

Thu, Jul 25, 2024

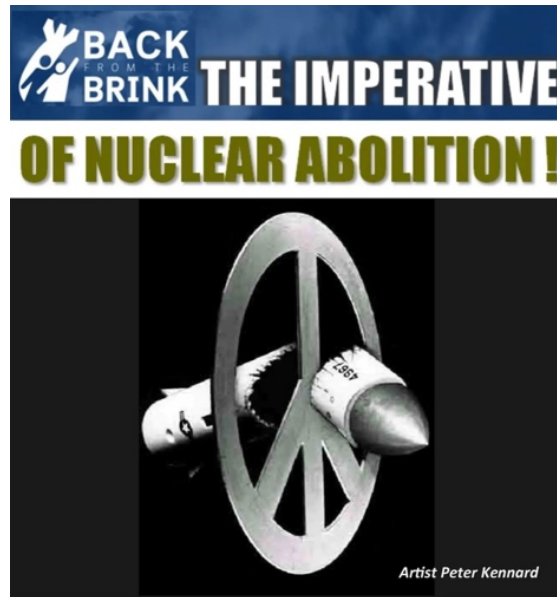
# CALIFORNIA



**Good morning! In this issue...**

- Commemorating Hiroshima
- Recap: John Lewis Day of Action
- Reflections on Biden, the RNC and white poverty

## Announcement



### **79th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima**

**Tuesday Aug 6, 8:30am | [Details](#)**

#### **Livermore Lab–West Gate**

This year's Livermore action is part of the national Back From the Brink Campaign, bringing communities together to prevent the growing threat that nuclear weapons pose to our health, environment and all we hold dear. Speakers include our own PPC quad chair Rev. Monica Cross.

After the rally there will be a traditional Japanese Bon Dance, inviting ancestors to join, followed by a nonviolent witness and direct action for those who so choose.

If you're driving, here are directions: From I-580 E, take the S. Vasco Rd. exit. Stay on S. Vasco for 1.4 miles to West Gate Dr. Park on side streets.

The event will be livestreamed: Zoom link and more information can be found at [Tri Valley Cares](#).

## Meetings & events

### **Los Angeles regional meeting**

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

Angelenos, join us next Sunday to continue our planning for getting out the vote this fall. We'll be focusing on how to reach low-income and infrequent voters, especially youth, people who are unhoused and Spanish speakers. Share your ideas while we learn from each other. Invite your neighbors, families and friends—all are welcome!

### **Freedom Church of the Poor's July series**

**"Reclaiming Our Abundance: Projects of Survival"**

**Sundays in July, 3pm PT**

Freedom Church of the Poor is a project of Kairos Center, one of the anchor organizations of the Poor People's Campaign. This month's services will focus on

projects of survival and their critical role in building a movement to end poverty, led by the poor. The series will feature religious and community leaders who are implementing these projects of survival in myriad ways: as mutual or direct aid, social justice ministries, community care and more.

Watch last week's services and the rest of the series on the [Kairos Center Facebook page](#).

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## Take the pledge!

*At the Mass Assembly on June 29, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis invited the crowd to pledge to help mobilize 15 million poor and low-wage voters to the polls this November and to fight for a moral public policy agenda that lifts from the bottom. [Watch](#) her rousing call to action and...*

**ADD YOUR NAME**

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## Recap



## **“We never gave up”**

### **Day of action to honor Congressman John Lewis**

July 17 marked the fourth anniversary of the passing of civil rights activist and long-time member of Congress John Lewis. A national day of action was held to commemorate the date, and to serve as a reminder to our communities of the critical need to vote and to continue to fight for voting rights.

Members of the CA PPC participated in an event in Oakland, where speakers included event organizer and local activist Queen Jackson and civic leader Lynette Gibson McElhaney. Ms. Jackson spoke about the importance of getting the Freedom to Vote Act passed. The FTVA would create national standards to get dark money out of politics,

combat partisan election subversion and guarantee fair representation in drawing congressional districts.

Ms. Gibson McElhaney reminded everyone of some of the powerful words of John Lewis in devoting his life to the struggle for voting rights:

***“It is the struggle of a lifetime—more than one lifetime. We never gave up. We never gave in. We never became bitter. We didn’t hate. We continued to press on.”***

Bay Area journalist Ashley McBride spoke about the push for implementation of [Alameda County Measure QQ](#), passed four years ago with a two-thirds vote granting 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote on school board candidates. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors did not implement the necessary changes in time for the 2022 election—but following continued efforts to raise public awareness, McBride said that they expect by November youth will have the vote. Read more in McBride’s [Oaklandside article](#).

In the media

### **Bishop Barber reacts to the Biden bombshell**

The day after President Biden announced that he was withdrawing from the 2024 race, Bishop Barber [look to social media](#): “When a President steps down, the VP steps up. If Dems can focus on an agenda to address poverty, low wages, access to healthcare, women’s & voting rights, VP Harris can unite & energize a broad electorate.”

Later he added, “Millions voted for Biden/Harris as one ticket—in 2020 & again in the primary. A Vice President exists to step in when a President steps down. Dems need to follow the succession plan that’s in place or never complain again that their opponents undermine democracy.”

### **“Revered minister slams GOP ‘unity’ lie”**

Following the Republican National Convention last week, Bishop Barber [spoke](#) with Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman and Nermeen Shaikh. Sharing his reaction to what he witnessed in Wisconsin, Bishop Barber said, “It was a unity of rejection, rejecting people in this American society. It was a unity in those who are against women’s right to choose, even though they tried to hide that, because you have to read the whole platform. It was unity against immigrants. But it is also—what they didn’t say, there was no conversation about the poor, 140 million poor and low-wage people in this country. This was a unity against labor rights, a unity against voting rights, a unity against living wages, a unity against healthcare for all.”

### **“Poverty in black and white”: Bishop Barber speaks with Brian Lehrer**

In a recent [interview](#), WNYC’s Brian Lehrer asked Bishop Barber about why it’s important to expand the definition of poverty.

Bishop Barber shed light on myths, sharing, “We’re saying you have to look at race and poverty. Not either/or, but both/and. This is not a way to dismiss dealing with the issue of systemic racism and policy racism, but as a moral leader, as a religious leader...I cannot go to Appalachia and East Kentucky and visit, say, white coal miners in East Kentucky,

some of whom I've known who have died since we've been in this movement, who have watched politicians allow their coal mines to be taken over by multinational companies and do away with their union rights.”

He continued, “When Dr. King, who actually started The Poor People's Campaign because of welfare rights—women came to him, and they were Black and they were white, and they were women of all different geographies and races, and they said poverty has to be listed as one of the three evils. We suggest today that systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation, denial of healthcare, the war economy, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism have to be seen as five interlocking injustices that require a multiracial movement to address them.”

Sharing the [interview](#) on social media, Bishop Barber wrote, “If we hope to solve the outsized issue of poverty in the richest nation in the world, we must understand how poverty impacts all people regardless of race.”

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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).*