

September 11, 2025



Greetings **People of God**,

That was the sermon title (and the message of the sermon) at an Ordination service I recently attended. I deeply appreciated the reminder named out loud. **We are the people of God!** As people of God, we may find ourselves compelled to engage deeper in our faith, worship, and service. One might also find similar moments of contemplation and action to what was asked of the faithful in response to September 11<sup>th</sup> in 2001, what does the church do now?

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:30 PM (before the Presbytery meeting) at National Presbyterian Church, we are holding a Town Hall on **Ministry of Presence: Pastoral and Prophetic**. This will be a time of learning from and listening to the people of God in our Presbytery as they engage in pastoral and prophetic witnessing In Times Such as Now.

Topics to be covered but not exclusive to are:

- What is Ministry of Presence?
- Is there a difference in Protesting vs. Witnessing?
- What are we “allowed to do”?
- How can I engage my congregation in this?
- How can I engage my pastor in this?

In times such as now, clergy and laity in our Presbytery are finding unique ways to worship and express faithful responses throughout the DMV. Presbyteries across the country have contacted our office to learn about these creative approaches to being present and addressing the heightened harm experienced by God's people.

Please join us as we will share and learn from one another. When registering for the presbytery meeting, you have the opportunity to register for the Town Hall. This will not be recorded, and we will offer an online offering at a later date. Please note that emails concerning Times Such as Now for engagement opportunities come from the NCP communications email address ([communications@thepresbytery.org](mailto:communications@thepresbytery.org)). Please mark this email address so that it does not go into your spam. See you on Tuesday at National Presbyterian Church.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe