hope it's clear how much power you're tapping into. You can't help but feel strengthened by this. Instead of feeling small and powerless, you feel a boost of energy that comes from outside of you.

**All you need is love. But a little chocolate now  
and then doesn't hurt.**  
Charles M. Schulz

**JUST  
FOR  
FUN!**

**A heart is not judged by how much you love, but  
how much you are loved by others.**  
Frank Morgan





*Just Married!*

Constantino Gaspar and Jessica Wu Gaspar  
Huatulco, Mexico – December 30, 2014.

### **Soteni International Mission Trip:**

Last spring, First Church donated items (such as duct tape, plastic gloves, antibiotic cream toothbrushes/paste, soaps and lotions) for a mission trip from an area church to Kenya to work with HIV/AIDS orphans and to help with construction & repairs on the facilities. We recently received a thank you note from them and photos from the trip.

Soteni Int'l is the name of the organization sponsored the mission trip. Their goal is to empower communities afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 30% of the people in each village have HIV. The medical people in the villages in Kenya are the villagers themselves - trained to care for the afflicted. So, while the mission groups do a lot to help, the villagers do have ongoing medical services themselves.

The villagers were ecstatic with the quality and quantity of the items we sent. Something like 350 pounds of "assistance" were either brought or sent over. And that's due to people like you who gave of themselves. Again, thanks.

Many projects were completed by the missions group. No trash collection there, the villagers dig a pit and throw their garbage into it. The smell permeates the land and the children play near it. A safe cover was built to protect the kids from falling in - certainly a much needed improvement. Water collection tanks were fixed and built; a forty foot gutter system was installed

on the building; many painting projects as well were completed.

Your help was needed and you stepped up. There are many people you'll never meet (on this side of heaven) who were (and are) blessed by your kindness.



## CT UCC Upcoming Events

<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php>

**Soul Food for the Journey: a day apart for women clergy**  
**Feb. 3, 10:00 am**

*CT Women*

**Location:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Glastonbury  
2183 Main Street Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Free

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### Confirmation Retreat Weekend

**Feb. 6-8, 2015**

*Conference*

**Location:** Silver Lake Conference Center 223 Low Road,  
Sharon, CT 06069  
\$160.00 per person

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### Unpacking Vacation Bible School

**Feb. 7, 9:00 - 11:30 am**

*Conference*

**Location:** First Church of Christ, 12 S. Main St. West Hartford  
\$10 for CAUCE members, \$15.00 for non-members.

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### Stepping Stones: Teambuilding with Youth Groups (and adults too!)

**Feb. 10, 6:00 pm**

*Conference*

**Location:** First CC Cheshire, 111 Church DR Cheshire, CT  
\$20.00 per person, \$50.00 for groups of 3 or more, discount for CAUCE members

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### Arts in the Center: The Little Big Band

**Feb. 13, 5:30 pm**

*Local Church*

**Location:** First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main Street, West Hartford  
Suggested donation: \$20.00

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### Stepping Stones: Church Asset Mapping for Faith Formation

**Feb. 26, 6:00 pm**

*Conference*

**Location:** First United Church of Christ Congregational, 34 West Main ST, Milford, CT  
\$20.00 per person, \$50.00 for groups of 3 or more, discount for CAUCE members

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### Counselor-in-Training Conference at SLCC

**Mar. 13-15, 2015**

*Conference*

**Location:** Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Rd., Sharon  
\$130

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### Super Saturday

**Mar. 21**

*Conference*

**Location:** Ludlow High School, 500 Chapin St., Ludlow MA  
TBA

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### Women's Yoga and Music Spirit Retreat

**Mar. 27 - 29**

*Conference*

**Location:** Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Rd., Sharon  
\$190.00

## ABCUSA Grant Opportunity – Tell your Ministry Story!

You are invited to share your Ministry Story with the American Baptist Family and with the world! Entry Deadline is March 1, 2015 – don't wait until it is too late!

