

Thu, Nov 21, 2024

# CALIFORNIA



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

- Coming up: statewide organizing meeting
- Recap: Bishop Barber at Stanford
- The role of the church in divisive times
- Looking to a “revolutionary” Christmas

## Announcement



### **Statewide organizing meeting**

**Wednesday Dec. 11, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)**

What have we learned from our work this past year, and how do our PPC values and principles equip us to act in this critical moment in our nation's history? We are that movement! Join supporters and activists from around the state and help us prepare for 2025.

## Recap



### **Bishop Barber brings the movement to Stanford**

*Photography by [Christine Baker](#)*

Last Thursday, Bishop William Barber spoke to a crowd of more than 500 as the guest lecturer at Stanford Memorial Church. Theomusicologist Yara Allen kicked off the evening singing "Somebody's Hurting My People," which brought everybody to their feet. Bishop Barber then began by asking the audience to think about what it means to be a movement and what kind of movement is required in these times.

California quad chair Rev. Monica Cross, who attended, noted that “everybody did a sigh, a collective acknowledgment of the hard work ahead of us.”



As always, Bishop Barber’s talk was rooted in the historical context that has brought us to this point in American history. He focused on the core organizing principle of the PPC by reminding the audience that until this nation addresses the interlocking injustices things will not change, and if we don’t lift from the bottom we are not the nation we say we are. In analyzing what we do next, he asked, “Are we listening to the poor and working people? Are we hearing them?”

He emphasized that there is no lack of resources, but rather a lack of consciousness—and that while people are searching for practical tools, we still have to give people hope, and that we must be the movement our people need going forward.

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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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## In the media

### **“This is not the time for platitudes or passivity”**

In a [Faith & Leadership](#) article, seven Christian leaders were asked for guidance on how the church can help the nation heal after such a divisive election. Our own Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is clear-eyed in her reflections. “This is not the time for platitudes or passivity,”

she writes. “The moral and material dis-ease at the heart of society must be addressed at the source. As part of this deep healing work, the church cannot sit on the sidelines. The ministry of Jesus reminds us that those of us who call ourselves Christians must become chaplains for the movement, not foot soldiers of empire.”

She recalled the powerful words of Beulah Sanders, legendary leader of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Sanders spoke to the National Council of Churches in 1972, imploring the nation’s Christian leaders to leverage their institutional power in support of the welfare rights movement. “We expect the churches to spread the truth about the welfare problems in this country,” she said. “If we fail in our struggle, Christianity will have failed.”

Read more of Rev. Theoharis’s reflections in the [article](#).

### **Freedom Church of the Poor looks to a “revolutionary” Christmas**

In a comment accompanying the latest Freedom Church of the Poor [livestream](#), Rev. Theoharis wrote about the upcoming Christian holiday and what it might mean at the end of this especially trying year: “The Freedom Church of the Poor community and our partner organizations come together for this ‘Winter Offensive,’ this season which we call Advent of a Revolution (Advent) & Birth of a Movement (Epiphany), to expose the lies of the candy-cane Christmas; to revive the revolutionary power of the ancient story of Christmas; to reconnect to the God who Mother Mary praised, the one that ‘casts down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly’; and to give strength and unity to the movement of our people in these troubled times.”

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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).*