

Thu, May 2, 2024

# CALIFORNIA



*Who's ready for the 2024 March on Washington and to the Polls? The date has been announced, and as always we'll be organizing for a huge turnout—online and IRL. We're also starting our get-out-the-vote work, so read on and get involved! Don't miss our recap of a powerful sermon on war and the gospels and a conversation between Bishop Barber and one of the most inspiring activists of our time.*

## Announcement



### PPC announces historic mobilization: June 29 Moral March on Washington and to the Polls

On Monday, PPC officially announced the June 29 [Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls](#) at a press conference featuring impacted people, faith leaders and major national organizations. With 295,000 people dying of poverty each year (that's more than 800 people a day), making it the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S., our cause could not be more urgent.

"The number one reason poor people don't vote, according to our [study](#), is because no one talks to them," said Bishop Barber. "We have debate after debate for senate and president, and the issues that affect poor and low-wage persons do not come up. Our votes are demands and not really support for candidates. We are mobilizing those votes and saying to candidates, 'If you want these votes, then talk to poor and low-wage folks.'"

### JOIN US

Rev. Liz Theoharis said, "We are tired of nos...and so we're building power for yeses. Yes, yes, yes to lifting from the bottom so all of us may rise and thrive and not just barely survive." Noting that poor and low-income people make up nearly 40 percent of the electorate in some key states, she continued, "When we come together around a moral agenda, we have the power to fundamentally transform the politics of this nation."

Anchor organizations pledged to bring their people to Washington D.C. and to join PPC efforts to get voters to the polls in November. Those present at the press conference included the National Council of Churches, AFL-CIO, SEIU, Common Cause and the National Council of Jewish Women.

Watch [C-SPAN coverage](#) of the press conference. More important—[sign up](#) to let us know you will be there in person or online.

## Meetings

### Statewide organizing meetings

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

Our next meeting (May 8) will focus on organizing watch parties for the June 29 mobilization. Our Wednesday meetings are a time to meet activists from around the state and take part in educating, registering and mobilizing our communities for these historic actions and the November election. It's a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another.

### Los Angeles regional meeting

#### Sunday May 5, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Join us to hear about our full agenda of activities! We'll discuss how to be a part of the Moral March on June 29, even if you can't travel there, and we'll work on our voter outreach plans. Also, there's a screening of the movie [Bad Faith](#) in our region on May 18. Want to join us? Our meetings are open to all—please invite your family, friends and communities.

## Recap



### War, Genocide and the Gospels: a Bishop Barber sermon

Last Friday, a group of five Baptist pastors invited Bishop Barber to give a [sermon](#) at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. In this sermon, he connected religious nationalism and the Doctrine of Discovery to the evils of genocide happening today.

“This is why today’s religious nationalism is so dangerous: It always embraces violence and war, whatever faith tradition it exploits. In this country when we see it, they say [that] more guns, more military spending, hating gay people and immigrants and tax cuts for corporations is God’s agenda. It’s heretical, but it’s there—paid for by big money. We see it in Putin, we see it in Trump, we see it in Netanyahu. They all insist that God is on the side of violence and vengeance. And it is contrary to the Gospel.”

Bishop Barber encouraged his audience to follow the money. “Eisenhower knew that the love of money is the root of all evil. He knew that when you mesh making money with

making war, and you don't have an engaged citizenry ready to engage in protest, your nation is in spiritual danger. When we ask, 'Where's the money?' it's not simply a question of where the money comes from. We must ask, 'Who stands to benefit from all of this violence? Who has been incentivized to encourage more war, more death, and more killing?'"

In addition to Bishop Barber's thought-provoking words, the [service](#) was filled with music and prayer, and it's worth carving out an hour to listen to it in its entirety.

The Nation published a print version of the [sermon](#).

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## 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**

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## News



### **Bishop Barber explores the power of activism on the air**

On the latest episode of their new program [Moral Monday Radio Hour](#), Bishop Barber and cohost Bob Hennelly speak with a remarkable activist named Sharon Lavigne.

Sharon, who was recently recognized as one of Time's 100 most influential people, talks about how her agriculture-focused Louisiana community was transformed by industrial chemical plants, resulting in skyrocketing cancer rates and devastating environmental pollution. With far too many community members dying from cancer, Sharon took action. She founded the community group St. James Rising to fight the petrochemical industry's continued development in her community. Her group managed to stop plans for a \$1.25

billion petrochemical facility, and it's spreading awareness to refocus on the ecology of the Mississippi River and the health of community members.

Bishop Barber called Sharon a hero and described key actions needed to stop similar devastation in communities around the country. He spoke of how critical it is that impacted people around the country realize the power of their vote.

"We are centering poor and low-wage voters, working to mobilize 15 million voters from now to November. Our votes are not support; they are our demands. We have to fight back at the ballot box, in the streets and in the legislative halls."

Listen to the Moral Monday Radio Hour [episode](#).

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*



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