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Greetings Camp Overlook Family,

The leaves outside my office are at their peak beauty as I write this to you. God's beautiful creation seems to sing all the louder these days. 2020 has been quite a year for us all. We have faced unexpected challenges, and yet continued to experience God's presence and many joys.

At the start of 2020 we were on track to have one of our best years in recent memory. Group rentals were up and we even had to get creative in order to get as many groups to camp so they could experience God's presence in this special place. We hired Paige in the springtime as our new assistant director and she jumped right in doing an amazing job with our social media presence. In the middle of the pandemic we were one of the only camps to offer day camp experiences this summer. Paige and all the summer staff did a wonderful job being creative with how to run camp in a safe manner that adhered to CDC and state guidelines as well as follow the best practices from the American Camping Association. We had 3 wonderful weeks with campers and not a single related COVID-19 case. We played socially distant games, swam in the lake, and used lots of hand sanitizer. The feedback I received from parents was that the kids needed this. To be honest, I and all the staff needed it just as much. We had very meaningful times of worship and connecting in ways we have never experienced before.

With all the good things of 2020, there are still struggles. While we are ready to welcome groups as safely as we can, we are still in the midst of this pandemic. Many groups are not booking retreats at this time and the ones that do come are bringing less people. We still have our general operating expenses and utilities. At this time all of our staff have taken reductions, or voluntary layoffs. Each has willingly made sacrifices for Camp Overlook and I am incredibly proud of my staff who have all made these sacrifices without complaint. They do so because they know how powerful our camp ministry is! They are still filled with hope with what God will continue to do on the mountain.

This year, we planted seeds of hope. The summer staff had a week filled with, "Tommy Tasks". We painted the Glover Chapel, cleaned up dead trees, and tasks all over camp. We sowed seeds of hope in our grounds for people to enjoy. During our three weeks of summer camp, we sowed seeds of hope for a future generation of summer campers who will continue to fill camp with laughter and joy. I want to invite you to join us in sowing seeds of hope.

Your generosity will sow seeds of hope by investing in our mission especially during the pandemic. We have two projects we hope to accomplish, 1) new lighting in the Dining Hall, 2) new tables and chairs for Blessings Lodge. Camp Grands are individuals who give an annual gift of \$1,000.00 in a one-time gift or throughout the year. Ten (10) camp Grands can finish both of these projects before the end of the year. Twenty (20) Camp Grands will enable us to bring back at least one staff member part time. Thirty (30) Camp Grands can bring all of our staff back at least part time and some full time. There is a legacy of generous support for Camp Overlook, I invite you to join that legacy with a second mile gift. Every gift from \$10 - \$1000 goes a long way to keep our ministry moving forward and ready to offer a place where folks can "meet God on the Mountain".

Blessings to you all!

Tommy

A United Methodist Church Ministry of the Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Winchester Districts