

# CALIFORNIA



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

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- Recaps on the national call and a post-Grants Pass convening
- How to survive Trump's America (again)
- Bishop Barber: "A democracy is a hard struggle"

## Announcements



### **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? Join supporters and activists from around the state to discuss how we can use our shared past to prepare us to hold officials responsible for policies that center our needs and concerns. We are that movement!

We look forward to seeing you online as we get ready for 2025 and beyond. (Photo from Wood Street Commons and Friends.)



### **Advent in the Midst of Adversity**

**Four-part Bible study with Bishop Barber**

**Begins Monday Dec. 2, 5:00–6:30pm PT | [Online](#)**

The “Silent Night” of Christ’s coming was not a serene evening in a peaceful world, but rather a moment for listening in a world gone mad—a pause to receive the living Word in the midst of political storms.

Bishop Barber invites you to join him and others online for a four-part Bible study—an opportunity to carve out space to receive a Word from God this Advent season. Holding the lectionary texts in one hand and America’s political context in the other, Bishop Barber and guests will discern moral direction and offer spiritual sustenance for the moment. The Bible studies are open to the public and will be available on the [Repairers of the Breach livestream page](#).

## Recaps



### **Beyond Grants Pass California Advocates Convening**

Advocates, community members with lived expertise, services providers and legal services partners came together last Friday in Los Angeles for a day-long convening to learn, strategize and plan next steps in our post-election, post-Grants Pass world. The session was organized by Western Center on Law & Poverty and the Equal Rights for Every Neighbor (EREN) coalition, of which California PPC is a part.

“While many of us are feeling a range of emotions—anger, disappointment, fear—we can’t let that stop us,” said CA PPC quad chair Nancy Berlin. “That’s why it’s important for us to get to work quickly to ramp up defensive measures while also developing proactive strategies to protect our communities.” Plans discussed included campaigns to counter criminalization of unhoused people and nurturing champions among California lawmakers who are moved to build an anti-Trump resistance.

Other speakers included Crystal Sanchez of the Sacramento Homeless Union, pictured above.

### **PPC National call: a post-election regrouping**

This past Monday, national PPC co-chairs Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis joined with state coordinating committees and GOTV volunteers from across the country to honor the collective accomplishments of our 40-week season of action. Speakers lifted up the work we all did, including reaching out to millions of poor, low-propensity English and Spanish-speaking voters. While lamenting the lack of attention paid to our folks and our issues, Rev. Barber stressed that it’s now our job to shape the narrative, not to let others control it, and to keep up the work we’ve been doing to focus on those most impacted in our communities. If there ever was a moment to come together, it is now!

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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**

## In the media

### **“Lifting from the Bottom: How to Survive Donald Trump’s America”**

In their latest [TomDispatch](#) article, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and PPC policy director Shailly Gupta Barnes bring us a lucid account of the realities so many are facing and how we can strengthen our collective resolve. Setting the scene with the 2024 census report—a “mirroring of pre-pandemic levels of poverty”—they lay bare how Democrats missed the opportunity to turn out large swaths of poor and low-income voters by neglecting issues critical to 40 percent of the nation. Now, despite winning with just one-third of eligible voters, the GOP is emboldened, poised to deliver on its grim policy promises of Project 2025 with control of the House and Senate.

“From mass deportations to assaults on social-welfare programs, housing programs, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ families and public education, millions of people could be thrown into crisis, with alarmingly fewer ways to resist or express dissent, especially given Trump’s long-time [willingness](#) to use military force to quell protest,” they write. “With the passage of the ['non-profit killer bill'](#) in the House of Representatives (before Trump even takes office), the infrastructure of resistance is also under threat. Add to all this: Trump has already started talking about [overhauling](#) the Medicaid and food-stamp programs that benefit at least 70 million poor and low-income people to offset the costs of extending tax cuts to billionaires and corporations.”

With a turn to the Bible, Rev. Theoharis and Gupta Barnes present critical learnings and a path forward. Given the cabinet choices, they write, “If, amid relative abundance, the poor were already being abandoned, what will indeed occur when those with the power to distribute that abundance, and protect our air, water and land, openly disdain the ‘least of these,’ who are most of us, and instead favor the wealthy and powerful?” Drawing a parallel between the incoming administration and Nero and his cronies, they continue, “For those committed to the biblical call for a safe and abundant life for all, such times demand that we focus on building the strength and power of the people.”

Read this important [TomDispatch](#), and join us as we focus on lifting from the bottom.

### **“This fiery evangelical pastor offers a blueprint for Democrats’ revival in Trump’s second term”**

In a moment when many are coming to grips with the election, Bishop Barber has been a steadfast source of clarity and context. “What you saw election night is not the whole of America,” he said in a recent interview with CNN’s John Blake. “It’s a part of America in a particular moment around the election. You have to stop and say, wait a minute—this is the same America that I went to sleep in the night before. It’s not some strange America. This is part of America. America has always had multiple stories running at the same time. A democracy is a hard struggle.” Read the full interview on [CNN](#).

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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).*