

Thu, Dec 19, 2024

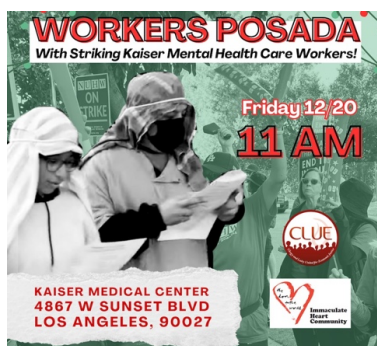
# CALIFORNIA



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

- L.A. workers posada
- Winter solstice houseless memorial
- Historic victory for tourism workers
- Recap: Sanctuary From Sweeps on Stolen Land
- Honoring Ella Baker

## Announcements



### A Worker's Posada

**Friday Dec 20, 11am–1pm Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center (4867 W Sunset Blvd)**

Join friends from Immaculate Heart Community and CLUE as they lead a posada (a walk commemorating the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem) to show support for Kaiser mental health workers who have been on strike since October, demanding more staff to address critical care shortages and changes to their pension plans and pay.

The situation has become serious enough to gain the attention of a group of [California state legislators](#) who are urging Kaiser Permanente CEO Greg Adams to take action to end a nearly 2,400-worker strike in Southern California. In a pair of letters sent last week, the representatives said Kaiser has canceled “large numbers” of behavioral health appointments since workers began striking in October and warned that the reduction in services was having an adverse impact on patient care.

Kaiser's refusal to act leaves patients with unbearable wait times and forces many into emergency rooms for care. Mental health care is a right, not a luxury!

**2024 Winter Solstice Houseless Memorial**  
Honoring Merced County's Houseless Community  
Saturday, December 21  
10AM-12PM  
McNamara Park (1040 Canal St, Merced, CA)  
@the Joseph "JoJo" Edwards Memorial Tree and Plaque  
*"Our houseless guests are welcome and encouraged to join us!"  
\*Free event to the public*

- Houseless Community Remembrance Ceremony
- Food, hot drinks, and water provided
- Bring Warm clothing and Socks to share
- Care/Hygiene kits will be available

For more info: Call Gloria (209) 631-9898  
Interested in donating? Contact Jennifer: Jennifer.mcqueen@centralvalleypride.org

### Winter Solstice Houseless Memorial

**Saturday Dec 21, 10am–12pm**

**McNamara Park (1040 Canal St, Merced, CA)**

**at the Joseph “JoJo” Edwards Memorial Tree and Plaque**

Each year, thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness die on the streets of our nation due to illness, exposure or violence. On the winter solstice—the longest night of the year—groups around the country hold memorials to remember and honor them.

California PPC activists are joining with other community groups in Merced, including Central Valley Journey for Justice and Central Valley Pride, for this year's gathering. Food, hot drinks and water will be provided. Please bring warm clothing and socks to share; care/hygiene kits will also be available.

Contact Gloria at 209-631-9696 for details. Find the event flyer and more on [Central Valley Pride's Instagram page](#).

### One more announcement...

The newsletter team will be off next week, but we'll be back in your inbox at the top of the new year. Happy holidays!

## Meetings & events



### Advent in the Midst of Adversity: Bible Study

Monday Dec 23, 5pm 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 William J. Barber invites you to join him and conversation partners to carve out a space to receive a Word from God this Advent season.

### Los Angeles regional meeting

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

Join Los Angeles PPC activists for our first meeting of 2025! We'll have a CA PPC year-in-review segment and dive into exciting plans in the works, including in-person meetings and celebrations for MLK Day. All are welcome—invite your family, neighbors and friends.

## News



### Historic victory for tourism workers in Los Angeles

Last week, the Los Angeles City Council approved a landmark policy to provide a living wage for tourism workers, bringing their wages to \$30/hour by the 2028 Olympics and

ensuring workers have access to family health coverage. (Rosa Manriquez of Immaculate Heart Community is pictured in the foreground of the photo above.)

For the last 20 months, Los Angeles PPC activists have participated in Tourism Workers Rising, a coalition of community, faith-based and labor orgs and others in solidarity with airport and hotel workers. We've attended city council meetings and called and written our council members, and last week we stood in solidarity with workers who held a three-day fast before the vote. We then joined with hundreds of workers and community members in the packed city council chambers (it took hours to get us all in!) to witness the historic vote.

One of the PPC's core tenets is that every person has the right to a living wage—a right not just to survive, but to thrive. Many tourism workers are on the verge of homelessness, struggling with food insecurity, unable to afford child care or forced to work multiple fulltime jobs. This victory brings relief after a long battle and hope to workers everywhere.

[ABC7](#) has more about the vote.

## Recap



### **Sanctuary From Sweeps on Stolen Land**

On December 17, members of the Bay Area PPC gathered with Wood Street Commons, Poor Magazine/Homefulness, Where Do We Go Berkeley and other groups at City Hall in Oakland to declare that "Housing Is a Human Right!"

Nell Myhand from the CA PPC was among the speakers who addressed the root causes of homelessness while also covering solutions and demands. "The crisis comes down to a policy choice, with federal and state level governments protecting big corporations and the wealthy from paying their fair share of taxes while prioritizing military spending," she said. "Poverty and being unhoused should not be criminalized and there should be an immediate end to sweeps of encampments, with the related funding redirected toward positive solutions like encampment upgrades and sweeps-free sanctuary communities."

A sanctuary village was set up in front of City Hall that included a resource center, food for attendees and tents for people to sleep in. Unfortunately, police evicted those who had occupied the village; they were forced to relocate to a Greyhound bus station. For updates and information on how to provide support, contact tiny gray-garcia, POOR Magazine, at 510-435-7500 or John Janasko, Wood Street Commons, at 510-712-7639.

Similar events took place in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Fresno and Vallejo. Read more about the East Bay action on [The Oaklandside](#).

## 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

#### **Bishop Barber and Yara Allen launch music-focused podcast**

A new podcast that explores the intersection of music and social justice has just launched; listen to [A Breach Repairer's Song](#). Hosted by Yara Allen and Bishop Barber and featuring guests like Joan Baez and Dr. Cornel West, this series celebrates the marriage between music as an art form and music as a tool for activism.

“The songs we will break down help keep us steady as we do the work of educating, building community, resisting, and creating,” says Ms. Allen. “We are excited to share with you songs and conversations that we hope will inspire you in the spaces that you hold.”

Listen to [A Breach Repairer's Song episode 1](#) now.



#### **Honoring Ella Baker**

Last Friday, Rev Dr. Liz Theoharis shared a moving [tribute](#) to civil rights warrior Ella Baker, including a video montage of music and action. (Ms. Baker is pictured in the center of the photo above—and see if you can spot CA PPC Theomusicologist Arnaé Batson in the video!) “Today we remember Ella Baker on the day of her birth and passing, December 13th,” Rev. Liz wrote. “As we reflect on Baker’s life and her incredible contributions to the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality, this recording serves as a reminder of the enduring relevance of her work. Her example inspires us to continue building movements that uplift the voices of impacted people, the marginalized, and empower communities to shape their own futures.”

Watch the full video on the [Kairos Center webpage](#).

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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).*