"We want to develop a learning community where churches share their innovation, experiences, and experiments in ministry (particularly ones which connect us to the communities outside the church itself). This stems from churches that have been involved with 'Transformed by the Spirit,' but also will include entities, regions and partnerships in our overall ABCUSA family that are doing innovative work and have addressed adaptive challenges," said Scott Arnold, ABCUSA Journey Team member and Pastor of First Baptist Church of Bedford, MA.

Grants totaling \$5,000 will be given to the top stories, and these will be celebrated at the Biennial Mission Summit in Kansas City in June 2015. The stories may be shared in either video or written (with photos) formats. Submissions of videos should be up to three minutes in length. Submissions of written works should be up to two pages in length, and can include up to five photos in addition to the written work.

Video submissions may be shared by YouTube/Facebook/Vimeo/other video sharing link. Written Ministry Stories should be submitted to [AmericanBaptist@gmail.com](mailto:AmericanBaptist@gmail.com). Churches and organizations are invited to submit stories by March 1, 2015.

Read about the Ministry Story Opportunity at: <http://www.abc-usa.org/2014/12/22/abcusa-invites-grant-entries-for-ministry-story-opportunity-2/> Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact [AmericanBaptist@gmail.com](mailto:AmericanBaptist@gmail.com).

Here is a video link to the invitation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa9cTVInSTI>

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## ABCUSA Sponsored Pilgrimage to the Taize Community

ABCUSA initiative on Spiritual Formation there will be a pilgrimage to the Taize community in France, May 21-June 2, 2015 led by the Rev. Brad Bergland. Scholarships are available for those under 30. For more information go to:

[http://www.illuminatedjourneys.com/documents/taize\\_2015bro2\\_email.pdf](http://www.illuminatedjourneys.com/documents/taize_2015bro2_email.pdf)

**To Ponder:** One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire Cat sitting in a tree. "Which road do I take?" she asked. "Where do you want to go?" was his response. "I don't know," Alice answered. Then said the cat, "It doesn't matter." *Lewis Carroll*





**Ingredients:**

1 package of white cake mix  
 1 3/4 cup of root beer divided  
 1/4 cup of canola oil  
 2 eggs  
 1 envelope of powdered whipped topping mix  
 (I used Dream Whip)

**Directions:**

In a large bowl or mixer combine cake mix, 1 1/4 cups of root beer, oil and eggs. Beat on low speed for 2 minutes or you can mix ingredients by hand for 3 minutes.

Pour into a greased 13x9 baking pan. Bake at 350 for 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely before icing.

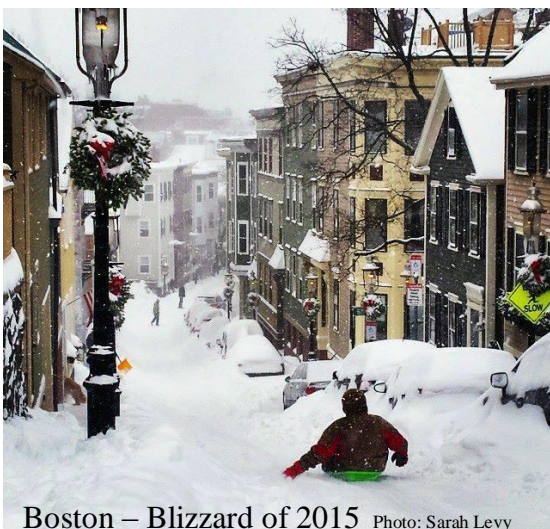
For your icing combine the remaining 1/2 cups of root beer with the whipped topping mix. Beat on high until soft peaks form. Ice cake and store in fridge.

And yes you can definitely taste the root beer in this- it's so yummy!!

## Thank you!

To the congregation: Thank you for the chocolates and Barnes & Noble gift card that were presented to me at Christmas.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness. ~ Tricia



Boston – Blizzard of 2015 Photo: Sarah Levy

## Pewter Memorial Ornaments

Over thirty year ago, First Church held a fund raiser by purchasing pewter ornaments from silversmith James Gagnon. Mr. Gagnon was located in Riverton at the time. Recently, Mr. Gagnon moved his studio to the Whiting Mills across the street off of Holabird Ave.

