

Thu, Jan 18, 2024

CALIFORNIA



We're feeling energized and ready to dig into the year's work following our MLK Day gatherings. Get a taste of the action in the recaps section below, and don't miss our updates on the latest hospitality-worker wins and a powerful Bishop Barber sermon on Dr. King's true legacy. And don't click away from this email till you've signed up for a meeting!

Announcement

Rev. Theoharis to cohost seminar on White Christian Nationalism

Saturday Feb. 3, 6am–1pm PT | [Online](#)

As the political influence of Christian nationalist ideology has grown in recent years, so has awareness of the threat it poses to democratic and religious freedoms. Join Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, interim president of the Episcopal Divinity School, and our own Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a daylong [online seminar](#) on this pressing topic. Participants will examine the historical, theological and biblical underpinnings of White Christian Nationalism and explore practical, pastoral and prophetic responses to it. Guest speakers include biblical scholar and theologian Walter Brueggemann and *New York Times* bestselling authors Kristin Du Mez and Jemar Tisby. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Upcoming meetings

We're going to Sacramento! Mobilization meeting

Saturday Jan. 20, 12pm | [RSVP](#) (in-person only)

SEIU 721 building (1545 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles)

Los Angeles is getting organized to go to Sacramento on March 2 as part of a national day of action that will take place in 30 states. We are calling for all hands on deck to organize this effort collectively—help with outreach, transportation, media and more is needed. Our March 2 actions will call politicians to account for allowing policies of violence to continue. We will demand they stop making concessions for the wealthy while leaving families and children to die in poverty.

Lunch and English/Spanish interpretation will be provided. Don't forget to fill out this [form](#) and let us know you'll be there.

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

Help us organize for the March 2 rally in Sacramento and other 2024 efforts. You'll meet activists from around the state and take part in mobilizing our communities for these historic actions. It's a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another. Drop in any Wednesday.

Recaps



Angelenos march and sing for Dr. King

Los Angeles PPC activists joined Justice for Renters at the Kingdom Day Parade along MLK Boulevard carrying "Housing is a Civil Rights Issue" placards and banners and accompanied by a float featuring the L.A. skyline. Dr. King was a moving force behind the federal Fair Housing Act, which Congress enacted after his assassination in 1968, and the float featured a quote that

feels just as relevant today: “We are here today because we are tired. Tired of paying more for less.”



Following the parade, we headed over to Crenshaw United Methodist Church for a twohour sing-in organized and hosted by PPC theomusicologist Arnaé Batson. Local singers and musicians used civil rights anthems to tell the history of the civil rights movement. Screens behind them showed the songs' lyrics, and Arnaé encouraged everyone to sing along.

At the beginning of the afternoon, Arnaé urged us to recognize that Dr. King was more than a dreamer “because he moved further, and so let’s not freeze him there.” She also gave a shout-out to the present-day Poor People’s Campaign. It was a joyful and stirring way to honor Dr. King’s legacy. Watch the [livestream](#) for some inspiration in these challenging times.



Bay Area activists uplift Dr. King in Oakland

The Laney College chapter led the CA PPC Bay Area regional participation in the AntiPolice Terror Project’s tenth annual week of action to “Reclaim the Radical Legacy” of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

We came together on Saturday for a rousing day of [song and art building](#) where volunteers painted banners and silkscreened 400 patches with slogans like “Fight Poverty Not the Poor” and “They got money for war but can’t feed the poor” (Tupac Shakur). On Monday, PPC activists joined local partners, including One Thousand Grandmothers, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and hundreds from the community at Oscar Grant Plaza in Oakland. As the crowd gathered, we talked to lots of people who were eager to learn about the PPC and the critical work Laney PPC has been doing to address the housing crisis students and faculty are experiencing, as well as to invite them to join us in Sacramento on March 2 for our national day of action.



After a short program of speakers and music, children and youth led the march through the streets of downtown Oakland accompanied by drumming, singing and chanting. We were delighted to have One Thousand Grandmothers, the Peace Crane puppets and a larger-than-life Dr. King accompany our contingent. We also carried our large [PPC banner](#) and signs (“Poor People’s Campaign—Forward Together, Not One Step Back!”) and sang “Everybody’s Got a Right to Live” and chanted “Fight Poverty, Not the Poor!” Gratitude to our PPC volunteers and supporters.

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

News

More hospitality-worker wins

Hotel workers started off the new year by winning contracts at four more hotels last week, including the Fairmont Miramar and the Sheraton Universal, where PPC has been picketing along with hospitality workers for months. The union representing these workers, UNITE HERE, has secured 28 agreements with hotels since it began intermittent strikes last July.

Read more about these wins [here](#).

Bishop Barber delivers MLK Day sermon

Last Sunday, at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, Bishop Barber [recalled](#) how Dr. King rejected the “Great Man” epithet, and how he fell out of favor with many erstwhile allies after giving his “Beyond Vietnam” speech near the end of his life. As a holy man, Dr. King never left his work in the pulpit. “The sermon was never the end,” Bishop Barber said. “The sermon was the announcement of the beginning.” True to that message, Bishop Barber closed his sermon with some pointed prescriptions for this momentous year—including this: “We need to

shake things up...until an orange-hair would-be dictator puts on an orange suit and takes his jail time like a man!”

Bishop Barber shared the [sermon](#) on social media, writing, “Poverty is a death sentence for Americans. If we are to honor Dr. King, we must attend to the gospel he preached. Specifically, this gospel calls us to challenge economic exploitation. This gospel teaches us to protest and sing even after we’ve been put down.” Watch the service [here](#).

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