

Thu, Apr 18, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Next week, simultaneous actions across the country will coincide with a Supreme Court hearing that could have major consequences for America's unhoused people. If you're in SoCal, the Bay or Sacramento, we hope you'll join us in the streets. Details below, plus an Oak Flat update, an invite to a faith group gathering and—because we just made it through April 15—a look at where our tax dollars really go.

Announcement



TARGETED, BANISHED, DISPLACED & SWEEP

Multi-city day of action next Monday

On April 22, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear *Johnson v. Grants Pass*. The case originated when a group of unhoused people sued the city of Grants Pass, Oregon after it began ticketing them for sleeping on public property. They won their case, but Grants Pass is trying to overturn the ruling.

If the justices side with the city, it could have devastating consequences for unhoused people nationwide. That ruling would allow local governments to fine, arrest and jail people for living outside, even when they have nowhere else to go.

National PPC partner [Western Regional Advocacy Project](#) (WRAP) is organizing a day of action, including three gatherings in California, to speak out for the rights of unhoused people in cities across the country.

Monday April 22

Los Angeles

10am | U.S. Courthouse ([350 W. 1st Street](#))

Sacramento

12pm | Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse ([501 I Street](#))

San Francisco

10am | Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse ([450 Golden Gate Ave](#))
Members of Wood Street Commons will speak at this rally.

In Washington D.C., Bishop Barber will be joining a group of impacted people, advocates, faith leaders and members of Congress outside the Supreme Court. “We must stop the criminalization of unhoused people and work to win housing and services that end homelessness in the richest country in the history of the world,” he says.

Meetings

Faith All-Call meeting

Wednesday April 24, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

On the fourth week of each month, our Wednesday evening meeting focuses on organizing in our faith communities. This month we'll be discussing hosting screenings of a new documentary called [Bad Faith](#). Featuring a range of movement leaders, the film examines Christian Nationalism, a political movement that believes that the United States was founded as a "Christian Nation," privileging Christianity over all other faiths.

We'll also talk about the launch of the [New Haven Declaration of Moral & Spiritual Issues in the 2024 Presidential Election](#) (see the article below) and ways to promote it in our outreach efforts. All are welcome!

News



Wood Street press conference kicks off month of action for housing as a human right

On April 10, former residents of the Wood Street encampment in Oakland launched a month of action with a press conference. The date was chosen to commemorate the one-year anniversary of their eviction and to protest continued sweeps—even when unhoused people have nowhere else to go.

Although Oakland later opened a 100-bed cabin village and a safe overnight parking lot for camp residents, some say they haven't been able to get the services and housing they were promised.

"I've been there a year—I've been through four housing navigators," said one cabin resident.

Several PPC activists took part in the event, which caught the media's attention. You can read the [Mercury News coverage](#) and watch a short video from the press conference on the [CA PPC Facebook page](#).

Apache Stronghold asks Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to save Oak Flat

Earlier this week, Apache Stronghold asked the 29 judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to save Oak Flat, an area sacred to Indigenous peoples, from the company that intends to build a massive copper mine there. This follows last month's Ninth Circuit ruling that the land transfer is not subject to federal laws protecting religious freedom.

According to a [press release](#) shared by the Kairos Center, this is the court's last chance "to protect the spiritual lifeblood of the Apache people before the case goes to the Supreme Court."

The press release also quotes from Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr. of Apache Stronghold: "Oak Flat is the heart and soul of the Apache—the place where generations of my people have come to connect with our Creator and perform our most sacred ceremonies." A decision from the court is expected this fall.

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

PPC in the media



Inaugural public theology conference urges religious leaders to preach on moral issues

The Center for Public Theology & Public Policy at [Yale Divinity School](#) held its first public theology conference earlier this month. Organizing and leading the conference was Bishop Barber.

“We have to get loud when saying ‘no’ to those who teach that real faith is being against gay people and being for tax cuts,” he said. “A political movement has co-opted our faith tradition, but Jesus already told us what he stands for: giving good news to the poor and healing the sick and brokenhearted.” This [YDS article](#) elaborates on conference goals, participants, discussion topics and Bishop Barber’s messages to the group.

Pam Garrison, an organizer with the West Virginia PPC, spoke on a panel about how her community has been affected by unfair working conditions: “I was raised a coal miner’s daughter. Before they broke the unions, the workers had full health insurance and paid vacation. Today, we’ve got men—boys—going into mines for \$15 an hour with no safety net, no vacation. My daddy and my grandparents would be turning over in their graves if they saw what was going on in West Virginia.”

The conference concluded with the signing and launch of the [New Haven Declaration of Moral & Spiritual Issues in the 2024 Presidential Election](#), which they urged all, particularly Christian faith leaders to read, sign and share.

Read the [YDS article](#) to learn more.

Rev. Theoharis shares breakdown of American tax dollars

Sharing an [Institute for Policy Studies factsheet](#), Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis wrote, “On #TaxDay we know things don’t have to be as they are, we have enough resources to meet people’s immediate needs. It’s time to reprioritize the abundance that exists.” The factsheet states, for example, that the average taxpayer forks out more than \$5,000 for “militarism and its supports” and just \$346 for K-12 education.

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