It was mentioned during a cabinet meeting that many of our members today did not know the history behind the ornaments. Mr. Gagnon still has the ornaments for sale and for those who wish to add the memory of their loved ones is welcome to contact him. If you do, please let Barbara Mazzei know, so that she can add your loved ones names to the list that is placed in the bulletin each Christmas.

## STEAM VENT Coffee House

### March 14<sup>th</sup> Performers

6:30 ~ Muddy Boots  
 7:00 ~ The Alternates Duo  
 7:30 ~ Eric Paradine  
 8:00 ~ Robert C. Fullerton  
 8:30 ~ CRB  
 9:00 ~ The Planets

### April 11<sup>th</sup> Performers

6:30 ~ Dark Horse  
 7:00 ~ Bill Benson  
 7:30 ~ Eric Paradine  
 8:00 ~ Breathless Charm  
 8:30 ~ Jim Moore  
 9:00 ~ Conrad Doty & Patti Wilion

### May 9<sup>th</sup> Performers



6:30 ~  
 7:00 ~ Nancy Johnson  
 7:30 ~ Jean Stokes Recchia  
 8:00 ~ Mike Lovallo  
 8:30 ~ Howard Baldwin  
 9:00 ~

### June 13<sup>th</sup> Performers

6:30 ~ Dark Horse  
 7:00 ~ Bill Morrell  
 7:30 ~ Blue Yonder  
 8:00 ~ Abby Lappen  
 8:30 ~  
 9:00 ~

Dinner Themes to be announced! Thanks to all of our old and some new friends for signing up! Only four openings!

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am Sunday - 11:15 am Tuesday - 5:30 pm Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday - 7:00 pm	Worship Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus Rehearsal~Worship Choir AA / Alanon Meetings Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	February 1 February 2 February 14 February 16 February 17 February 18 February 21 (Tentative)	Super Bowl Sunday – Grinders!! Ground Hog Day Valentine's Day President's Day Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras Ash Wednesday Pool & Pizza Party
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	February 1 February 10 February 15 February 24 February 25	PM Board 11:20 am Board of Christian Ed. 6:45 pm Deacons 11:30 am Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm CDC Liason 7:15 pm	

## ★HAPPY BIRTHDAY!★

### February Birthdays

01 - Elexys Savoy  
02 - Susan Tripodina  
03 - Sabrina McAllister  
03 - Bailey McCaw  
03 - Julie Davy  
05 - Daniel Hall  
06 - Kate Roys  
07 - Lorraine Tatar  
07 - Nicole Ladd  
11 - Bonnie Geddes  
11 - Dan Jones  
12 - Jessica Toomey  
14 - Mathew Marvin  
14 - Korie Valickis  
15 - Heather Richardson  
16 - Holly Cassaday  
16 - Devan McCaw  
18 - Dilshan Gunawardena  
18 - Virginia Hughes  
18 - Eric Smith  
18 - Jessica Wu Gaspar  
20 - Will Hurlbut  
20 - Carol Miles  
20 - Debbie Storrs  
21 - Curtis Blische  
21 - George Majewski  
22 - Sharon Doyle  
24 - William Bastenbeck  
25 - Helen Nye  
26 - Bud Roberts  
26 - Kelvin Smith  
27 - Alexandra Cassaday  
28 - Jamie McAllister  
28 - Eileen Bensle  
28 - Rick Rice  
29 - Peyton Storrs

### February Anniversaries

♥ 13 - Ted & Donna Sherman  
♥ 15 - Robert & Ann Jones  
♥ 19 - Paul & Diane Richards

If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs: [dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)



### Camp Wightman

Registration for Camp Wightman's 2015 summer camp programs is now open! Visit [www.campwightman.org](http://www.campwightman.org) / summer camp to review the schedule and make your choice of programs. Register by March 15 for the best rates and to be eligible to win one of 100 early-bird registration prizes!



