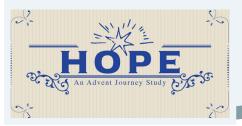
THEBRIDGE DEC '20 | JAN '21 | FEB '21 CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH







Sundays: Nov. 29-Dec. 20, 10:30am Sundays: Nov. 29-Dec. 20, 6pm Wednesdays: Dec. 2-23, 1:30pm

Adult Advent Study. Readers are encouraged to reclaim Advent as something already here, not a season waiting to arrive.

Sign up: carlislepaumc.org/signup



Sundays: Nov. 29-Dec. 27 All worship services (8, 9:30 & 11am)

This Advent we will go on a journey to see with fresh eyes how the coming of Christ, Emmanuel, gives us strength for the present and hope for the future.

Sign up: carlislepaumc.org/signup



Saturday, Dec. 12, 9-11am CUMC Parking Lot

Stay in the comfort of your car and journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and share in the Christmas story as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. An event for the whole family to share.



Sunday, Dec. 20, 4-5pm CUMC Courtyard

A casual, light-hearted, joyful event for the whole family!
Celebrate Christmas together while (safely) singing Christmas Carols together (socially distanced) in the Courtyard.



Monday, Dec. 21, 4-5pm

CUMC Worship Center

A quiet reflective time in the

Worship Center to honor the

memory of loved ones and

experience the graceful strength of God in our lives.

Thursday, Dec. 24 CUMC Worship Center

Many services to choose from: 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7 & 9pm. All services have candle lighting. Live streaming will be offered for the 5:30, 7 & 9pm services. Sign ups required. Info: carlislepaumc.org/christmas



www.carlislepaumc.org/ornament

ONLY \$10/ea. Order at

MORE INFO: WWW.CARLISLEPAUMC.ORG/CHRISTMAS

ALSO OFFERING: ONLINE CHRISTMAS @ HOME EXPERIENCE

A prerecorded online Christmas service for folks celebrating Christmas online this year and would like an alternative to live stream. Youtube.com/CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch



KIDS

DECEMBER

- 3 Kids'Time, 6-7pm, Kids'Room
- 6 Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 12 Journey to Bethlehem, 9-11am
- 13 Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 17 Kids'Time, 6-7pm, Kids'Room
- 20 Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room (Christmas Party)

JANUARY

- 3 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room Kids'Preteen - Bowling @ Midway, 4:45-7pm
- . 10 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room
 - Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 14 Kids'Time, Kids'Room
- 16 Kids'Family Event (for moms & daughters), 2-4pm, Kids'Room
- 17 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room
- 24 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room
 - Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 28 Kids'Time, Kids'Room
- 31 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room

Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room

FEBRUARY

- 6 Kids'Preteen Nerf Day, 1-4pm
- 7 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room
- 11 Kids'Time, Kids'Room
- 12 Kids'Family Event, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 21 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am,
 - Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- 25 Kids'Time, Kids'Room
- 28 Kids'Worship, 9:30 & 11am, Kids'Room Kids'Preteen, 5-7pm, Kids'Room
- **Calendar subject to change
- Lia Garrett, Kids'Min Director kids@carlislepaumc.org



On October 17, the Kids' Ministry had their annual Harvest Halloween Bash. This year the event happened at the Spring Garden Campus! We were not able to have hayrides due to COVID, however, the kids had fun going around to the five different volunteers that participated in the Trunk-or-Treat. The kids were able to enjoy



the fall games, pumpkin carving, snacks, and craft stations. One of the greatest outcomes of the event is seeing how families were able to reconnect and have a time of fellowship with each other. We had several families stay for a long time chatting and watching their kids have a great time together.

Back in September, the Kids' Ministry had our kick-off to the PenPals for the current school year. During October and November, we encouraged the penpals to write about their fun Fall events and things that are happening with each other. Throughout the next few months we can look forward to the Christmas season, New Year's, Martin Luther King Jr.'s day, Valentine's day, birthdays, snow days making snowmen, angels, and so much more. One of the team members in the Kids' Ministry even found the mailing letters to other kids as a way she can connect with her grandchildren. This way of staying connected with friends and family may not be as common to communicate, but the

impact and fun stories we hear about the penpals is one way the kids can connect with the rest of the church and beyond.

In God's story the Bible, Luke 2:11-12, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." During this season we get to celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ! The Kids' Ministry looks forward to retelling the story of Jesus's birth through a drive-through live nativity in December and finding ways we can Live Like Jesus in this season of life.



Our first Kids' Family Experience for moms and daughters Saturday, January 16, 2-4pm, Kids' Room.

Makeover (makeup & nails); A Disney experience with making a magical memory together; Opportunity to come dressed as a princess

To help make events like this possible we will have a \$5.00 entry fee.



DEAR 2020: A TIME TO REFLECT

As we come to the end of 2020 our High School students took some time to reflect on the year. See what they said and take some time and reflect yourself.

"Dear 2020,
First, I want to say thank you for my family.
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"Dear 2020,

First, I want to say thank you for the new church. You really threw me for a loop when you took away my internship, but God faithfully came through with His loving help through opening new doors. I can honestly say I've grown in patience, acceptance, and even in understanding. My story is still being written and day by

understanding. My story is still being written and day by day I'm working on developing my future, but I choose to trust in the promise of God. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that this too shall pass."

"Dear 2020,

First, I want to say thank you for family. You really threw me for a loop when school happened, but God faithfully came through with His love. I can honestly say I've grown in believing, trusting, and even loving people. My story is still being written and day by day I'm working on developing school, but I choose to trust in the promise of Jesus. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that school and family is important."

"Dear 2020,
First, I want to say thank you for opportunities.
You really threw me for a loop when I dropped out of school, but God faithfully came through with His people. I can honestly say I've grown in my faith, maturity, and even in patience. My story is still being written and day by day I'm story is still being written and day by day I'm working on developing myself, but I choose to working on developing myself, but I choose to trust in the promise of God. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that He is always there."

"Dear 2020,

First, I want to say thank you for teaching me so much. You really threw me for a loop when, we had to leave school, but God faithfully came through with His reminders that He's still here. I can honestly say I've grown in gratitude, calmness and even in confidence. My story is still being written and day by day I'm working on developing acceptance, but I choose to trust in the promise of God's plan. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that everything that happened this year was for a reason."

"Dear 2020,

First, I want to say thank you for *church*. You really threw me for a loop when *COVID hit*, but God faithfully came through with His *power*. I can honestly say I've grown in *relationship with Him*, faith, and even prayer. My story is still being written and day by day I'm working on a better relationship with God, but I choose to trust in the promise of God. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that I am never alone."

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First, I want to say thank you for my friends. You really threw me for a but God faithfully came through I've grown in my grades, trust, and is still being written and day by day but I choose to trust in the promise nothing is impossible, so I will stay in First, and reminded that you are king."

"Dear 2020,

First, I want to say thank you for my friends. You really threw me for a loop when Covid hit, but God faithfully came through with His love. I can honestly say I've grown in praying, believing in you, and trusting you. My story is still being written and day by day I'm working on developing my bible reading skills, but I choose to trust in the promise of forgiveness. With God nothing is impossible, so I will stay reminded that God loves me."



As we approach the holidays and the new year I have been starting to plan for what comes after Christmas. I have found that due to the coronavirus pandemic there is an unwillingness to plan too far into the future, however. Even in my personal life, things like where we are going for Thanksgiving dinner would have been decided weeks ago, but everyone is waiting to see what the numbers look like closer to that week. I think that one of the reasons we are so hesitant to make plans is that we are tired of having to change them when things don't go the way we hoped they would. So much of our lives have been disrupted and the best way to avoid disappointment is to not make plans until we know for certain if it will be safe, or at least as certain as we can be.

