

# *The View*

A Publication of  
**Overlook United Methodist Church**

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**Pastor Paul Smith**



*November and December*  
**2017**



### John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

◆ 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



Greetings friends and neighbors of the Overlook United Methodist Church,

Peace be with you. We have been reflecting through the Hebrew Scriptures in Sunday Worship since I have arrived in July and will continue until Christmas Eve. It has been great to revisit the Jewish history and teachings that grounded and paved the way for Jesus to enter our world and reveal the gospel to us. We have surveyed through Adam to King Solomon and have heard the story of how the Lord (Yahweh) has been present and at work building up Israel to be the people God has called them to be. Much of the story calls God's people to trust in God and be faithful in God's ways above all other things no matter what circumstances come their way. And I believe that is true even for us today.

Even as great as our journey through the Hebrew Scriptures has been, I know worshippers have felt the thirst and the hunger for the Word of Jesus. And that has been somewhat part of the plan. It is like the discipline of fasting. Fasting is great for a variety of benefits, one of them is to enhance our appreciation for what is good. Because of this, I am hoping that this season at Overlook increases the meaningfulness of Christmas for us this year. We are about to reflect through Isaiah in November and Advent. The prophetic book will highlight the darkness that Israel suffered from being exiled into captivity in Babylon. From that point forward, God's people will look to the Lord to deliver them from their despair and to send them the Messiah who will usher in a new era of hope.

I think I can speak for many that we are in a time needing a message of hope. Hope can restore our faith in what is good in the world, inspire in us peace and joy, and encourage and strengthen us to persevere no matter what is going on among and within us. I know families need hope, communities need hope, our nation needs hope, and people all around the world need hope. And God has sent us a message of hope through God's Chosen One: Jesus. I invite you no matter where you are in your faith journey to receive and to support God's message of hope.

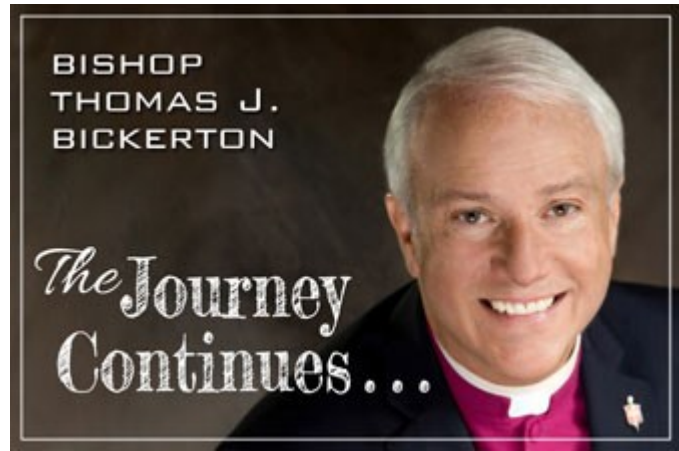
I also invite you to join in Woodstock's Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Worship Service on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Christian Science Church in Woodstock at 7pm. I am preparing to deliver a message of hope for us from God, and of course thanksgiving from us to God. I hope we as a community will take every opportunity such as this to come and support each other.

Grace and peace,  
Paul Smith

9/20/2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

My heart is heavy this morning as I write this note to you. The past two days I have watched the morning news and been stunned by the developing story of yet another massive hurricane bearing down on Puerto Rico and the numerous Caribbean islands in that region. My own sense of fear has been heightened as buildings have collapsed and lives have been altered forever as a result of another massive earthquake in Mexico. These are places that you call home. These are places where you may have family and friends in danger.



Often times the most sensitive thing to say to someone is, "I can only imagine what you are going through." But in this case, I most certainly can imagine the thoughts, concerns, and worries that you are feeling. Just two weeks ago my parents in Florida were evacuated from their rehabilitation center to a shelter where they sought refuge and safety from Hurricane Irma. As their son, I sat in the comfort of my home, thousands of miles away from my loved ones, feeling helpless to do anything except watch and wait.

I know that this is how you feel today. As a storm rages through your homeland, there are places and faces that come to your mind. And, I know for many of you there is a helplessness that comes to your heart and to the hearts of the people you serve. No matter how much faith we claim to have, our human spirit causes us to feel anxious, worried, and afraid.

That is why I am writing to you in particular today. I wanted you to know that I have been and will continue to be praying for you and for the particular concerns that are burdening your heart in these anxious moments of waiting. I wanted you to know that my prayers of intercession are focused on those in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean who are waiting out this storm in their homes and shelters that have been established, and for those working night and day looking for survivors in Mexico. Of particular concern, I have been praying for the poor and the homeless who, on a good day, do not have a place of shelter and safety.