### The Silver Lake 2015

Summer Brochure is now available online!  
Registration is now open

<http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>



### Children's Discovery Center

Students having fun with a parachute with Miss Pam.





# February 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	<b>February Birthstone: Amethyst</b> 	<b>February Flower: Violet</b> 	<b>Astrological Signs</b> <b>Aquarius:</b> Jan 21 – Feb 18 <b>Pisces:</b> Feb 19 – Mar 20	<b>Spread Love</b> It binds us together. It validates our lives. It gives us meaning. It brings compassion. It lets us see with new eyes. To love someone deeply gives you strength; being loved by someone deeply gives you courage. Lao Tzu		
<b>1</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>9:30 am</b> <b>PM Board 11:20</b> <b>Super Bowl Sunday</b>  <b>Grinder Pickup!</b> Elxys Savoy	<b>2</b>  <b>Ground Hog Day</b> Susan Tripodina	<b>3</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> Sabrina McAllister Bailey McCaw Julie Davy	<b>4</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>5</b> Daniel Hall	<b>6</b> Kate Roys	<b>7</b> Nicole Ladd Lorraine Tatar
<b>8</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>Muddy Boots Praise Choir</b> <b>9:30 am</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>  <b>Chris Ed Bd</b> <b>6:45 pm</b>	<b>11</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>  Bonnie Geddes Dan Jones	<b>12</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b> <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>  <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b> Jessica Toomey	<b>13</b> ♥ Ted & Donna Sherman	<b>14</b>  <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b> Mathew Marvin Korie Valickis
<b>15</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>9:30</b> <b>Rock Starz 4 Jesus</b> <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Deacons</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Heather Richardson ♥ Robert & Ann Jones	<b>16</b>  <b>President's Day</b> <b>Washington's Birthday</b> Holly Cassaday Devan McCaw Dilshan Gunawardena	<b>17</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>  <b>Mardi Gras</b>	<b>18</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Service 7:30 pm</b> Virginia Hughes Eric Smith Jessica Wu Gaspar	<b>19</b> <b>Chinese New Year</b> <b>Year of the sheep</b>  ♥ Paul & Diane Richards	<b>20</b> Will Hurlbut Carol Miles Debbie Storrs	<b>21</b>  <b>Tentative Date!</b> Curtis Blische George Majewski
<b>22</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Muddy Boots Praise Choir</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Sharon Doyle	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> <b>Cabinet</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> William Bastenbeck	<b>25</b> <b>CDC Liason</b> <b>7:15</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Helen Nye	<b>26</b> Bud Roberts Kelvin Smith	<b>27</b> Alexandra Cassaday	<b>28</b> <b>Prayer Shall Ministry</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Jamie McAllister Eileen Bensle Rick Rice



Artist: Karen Delton

**Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu**

Moderator - Dan Jones ~ Vice-Moderator – Bob Adkins  
 Clerk - Allison Graboski  
 Treasurer - Debby Kane ~ Associate Treasurer - Joan Eggering  
 Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore  
 Board of Deacons Co-chairs - Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni  
 Property Maintenance Chair - Frank Artruc  
 Christian Education Chair / Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei  
 Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu  
 Muddy Boots Praise Choir Director – Dan Jones  
 Youth Choir Director - Debbie Storrs  
 Webmaster - John Eggering

# FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM**

Communion - 1st Sunday of Every Month  
 Sunday School - Nursery Care - During Worship  
 Coffee Hour - Following Worship

**E-Mail / Office:** [info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)

**Telephone:** (860) 379-1778

**Church Web-Site:** [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)

The CT Conference of the UCC  
 Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free  
 Still Speaking Site [www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)  
 UCC Web-Site [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or [ctuucc.org](http://ctuucc.org)

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut - ABCCONN  
 Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Judy G. Allbee  
 Telephone (860) 521-5421  
 ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

First Church of Winsted  
 95 North Main Street  
 Winsted, CT 06098

# BELLRINGER



	
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