

Newsletter: Christian nationalism “attempts to sanctify lies and not truth.” — Bishop Barber to CNN

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Thu, Jan 26, 2023

# CALIFORNIA



*Our work to close California's wealth gap rolls on. Right now we're focused on a colorful creative project to spread the word; read on and learn how to get involved. We've also got reports from recent gatherings centered on affordable housing and other pillars of the Third Reconstruction Agenda. And you won't want to miss the last item of this newsletter—a fiery CNN interview in which Bishop Barber takes on Christian nationalism, the true meaning of “evangelical” and more.*

## Announcement



### **Get out the word to Close the Wealth Gap, California!**

#### **Join our quilt and banner-making activities**

Virtual quilts and banners are effective and easy ways for us to spread our message. (Pictured above, an eye-catching piece we made for a previous campaign.) You can make one letter of the phrase “Close the Wealth Gap, California!” to be included in a virtual quilt/mural that will be posted on social media and used by CA PPC members as a Zoom background.

#### Here’s how you can help

- Read more about how to make [virtual quilts and banners](#) and sign up to make a letter
- Organize an event to make letters; [email us](#) for information on how to do so Help us
- virtually stitch together our quilts and banners. If you have tech or graphic design skills, we need you! [Email us](#) and we’ll get you started

#### **Want to know more about the Close the Wealth Gap, CA! campaign?**

The Close the Wealth Gap, CA! campaign calls upon our public and elected officials to end the policy violence that is making people poor and destroying the environment. It builds on the broad vision of our [Third Reconstruction Agenda](#), which supports the development of a nation that centers the 140 million Americans who are “policy-poor and low-wealth.” To learn more, check out the Agenda and see if you can attend one of the meetings listed below.

## Upcoming meetings

### Los Angeles regional meeting Sunday Feb. 5, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Los Angeles activists: join us to Close the Wealth Gap, California! We'll be discussing plans to organize visits to our congressional members as well as a request to meet with new Mayor Karen Bass. We'll also organize events to create virtual banners and report on other local issues. Invite your friends, neighbors, community members—all are welcome. We hope to see you there.

### Close the Wealth Gap, CA organizing meetings

#### Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Join any Wednesday to discuss and plan future events. It's also a place to get answers to your questions about the Third Reconstruction Agenda, learn about organizing efforts and pick up new skills.

## News



### L.A. rallies for affordable housing

On Tuesday, Los Angeles PPC activists joined hundreds of hotel workers at a rally and march in downtown Los Angeles outside the Americas Lodging Investment Summit. The goal: to bring attention to an ordinance hotel workers are proposing that would help alleviate the city's affordable housing crisis.

The hotel workers, represented by Unite Here Local 11, point out that the hotel industry's low wages and irresponsible development strategies contribute to the inability of working Angelenos to afford housing in L.A. The [Responsible Hotel Ordinance](#) will help address the affordable housing crisis by ensuring that hotel developments do not displace affordable housing and

establishing a program similar to the city's successful Project Roomkey to provide temporary lodging for unhoused families and individuals.

CA PPC has endorsed this ordinance. Los Angeles has seen a massive increase in hotel development in recent years at the same time as the number of people experiencing homelessness has skyrocketed and the city's affordable housing crisis has grown. Hotels are frequently proposed for land that is equally suitable for housing; those commercial developments crowd out sites that could be used to help alleviate the city's need for affordable housing.

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## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

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## Recap



### **Northeast San Fernando Region's community gathering potluck**

Last Saturday, 20 community members—including people of faith, impacted folks, Spanish speakers, elders and children—gathered at Pacoima Charter School in the northeast part of Los Angeles County to share food and conversation about how to end the wealth gap in California. We read the Third Reconstruction demands in English and Spanish and discussed the need to get more elected officials to sign onto the resolution based on it. We closed the

meeting with information on how to connect with PPC. Lots of good discussion and ideas for outreach as we move forward!

## PPC in the media

### **“This prominent pastor says Christian nationalism is ‘a form of heresy’”**

Last weekend, [CNN.com](https://www.cnn.com) posted an extensive interview with Bishop Barber. Faced with provocative questions like “Why should someone who isn’t poor care?” and “What’s wrong with saying God loves America and that the country should be built on Christian values?” Bishop Barber breaks down his inclusive view of the Scriptures, his belief in the potential power of America’s most neglected and the scourge of white Christian Nationalism: “At best it’s a form of theological malpractice. At worst, it’s a form of heresy.” His answer to the question “Are you an evangelical?” is worth quoting in full.

*I’m very much an evangelical. I tell folks that I’m a conservative, liberal, evangelical Christian. And what that means is I believe in Jesus, not to the exclusion of other faith traditions because my founder said that “I have others who are not of this fold.” I believe that love, truth, mercy, grace and justice are fundamental to a life of faith. And for me to be evangelical means to start where Jesus started.*

Read the whole interview [here](#).

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*