Regardless of how often we need to change our plans, there are some things that don't change. God's love and provision for us are constant and everlasting, and that is something that we can plan for in our lives. That can be easy for us to forget, though, especially when we are looking at our calendars and erasing or crossing out those events that we have been looking forward to.

Something that keeps going through my head that keeps my spirits up and makes me keep going comes from Disney's Finding Nemo. One of the main characters, Dory, has a memory problem, and she repeats a phrase over and

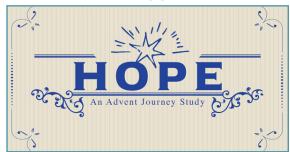
over to herself that I have realized is key to her very survival. "Just keep swimming." For a fish, swimming is an essential part of life, and if they stop they will literally die, so this mantra is as important to a fish as it would be if we kept chanting, "just keep breathing". The thing is, I feel like some of us

need that reminder these days, just keep breathing. I have been borrowing Dory's phrase for a lot of things, actually. When I don't want to read my Bible every morning I sing, "Just keep reading," and when I'm not sure if my prayers are being heard, I sing "Just keep praying." And now I am passing this along to you, "Just keep growing!"

- CHUCK STEEL

KEEP GROWING IN JESUS. KEEP GROWING IN YOUR FAITH. KEEP GROWING IN GOD. JUST KEEP GROWING!

Here are a few opportunities for you to keep growing coming up in December in January.



Five weekly sessions of the Hope: An Advent Journey study:

Sundays at 10:30am led by Greg and Michelle Williams

Sundays at 5:00pm led by Jay Layman

Sundays at 6:00pm led by Vicki Morley

Wednesdays at 1:30pm led by Sue Baxter and Chris Benson These classes will all be held in person at the church or you can join via Zoom. See the Grow Adult webpage for more details.

FOR MORE INFO & TO SIGN UP: carlislepaumc.org/adults

Additionally, there will be a class Sundays at 7:00pm led by Don and Nancy Schoeps via Zoom. And Thursdays at 7:30am you can join the Men's Breakfast led by Rich Charette at Fay's Country Kitchen

SERVING IN OUR COMMUNITY

This holiday season CUMC is/ has been blessed to reach out to our neighbors. During November we collected funds for Project SHARE's Thanksgiving Turkey Drive to provide Thanksgiving dinner to over 800 neighbors in our community. With Project SHARE's purchasing power \$1 donated by CUMC equals \$7-10 for food. Thank you to all who gave this holiday to feed our neighbors. To bring cheer and joy to kids in our community, CUMC each year provides gifts to kids at Salvation Army and Children & Youth Services of Cumberland County. This vear 150 kids wishes adorned the Angel Tree, seeking angels at CUMC. Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas wishes come true for kids in our community in need this holiday.



Alternative Gifts have become a tradition at CUMC that provides a meaningful gift to one of SERVE's community partners while honoring and remembering our loved ones at Christmas.

It's a non-traditional way to bless our community, while giving gifts that will change lives this Christmas. Have a mom that loves to

cook? Celebrate the gift of food with a donation to meals CUMC prepares at the Salvation Army. Want to honor a caregiver in your life? Give a gift to Little Lights for low-income kids who need basic supplies for school. Want to thank a neighbor for helping with a home repair? Support VIMs continued work on projects locally and regionally repairing houses hit by storms. Want to give thanks for your education? Support a child for one month to go to school in Mellier Haiti. This year there are 11 gifts that will help you honor and remember your loved ones while supporting the SERVE partners at CUMC.

Brochures available online at www.carlislepaumc.org/christmas or in the Gathering.

FRUITBELT FARMWORKERS MINISTRY



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I was preparing to get back into my car and leave the migrant fruitworkers' quarters in the Gardners area when a smiling, middle-aged man called out to me. He hustled down the exterior stairwell of the dormitory-style building there with a bag full of carefully chosen apples that he wanted to present to our church in thanks for the blanket I had given him the previous week.

CUMC provided donations of blankets, gloves, sweatshirts, gift cards, ball caps and more to the nearly 3 dozen workers housed in 2 buildings on Labor Camp Road not far from the hamlet of Uriah. In previous years a group of CUMC members and friends visited the site repeatedly in September and October for fellowship with the fruitworkers. Because of the pandemic, this year's CUMC ministry was limited to 2 short October visits by this correspondent and Pastor Christian Aguilar, new director of Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry. It coordinates the efforts of Cumberland, Adams and Franklin County mission committees targeting the migrant population that comes to harvest apples and other fruit.

The CUMC visits may have been scaled back, but the workers offered enthusiastic thanks for the items provided - especially since the nights and mornings had turned chilly after a very warm

(continued on Page 7)

WHO'S AT CUMC?

As the new church was designed, the congregation asked the Building Team to design space so outside groups would feel welcomed at CUMC. Although Covid-19 has made our move in and use of spaces different than we anticipated during the planning stages, even today we are thrilled that groups in our community are finding CUMC a place to host meetings and gather in small groups in safe ways in our new space.

Groups meeting at CUMC in person as of November 2020 are: Al-Non, Girl Scouts, Music Therapy, Underaged Drinking Educational Program and Volleyball Team. Each of these also met regularly at our former site. New to our space are Knit-Wits (a social group) and Boiling Springs 10-12 year old basketball practice. We continue to host Samaritan Fellowship who

(continued on Page 7)

HOMELESS TO HOME OUTREACH



WOW! The impact COVID19 is being felt throughout comour munity, especially for those who are home-

less, as they look to obtain housing with winter fast approaching.

Prior to the COVID shutdown, through CUMC's partnership with the Cumberland County Housing Authority Homeless and Special Needs Department, their case managers referred three households to CUMC's Homeless2Home outreach. In March, H2H referrals stopped with the COVID shutdown. As the Cumberland County Housing case managers made numerous adjustments for housing needs and shifted to work from home, they were made aware that CUMC's H2H outreach was willing to provide "No Contact" delivery of cleaning and personal care items to any clients moving into housing.

At the beginning of May, referrals for assistance began to be received due to limited funding made available for housing those who were homeless. From May 2020 through October 2020, eight referrals have been received for assistance from the Housing Authority. An additional request for supplies was also received from a local church assisting a family in a challenging situation.

Though it may sound like CUMC has made little impact through the Homeless2Home outreach this year, please recall the "starfish" story where it mattered to the one starfish that was tossed back into the ocean. CUMC has made a difference to twelve households which includes twelve adults and four children. We helped to provide items that their financial resources do not permit purchasing as they

move into housing.

CUMC provided necessary cleaning and personal care items (especially important in this time of COVID) to assist these households get settled in their new homes.

When the Cumberland County Housing Authority receives additional funding to help others get into housing, CUMC H2H is ready to receive any referrals and assist these households to move into housing from homelessness.

Please join us in prayer that Cumberland County receives funding to assist those in our community who are homeless, and that additional assistance is forthcoming to keep folks from being evicted at yearend. Also pray to support our local landlords during this trying time.

Thanks to all at CUMC for supporting the H2H outreach which provides assistance to some of the most vulnerable in our community. Together, we are making a difference! **— ART & CINDY KUNST**

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2021

The nominating election on October 25 determined that the three nominees to Leadership Council would be Sue Baxter, Wayne Henderson and Rick Washinger. At the Church Conference on November 2, all three nominees were approved to serve in the class of 2021-2023. We welcome Sue and Rick to the Leadership Council and welcome back Wayne, to serve a second three-year term. Sue and Rick will participate in an orientation session before assuming office on January 1.

I would like to thank Roger Woods for his three years of service on Leadership Council. During that

time Roger led GROW Adult and WORSHIP. Addition-

ally, he became very active in the formation of a new group, Believers in Action, which is tackling the issue of racism in our society. Additionally, Roger provided legal assistance throughout his tenure on LC.

