



December 12, 2019

Greetings,

Expectations are coming! Expectations are coming! Expectations are coming! Whew, now that I have that anxiety out of the way, I am grateful to each of our churches, communities and leadership that are pacing us through this Advent season. Thank you for the services, music, devotions, and wreath lighting rituals you have so diligently put together. It takes all your attention to remind many of us to be in this sacred space with a sacred pace. Thank you!

**On the Longest Night, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**, the homeless advocacy community of DC will hold their annual memorial service and remembrances for sisters and brothers who have died in the year due to homelessness. This sacred time is a strong intersection of the business of justice and advocacy in the embrace of God's belovedness for so many who have found no room in the "Inn". Let us hold onto the sacredness that is necessary in all of God's justice and advocacy.

Coming in February, our NCP staff, NCP minister members, NCP Christian Educators, and spouses are invited to join the annual **Calm to the Waves Retreat, Feb. 3-5**. The links are within this TM. This annual gathering is only a part of how the **Care Team of the Committee on Ministry** seeks ways to connect and check in with one another. The Care Team also holds sacred space for clergy at every Presbytery Meeting during Open Space. This is a time you can come in and visit with one of the Care Team leaders and Mentors so that you are supported in making effective connections in NCP.

**February 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**, members of Leadership Council and our Stated Clerk will be part of the Mid-Atlantic Synod Pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL. Within our presbytery a few leaders and congregations have been on similar pilgrimages. We look forward to holding sacred spaces as we welcome the intentional work of learning, re-learning, and dis-mantling racism within our own church systems. More information will be shared on ways to support these key leaders through our prayers and invitations.

Again, I thank each of you for the intentionality you bring in marking this season with sacred space, sacred rituals, and sacred pacing! We are not alone. Hope abounds that we can be with. We get to share with so many that God is with us and for us!

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

