From the Associate Conference Minister:  
Call for outreach

If you have been paying attention to the news lately, or just listening to what is going on in your community, then you know that many people currently find themselves in a place of great need. There were stories all over the country recently of families by the thousands standing in line, some for 5 – 6 hours, to get food for the holidays. Many food pantries are recording critically low inventories. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to financial hardships, and these hardships are felt most directly by those who were already living at the margins.

This is all happening at the same time when churches are not meeting for large worship gatherings and many are pondering how to engage a community of faith in this season. We are living in a Kairos moment to seriously consider the missional call of the church. If you are wondering how to engage your congregation right now, this is a perfect time to call the church to outreach, acts of mercy, and charity. With Christmas fast approaching, there will be families in our communities who are trying to figure out how to make it through the holidays. While we may not be able to invite them to an in-person Christmas Eve service, it might be more meaningful to ask how you as a church can help them feel the love of Christ as we celebrate His birth!

- Rev. Cean R. James  
Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development