

Thu, Jan 9, 2025

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- L.A. fire assistance
- MLK Day (and Inauguration Day) sing-in and march
- People's March meetups
- Confronting Christian Nationalism in 2025
- Social Security Fairness Act update

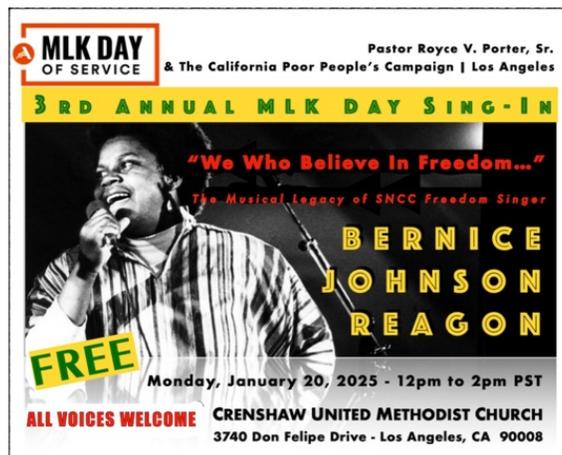
Announcements



Resources for Angelenos affected by the fires

If you're in L.A., we hope you and your family are safe amid these unfathomable fires. Please check out the links below if you need aid or are able to provide it. Above all, stay safe. (Thanks to David Solnit for creating the graphic above.)

- [Mutual Aid LA Network fire and wind resources](#)
- [SoCal Edison: Check outage status](#)
- [LACAN: How to support housed and unhoused neighbors](#)



3rd Annual MLK Day Sing-In

Monday Jan 20, 12–2pm | [RSVP \(in person\)](#) | [RSVP \(online\)](#)

Crenshaw United Methodist Church (3740 Don Felipe Drive, LA CA 90008)

Join us in-person and online on MLK Day to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through music and congregational singing!

This year, we celebrate Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon (1948–2024), activist, academic, iconic musical genius of Civil Rights and founding member of the SNCC Freedom Singers. This student group musically supported Dr. King and others at numerous rallies and marches—including the historic 1963 March on Washington—and were jailed

numerous times for singing songs of freedom and unity. Dr. Reagon later formed Sweet Honey in the Rock, the internationally acclaimed, Grammy-winning a cappella women's ensemble.

This event is sponsored by Pastor Royce V. Porter, Sr. and the California PPC's Los Angeles region. It's hosted by Arnaé Batson, our very own theomusicologist and a former student of Dr. Reagon. We need volunteers for set-up, tabling and peacekeeping. Contact [Nancy](#) if you can help.

This is an opportunity for us to claim our history and promote our values as we prepare for 2025. Please invite your communities and families; all are welcome!



People's March Saturday Jan 18 | [Details](#)

Not just a women's march this time, the People's March is bringing women, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants and everyone under the same umbrella to send a loud and clear message: We are not going backwards. United, we march forward together.

Dozens of marches are scheduled all over the country. The Los Angeles PPC region is organizing to attend together. The L.A. march begins at Pershing Square at 10am. Contact [Michelle Tonn](#) about where to meet up and other details.

Not near L.A.? [Check for a march near you.](#)



March to Reclaim MLK's Radical Legacy (Oakland) Monday Jan 20, 11am

Bay Area folks: join local PPC activists at the 11th Annual Reclaim MLK's Legacy March and Week of Action. March loud and proud for MLK's radical legacy! Clergy are invited to wear vestments. More info on the [APTP website](#).

Meetings & events

Bay Area regional meeting

Monday Jan 13, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Bay area activists: You're invited to our regional meeting! We'll hear reports on recent local and statewide actions and events, discuss plans for participation in Martin Luther King Day local and statewide actions and share announcements of upcoming meetings and events.

Virtual conference: Building Moral Leadership to Address Christian Nationalism

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday Jan 12–14, 4–6:00pm PT | [RSVP](#)

2025 will see a new president take office in a highly polarized nation where White Christian Nationalism holds influence over significant sections of political, religious and cultural life. How do people of faith make sense of this moment, its threats and opportunities? How do we effectively confront religious nationalism? And how do we move beyond playing defense to actually envision and embody the just society God calls us to build?

Join the Kairos Center and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) for a virtual conference to engage these questions with religious leaders, congregants and others. This is the first public event of the Luke 10 Initiative, a program that will launch cohorts of congregations this spring to understand and confront White Christian Nationalism. Head to the [Kairos event webpage](#) for more information and to RSVP.

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

Video: Bishop Barber's Watch Night sermon

Delivered at Serenity Christian Church in Detroit, Bishop Barber's Watch Night sermon on New Year's Eve was a powerful reminder and challenge to the nation as we enter an uncertain 2025.

Recalling the hypocrisy of the Founding Fathers and America's history of slavery and inequality—by declaring people in bondage counting as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of taxation and representation, while women were not allowed to vote—he boomed, “We've had a struggle with who we are and who we want to be. They said they

wanted to form a more perfect union, but they made it imperfect by saying only white men who owned land could vote—the equivalent of rich white men today.... Then slavery became the focus from 1776 to 1861, posing a fundamental contradiction. How could the same country who said ‘all men are created equal’ in the same breath allow slavery?” Watch the powerful sermon on [Facebook](#).

“Higher Social Security payments coming for millions of people”

Bishop Barber applauded the news of President Biden signing into law the new Social Security Fairness Act. “Millions of public service employees can now afford to retire with dignity,” he wrote on [X](#). “An important bipartisan win.” The [Associated Press](#) reported on the new bill, which will boost payments to approximately 3 million former public sector teachers, firefighters and people in other service jobs.

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.