

Thu, Jan 25, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Big news from the East Bay: This Sunday we're gathering to unveil a billboard that will tell the city the true cost of military spending. Details below; we've also got a recap and multiple upcoming events tied to the March 2 Mass Assembly in Sacramento. And read to the end for an inspiring report on some GOTV efforts Bishop Barber kicked off with Senator Chuck Schumer and others.

Announcements



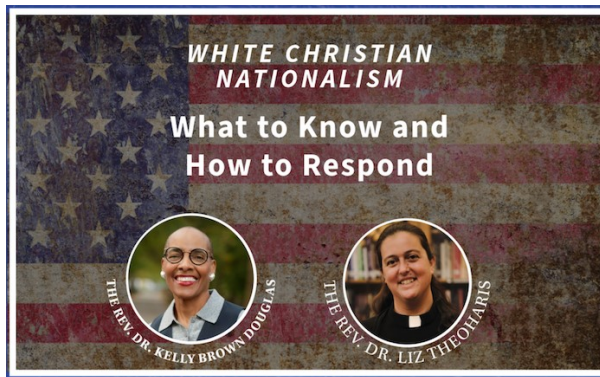
World Beyond War billboard unveiling

Sunday Jan 28, 2pm | [Details](#) First Congregational Church of Oakland (2501 Harrison St, Oakland)

Join CA PPC Bay Area and other peace activists for a ribbon-cutting ceremony where billboards will be unveiled to call attention to the cost of the U.S. war economy and the potential to end unnecessary suffering here and around the globe. The billboards are being put up by global pro-peace organization World Beyond War; they carry in bold black text on a yellow background the words “3% of U.S. Military Spending Could End Starvation on Earth” (see image above). Locations in Oakland and Berkeley for other billboards will be announced at the event.

The PPC [2023 national fact sheet](#) notes that in 2023 \$1.1 trillion, or more than 62 percent of the discretionary budget, was allocated to militarism, including war.

For updates, check <https://worldbeyondwar.org/oakland>.



Rev. Theoharis to cohost online 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. On February 3, join Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, interim president of Episcopal Divinity School, and our own Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a day-long, online seminar on this pressing topic. We'll 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

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.

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Feb 4, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

We're going to Sacramento! Help us get organized to join CA PPC activists from across the state on March 2 for the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly. We'll be planning transportation and logistics and discussing the demands we want to deliver to our elected officials. Who do you know who could go to the Assembly? If you can't go yourself, there will be lots of other ways to help, including phone banking, media and social media work, signs and banners. Join us to learn more and add in your ideas. Invite your neighbors, families and friends—all are welcome.

Recap



Angeleno PPC activists come together to plan for March 2

Last Saturday, about two dozen LA PPC activists met to discuss how to get our people to Sacramento for the March 2 Mass Assembly. Our first in-person meeting since the pandemic drew people from all across the county, with lots of old friends as well as new supporters. After a moving discussion about the problems in our communities and what we need the state to do, we dug in on the details of getting our folks to the Assembly. Special thanks to SEIU 721 for not only hosting our meeting, but offering up their space for our transportation hub, including parking, bus pick-up and breakfast. Let us know you'll be in Sacramento with us—[sign up](#) now!

News

Bishop Barber, Senator Schumer and others kick off voter mobilization efforts

With a seven-city tour set to kick off major get out the vote efforts, with a specific focus on poor and low-income voters, Bishop Barber is joining forces with leaders across multiple

faiths as well as political leaders—including Senator Chuck Schumer. Standing before a full congregation at [Abyssinian Baptist Church](#) in Harlem on January 15, Bishop Barber spoke about how Dr. King shook the world with his sermons, leadership and tremendous action on poverty, racism and militarism. “We need a shaking in this country,” he said. “Until low-wage workers are paid, we need to shake some things up! Until everybody has affordable housing, we need to shake things up!”

Bishop Barber is hardly alone as a faith leader shaking things up. In a virtual 2024 King holiday launch, Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner kicked off the Faiths United to Save Democracy GOTV efforts with leaders in 10 states. The coalition is planning to reach across communities and faiths, including Black, Jewish, Muslim, Asian American Pacific Islanders, Latinos and others with a diverse group of multifaith leaders.

Coverage of their GOTV efforts has been featured in [Religion News](#), the [St Louis American](#) and the [Tennessee Tribune](#), among others.

Sharing the latest [Religion News](#) article on voter mobilization efforts on social media, Bishop Barber wrote, “Every major faith tradition calls us to challenge society and how we treat the poor and the least of these. We can’t allow religious nationalism, which is a form of heresy, to have the loudest and last say.”

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



“Change is coming soon: the powerful and visionary leadership of young activists is crucial in these times”

In her latest opinion piece in the [TomDispatch](#), Rev. Theoharis reflects on the parallels of the young leaders of the 1960s with those of today, as she recognizes the power of the youngest voters. She reflects on Howard Zinn’s words about the young leaders of the

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee of the 1960s in his book *The New Abolitionists*: “Theirs was the silent generation until they spoke, the complacent generation until they marched and sang, the money-seeking generation until they gave it up for the fight for justice in the dank and dangerous hamlets of the Black Belt.” She writes, now as then, “younger generations are out there leading the way toward justice in a fashion that they seldom get credit for.”

She gives the young generations of today clear credit for the significance and breadth of the Black Lives Matter movement, for their leadership on climate justice and for their not accepting the status quo of gun violence.

Sharing the [TomDispatch](#) article on social media, Rev. Theoharis wrote, “2024 may well be a kairos moment for us here in the United States. There’s so much at stake, so much to lose, but if Howard Zinn were with us today, I suspect he would look at the rise of bold and visionary organizing, led by generations of young leaders, and tell us that change, on a planet in deep distress, is coming soon.”

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