Most of all, I wanted you to know that I have been praying that all of us might deepen our faith and trust in a God who is greater than any storm we face. It is our faith in God that will enable us to embrace the reality that there is a way through the storm and, indeed, a way to find strength and endurance in the days of recovery that lie ahead.

Today I offer this prayer for you and for those who are in the midst of the storm,

*Loving God, you have promised that you would never leave us or forsake us. In the midst of actual storms, earthquakes and natural disasters facing our world, we turn to you as our refuge and strength, asking that you would send a special measure of your grace to those who need it most in this hour. We intercede for those who cannot pray in these anxious moments. And we pray for all people, everywhere who are consumed with doubts and fears. We pray for a peace that would pass understanding, courage that would rise above the waves of doubt, determination to face the storms and its effects with strength, and hope that would remind us that before, during and after the storm you will be our God and we will be your children. Thank you for the calm assurance of your love. Have mercy on us, and on all those affected by these storms and disasters. This is our prayer, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Stay strong, dear friends. Keep the faith. And know today that you are thought of, prayed for, and loved.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Grace & Peace,

Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop





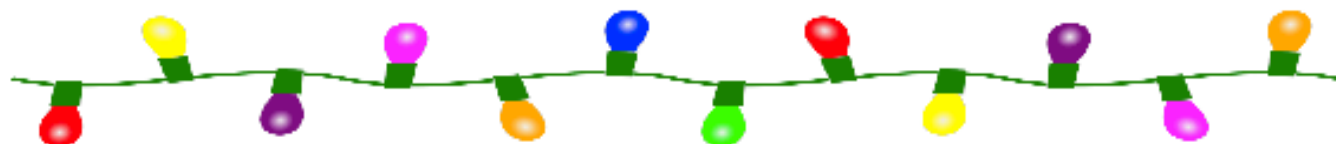
# *Holiday Fair*

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10AM – 2PM**

*Delicious Baked Goods, Beautiful Crafts, Grandma's Attic Treasures, Christmas Ornaments, & Craft Vendors: Handmade Knits, Stunning Quilted Items, Lovely Handmade Jewelry & More!*

**Luncheon will be served from 11am- 1pm**  
**Serving Vegetarian Chili and Soup, Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Breakfast Bake & Salad**

**OVERLOOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**233 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 12498**

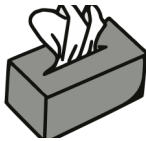


**Items of Dignity  
to bring for donation:**

**November :  
Sponges/Dishwashing Liquid**



**December :  
Facial Tissue**



## **OVERLOOK SERVER SCHEDULE**

### **November 5**

Communion Steward: Janet Lattof  
Usher: Aeyoung Kim  
Worship Reader: Patrick Dodge

### **November 12**

Usher: Sandy Phillips  
Worship Reader: Rosemary Taylor

### **November 19**

Usher: Camilla Tompkins  
Worship Reader: Lynn Bailey  
Dodge

### **November 26**

Usher: Terry Shultis  
Worship Reader: Patrick Dodge

### **December 3**

Communion Steward::  
Nancy Ellis  
Usher: Aeyoung Kim  
Worship Reader: Rosemary

### **December 10**

Usher: Sandy Phillips  
Worship Reader: Lynn Bailey  
Dodge

### **December 17**

Usher: Camilla Tompkins  
Worship Reader: Patrick Dodge

### **December 24**

Usher: Terry Shultis  
Worship Reader: Rosemary  
Taylor

### **December 31**

Usher: Aeyoung Kim  
Worship Reader: Lynn Bailey  
Dodge

**Missions** .....A big thank you to Pastor Paul, Marilyn Barton, and Knud and Gladys Hansen for representing Overlook UMC at the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen during the month of September! We'll be taking a turn again in November, so watch for information on that and check your calendars.

Our UMCOR Hygiene kit drive wrapped up in October, and we had more than 20 kits to ship out for people in need. Thank you to all who contributed kits and funds to this worthy cause.

United Methodist Student Day (November 26) furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.. Thank you for all you do!

Jackie Kaplan



## **Third Saturday Open Mic (Coffee House)**

**Come to play or come to listen.**

**“Third Saturday” of each month.  
Doors open at 6:30 pm and music from 7:00-8:30pm.**

Acoustic solo, duo, groups are welcome to come and perform original Christian songs, favorite hymns or popular Christian songs.

Hosted by Patrick Dodge

**Coffee, tea, water and baked goods are available to purchase.  
Free will offering basket to benefit the  
Caring Hands Soup Kitchen and Pantry**

### **Overlook UMC Mission Statement**

“Gathered in Christ’s name, we seek to create a community of love and acceptance, where each person can grow in faith and understanding, develop their gifts and grace, and engage in ministries of compassion, healing, and reconciliation both locally and globally.”

***The View* is published bi-monthly for the members and friends of the Overlook United Methodist Church**

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2017**

**Dated Material: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

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