

Thu, May 16, 2024

CALIFORNIA



From workers' rights at home to ceasefires worldwide, the demands we're taking to the June 29 Mass Assembly help us envision a world where everyone can thrive. Check them out below; we also have updates on unionization efforts in Alabama and the fight to save Oak Flat, plus a powerful opinion piece on Christian Nationalism.

Announcement



Our votes are our demands! And here's what we're demanding on June 29

The PPC has issued a list of demands that we will uplift at the [Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls](#).

They are...

1. **Abolishing poverty** as the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.
2. A **living minimum wage** of at least \$15/hour (indexed for inflation)
3. No more **voter suppression**
4. Guaranteed **workers' rights** and labor rights
5. **Healthcare** for all
6. Affordable, adequate **housing**
7. Strong **social welfare** and safety net programs
8. An end to **gun violence**, profit and proliferation
9. Fully protected **women's rights**
10. **Environmental justice** that secures clean air and water
11. Fully funded **public education**
12. Just **immigration laws**
13. Addressing **militarism** and the war economy
14. Standing for **peace, not war**. Calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza that allows immediate humanitarian relief, a release of all hostages, peace and justice to be pursued and an end to genocide around the world
15. An end to **hate**, division and the extremist political agenda
16. Justice for all **indigenous nations**

While we get ready for June 29 and organizing to the polls, consider this:

The narrative that poor and low-wage people are apathetic about politics or don't care enough to vote is just another tired myth. In fact there is great, untapped power among these tens of millions of people, who often don't see their demands—such as housing, healthcare and living wages—reflected by those seeking election.

In our report, [Waking the Sleeping Giant](#), we prove that the biggest opportunity to build support for a moral agenda that lifts from the bottom is among poor and low-income voters, and that such voter engagement must be across geography, race and other lines of division.

Help us bring our demands to Washington D.C. on June 29! You can participate in person or online.

SIGN UP

Meetings

Faith All-Call statewide meeting **Wednesday May 22, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)**

At this month's faith all-call meeting, we'll be exploring the question: Why did you join the Poor People's Campaign? And we'll be planning our online statewide screening of [Bad Faith](#), a documentary on Christian nationalism. PPC supporters, people of faith and faith leaders from the beautiful and powerful array of spiritual traditions are all welcome.

Our Wednesday meetings are a time to meet activists from around the state and take part in educating, registering and mobilizing our communities for the November election and more. It's a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another.

News



Bishop Barber stands with Alabama auto workers

On Monday, Bishop Barber hosted a rally in Montgomery, AL, for Hyundai workers seeking to unionize. Their grievances included erratic scheduling, health hazards and a general lack of representation. That same day, Gov. Kay Ivey signed a bill that, according to the Alabama Reflector, “bans companies from receiving economic development incentives if they voluntarily recognize unions.”

“This state has too much poverty for governors to be fighting against something that is going to raise wages and give people benefits,” Bishop Barber said in an interview after the meeting. “Especially since these same governors denied hundreds of thousands of people health care through the Affordable Care Act.”

You can [read](#) about the rally in the Reflector or [watch this recording](#).

“Religion is Being Misused to Divide America”

Newsweek recently ran an [opinion piece](#) in which Bishop Barber looks ahead to the election through the lens of religion—in particular the distorted lens of Christian nationalism. His theme: that a moral reading of the Bible is a faithful reading, not a partisan one. “I am morally committed to fostering a policymaking ecosystem that seeks to heal all who are sick, feed all who are hungry, house all who need shelter and unite us all in our common humanity,” he writes. “This is not ‘liberal’ Christianity or ‘progressive’ theology; it is the fundamental message of the Bible.”

Sharing the piece on social media, Bishop Barber wrote, “Christian Nationalists have hijacked religious teachings to perpetuate discrimination. We reject this notion of faith. We stand in the moral tradition of social justice heroes like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Martin Luther King, Jr.”

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

MAY TINY TEACH-INS
THURSDAY, MAY 2 - THURSDAY, MAY 23

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Min. Candace Simpson May 2 • 6PM Founder, Faith Sandwich Heaven PhD Candidate | Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis May 9 • 6PM Co-Chair, Poor People's Campaign National Call for Moral Revival | Rev. Dr. Willie Francois May 16 • 6PM Pastor, Fountain Baptist Church, President, Black Church Center for Justice and Equality | Rev. Jen Bailey May 23 • 6PM Founder and Executive Director, Faith Matters Network |
|--|--|---|---|

PLENTY GOOD ROOM
CO-CREATING AN ECONOMY OF ENOUGH FOR ALL
ANDREW WILKES

30-MIN CONVERSATIONS ON THE NEXUS OF FAITH AND RACIAL CAPITALISM
REV. ANDREW WILKES, PH.D
AUTHOR, PASTOR, AND POLITICAL SCIENTIST

Plenty Good Room: Tiny Teach-in with Rev. Theoharis

Rev. Andrew Wilkes welcomed Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis on his recent [Plenty Good Room: Tiny Teach-in](#) series. These teach-ins are short, digestible teaching moments on faith, public policy and political science in the spirit of the NPR Tiny Desk concerts.

During the discussion, Rev Theoharis called on us all to exercise our political will. “There is plenty good room,” she said. “There is more than we need to actually thrive, not just

barely survive. That's how we approach the work of building the Poor People's Campaign moral movement."

She continued, "This is not as good as it gets. A society of justice for all is possible. It's going to take the political will and moral consciousness of a nation. There is no actual material scarcity; only a scarcity of will and consciousness to get it done."

Apache Stronghold to appeal to U.S. Supreme Court to save Oak Flat

After a federal appeals court refused to rehear its appeal, Apache Stronghold issued a [press release](#) stating its intention to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to seek protection for the sacred land of Oak Flat. Apache Stronghold's Supreme Court appeal is expected by August 12.

"Oak Flat is the place where generations of Apaches have come to connect with our Creator, our faith and our land," said Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr. of Apache Stronghold. "We pray the Supreme Court will take our case and protect Oak Flat the same way it would protect other historic houses of worship across the country."

Bishop Barber shared the press release on [social media](#). "We continue to stand with them in their struggle for religious freedom," he wrote.

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