

Thu, Dec 21, 2023

CALIFORNIA



Today, PPC people up and down the coast will pay our respects to unhoused neighbors who are no longer with us. Look for a town near you below and read our report on a memorial that took place in San Francisco last week. We also have details on the PPC's annual Watch Night service, hosted by Bishop Barber, and we have two stirring meditations on the true meaning of "hope." Oh—and if you're still shopping for the holidays, we have a suggestion for you.

Announcements



Today: Homeless Persons Memorial Day events throughout the state

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day takes place on the longest night of the year—the winter solstice (usually December 21)—to remember our neighbors who have died unhoused in the past year. The first Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day took place in 1990; today, many of our local PPC activists and groups are taking part. Read on for details on gatherings in several California cities.

Los Angeles

Homeless Persons' Interreligious Memorial

7pm

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels ([555 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012](#))

[RSVP](#)

Marin County

Memorial for Marin's Unsheltered Neighbors

12–1pm

First Presbyterian Church San Rafael ([1510 Fifth Ave, San Rafael](#); join us in-person or on Facebook)

[Details](#); [RSVP](#)

Orange County

Homeless Persons' Inter-Religious Memorial Service

7pm

St. Timothy Catholic Church ([29102 Crown Valley Pkwy., Laguna Niguel](#))

[Livestream](#)

San Diego

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

3–7pm; press conference at 3:30pm

Del Mar Fairgrounds West Parking Lot (enter via Solana Gate on Via de la Valle west of I-5, before Pacific Hwy)

[Details](#)

Santa Barbara

Longest Night Memorial

5:15pm

Superior Court Of California, County Of Santa Barbara ([1100 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101](#))

[RSVP](#)

Santa Cruz

25th Annual Homeless Memorial Service

10–11:30am

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium (307 Church St., Santa Cruz)

[Details](#); [RSVP](#)

Sonoma County

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

11am–12:30pm

Arlene Francis Center for Spirit, Art, and Politics (99 6th St., Santa Rosa)

[Details](#)

Our neighbors are dying in the streets. This is not how it has to be. There is an abundance of wealth and resources to meet our basic needs. Our [PPC fact sheet](#) spells out solutions so that we can all survive and thrive.



Watch Night Service of Lament, Hope and Call to Action Sunday Dec. 31, 3pm PT livestream, 7pm PT rebroadcast | [Watch](#)

On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the executive order declaring enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate States legally free, but the decree wouldn't take effect until the clock struck midnight at the start of the new year. On the night of December 31, 1862, enslaved and free African Americans gathered—many of them in secret—to ring in the new year and await news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. This occasion, which many still celebrate today, is known as Watch Night, or "Freedom's Eve." You can join this moving service online at [Repairers of the Breach](#).



Still holiday shopping? Give the gift of the PPC!

Looking for something meaningful to give this holiday season? Whether it's the person who's hard to find something for or it's your best friend, you can show your hope for a better world by making a donation to PPC. Your loved ones will appreciate your thoughtfulness (bonus: you can give this gift without leaving your home). Make your donation [here](#).

News



Glide honors unhoused people who died in 2023

Last week, San Francisco's Glide Foundation shared its annual [memorial service](#) honoring the lives of 416 homeless and marginally housed individuals who passed in 2023. The names were read aloud and displayed on banners in Civic Center Plaza. Minister Marvin K. White called the event "a collective sigh of remembrance, a collective vow to never forget and remember the love, the joy, the peace, the humanity [the dearly departed] represented."

The event, organized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council, the Faithful Fools and Skywatchers, raised awareness about the impacts of poverty and homelessness and focused efforts to rally for additional care and resources. Glide Memorial Church and the Center For Social Justice were in attendance, and multiple speakers from Glide participated. Read more about the event [here](#).

"As we look to 2024, here's what hope looks like"

"When it felt like the world was falling apart, these movements brought people together to make what seemed impossible, possible." In her latest piece in [OtherWords](#), Shailly Barnes, Policy Director at the Kairos Center, reflects upon hardships, climate catastrophes and wars—and rather than losing hope, she recalls examples of those who "not only saw the problem clearly, but brought people together to find solutions."

Citing many who have come together to fight against injustice, she says "we know that those invested in the status quo won't come forth with solutions to these crises that compromise their interests. That's true whether we're talking about the climate, inequality, poverty or war. The answers will come from those who are confronting these systems directly. And that's the good news. In many places, people standing up against injustice are shifting what's possible."

"When hope is a four-letter word"

In a powerful letter in the [Christian Citizen](#), Rev. Dr. Jessica C. Williams, Director of Ministry Education at the Kairos Center, shares her journey through a difficult personal time, when she felt challenged by the concept of hope during Advent.

"To the suffering, what is hope?" she writes. "Too often those feeling pain or facing injustice are offered trite and tone-deaf platitudes about keeping hope alive and continuing to be hopeful because 'everything happens for a reason.' I'm convinced, though, that hope defined in such a way is false hope. False hope hangs on flimsy, wishful, optimistic thinking that everything will work out just fine.... Such 'hope' is a fourletter word."

She quotes Aaron Scott, cofounder of Chaplains of the Harbor, who shares her belief in real hope: “Real hope in hard times requires a belief that the entire structure of our society can be changed—and changed by the very people who have been most shut out of dignity and abundant life.”

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

Media

Advent of a Revolution: Winter Offensive | The Joy of Revolutionary Mothers

Watch the Freedom Church of the Poor's latest Advent of a Revolution service, "[The Joy of Revolutionary Mothers](#)," and view the online [Advent Wreath](#).

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.