I would now like to thank Pastor Mira, Pastor Jake and Pastor Jim for being such wonderful pastors during my seven years on Leadership Council. For the last five years, I served as chair and during that time I had many interactions with each of them. We have been very blessed to have two outstanding pastoral teams here at CUMC, and they really made working with each of them a great pleasure. I also would like to thank my fellow LC members with whom I have had the great

pleasure of working. While serving as chair, I was blessed to have a terrific Building Committee under the outstanding leadership of Jeff Barnes who did everything needed to construct the fabulous church we now so proudly occupy. Finally, I want to thank the congregation, too. Throughout the existence of the Leadership Council, we have been undergirded by your prayers, your fabulous financial support and your willingness to say, "Yes." It was rare when I asked a member of the congregation to do something, that he/she said, "No."

My prayer is that as we move ahead our Leadership Council and church continues to "Live Like Jesus."

- KERM LEITNER

BELIEVERS IN ACTION: A CONVERSATION WITH JAY LAYMAN

Believers in Action (BIA) is a newly formed group at CUMC, made up of people with a passion for confronting the issues of racism, inclusion, diversity, and social justice.

The "umbrella" group, led by Jay Layman, includes two sub-groups currently - one about racism and the other on gender/diversity. Jay answers questions about BIA:

Q: What led you to join BIA?

"I've had a lifelong interest in helping people, personally and professionally. My wife, Christina, was the inspiration to join BIA. Her military background in social issues and training troops on gender and inclusivity issues and her involvement with Carlisle YWCA initiatives on racism have been frequent topics during our marriage."

Also, his daughter, Anna Layman Knox, is a UM pastor at Camp Hill UMC and has been active nationally in the UM denomination and in the Susquehanna Conference on gender/inclusivity issues. She is a leader in Susquehanna UMC Next, a grassroots network in the Susquehanna Conference. "Anna is an inspiration to me as I look to the future of the denomination."

Jay is a New Testament Christian in his belief that God's love for all His children, as proclaimed by Jesus, is how we are to live our lives especially regarding social, gender, and racial justice issues. He says, "BIA will serve as relationship builders to confront these issues."

He has a biracial grandson, which drives him to engage at the local level to change the dialogue around race.

"I also think it's time for resolution," he adds about gender and sexuality issues within the UM denomination. "I believe these issues require thoughtful and informed dialogue which we hope to facilitate here at CUMC."

Q: What impact do you see the group making within CUMC and the community?

"CUMC's history includes efforts in outreach to the black community, but things went by the wayside. We want to do more outreach again."

BIA will facilitate discussions within the church to explain and help others embrace the denomination's stance on racial justice. Events or classes will be held where people can express their opinions.

The group intends to help CUMC members embrace what it means to become a reconciling ministry on the LGBTQ+ issue. "We want everyone to feel safe and welcome by focusing on the heart of the matter, the real issue: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself."

BIA will have an educational program on these issues, particularly the LGBTQ+ issue as the denomination prepares to debate changes to the Book of Discipline at the next Annual and General Conferences.

"Our magnificent, new church facility provides us with a special opportunity to reengage the Carlisle community in new ways and to be a leader supporting these issues. The church is fully accessible and available to the community for many types of gatherings, worship, and local mission outreach. BIA will help CUMC send strong signals to the community that everyone is welcome. Carlisle is a caring community that we want to support."

Although recent changes are helping, Jay is disheartened by examples of racism remaining within the Carlisle community. The history of Carlisle during specific periods has been glossed over and forgotten. The significance the area played in the Underground Railroad is still being discovered. Over the years,

there have been initiatives to provide better housing and neighborhood improvements for persons of color. A major reconciliation effort has happened recently with an apology from the Borough of Carlisle for the unfortunate handling of changes to the Lincoln Cemetery, an historic African American cemetery, in the 1970's. Carlisle is fortunate to have a mayor, Tim Scott, and Chief of Police, Taro Landis, who are both African American with a desire to bring the community together and work in partnership. Jay wants CUMC to be involved in these efforts too.

Read more in our CUMC Spring edition for events/sessions/meetings in the works through BIA.

- MICHELLE WILLIAMS

(Fruitbelt...continued from Page 5) September.

Depending on what happens with the pandemic, next fall's visits may again have to be brief, but the workers' needs won't be reduced. Donations of new and gently used blankets and men's sweatshirts and jackets would be welcome and will be stored at the church till they can be distributed to the workers during the fruit harvest.

- FRED BURGESS

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(Who...continued from Page 5) are interviewing clients in need on line and work regularly in their new office space at CUMC.

We are thankful those that continue to give to CUMC's capital campaign and help us provide space for these community groups. We look forward to hosting others as we continue to grow into our new building.

NEW STAFF



CUMC welcomes Nick Bergstresser as the new Media Director. Nick has grown up at CUMC

attending youth group and worship for years. He has volunteered many hours as our audio/visual/lighting has been installed and has a dream to work in AVL professionally for concerts. Nick joins us as a part-time staff to coordinate our volunteer teams that provide audio, visuals and livestreaming for worship services. He also is supporting our Grow classes with AVL needs as well. If you see Nick in the sound or media booth, please stop and welcome him onto staff.



JAN. 3 & 10

PRAYERS for 2021

In 2021 we are all ready for a fresh start to a new year. Methodists have a long tradition of crossing the threshold into a new year with prayers that focus our hopes for the year to come. Let's start the new year together in prayer.

JAN. 17-FEB. 14

IN GOD'S IMAGE

It seems like the world gives us every reason to tear each other apart and to dehumanize people who are not like us. What is missing is the recognition of the image of God in the face of the other AND in the face in the mirror. Together

let's see ourselves as God sees us as we take a transformational look at some of our most pressing challenges from the vital Biblical idea that we are all created in the image of God.

FEB. 21 - APR. 4

ENCOUNTERING JESUS: THE BOOK OF MARK

Two billion people claim to follow him...70,000 books have been written about him...Entire civilizations have been shaped by him... Who Is This Man? What does it mean to make his story our story? This Lent we will try to see Jesus as his early followers saw him and find our place in his ongoing story as we strive to LIVE LIKE JESUS.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:00am - Traditional Worship Worship in the Worship Center with traditional hymns and traditional UMC liturgy.

9:30am - Contemporary Worship Worship in the Worship Center led by our Praise Band using contemporary music.

11am - Relaxed Traditional Worship

Worship in the Worship Center with a variety of traditional hymns, songs from "The Faith We Sing," & choruses of praise.

*Sign ups required for services and childcare. All services live streamed to youtube.com/ CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch



333 S Spring Garden Street Carlisle, PA 717.249.1512 • carlislepaumc.org

LEGACY CORNER - A WALK OF FAITH

144 leaves adorned the Memorial Tree that remembers and celebrates loved ones from 2002 through early 2020. The Memorial Tree can be found on the back wall of our new Chapel. With the leaves almost full, Leadership Council earlier this year approved "A Walk of Faith" as a way at our new church building to honor and memorialize loved ones. Bricks and pavers will build an outdoor walkway from the Left Patio to the Amphitheatre, ending in a large patio at the Amphitheatre accessible for wheelchairs and those unable to sit on the outdoor amphitheater benches. It will take 495 pavers and 1090 bricks to complete the walkway. Pavers (12"x12") are available for \$500

donation and bricks (4"x8") for \$150 donation. Proceeds will help pay off our building debt.

Pavers and bricks are not just for deceased loved ones, but can be ordered in honor and celebration of special family events that will be visible for years to come. We anticipate laying sections of the walk in the spring, summer and fall as orders are received. More information can be found online under CONNECT - Walk of Faith or at Info Central in the Gathering.

We look forward to celebrating and remembering our loved ones while providing a new sidewalk at CUMC.

LEGACY TEAM

Rev. Jake Waybright
Vision Pastor
jwaybright@carlislepaumc.org

- Rev. Mira Hewlett
- **Executive Pastor**
- mhewlett@carlislepaumc.org