



**MEDIA RELEASE**

*July 14, 2023*

**Wake the Sleeping Giant**

***Moral Monday Rally Confronts Legislative Carnage***

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – – While the NCGA unleashes its extreme and violent agenda on the people, Bishop William J. Barber II will lead the “Charlotte Moral Monday Rally: Wake the Sleeping Giant” on Monday, July 24, at 6:30pm at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. Fourth St., in Uptown. The event is sponsored by the Southern Piedmont Circle of the N.C. Poor People’s Campaign in partnership with local organizations and congregations.

In addition to Rev. Dr. Barber, the event will feature a number of speakers, including persons who are impacted by poverty, racism, and discrimination against immigrants; as well as local Charlotte clergy leaders from across the religious spectrum. Musical performances will also be included in the program. This event is community-wide, non-partisan, and non-violent. All are welcome from around region & state.

The Southern Piedmont Circle is the local Charlotte-area chapter of the national Poor People’s Campaign (PPC), launched five years ago by Co-Chairs, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. On July 3rd, Bishop Barber declared in his *Moral Declaration for America*, “We find ourselves amid an orchestrated moral crisis, and it is up to people of moral conscience to hold this nation accountable to itself.” The PPC: A National Call for Moral Revival seeks to make the nation and its leaders aware of the millions of people, families, and children impacted by poverty and financial insecurity—and demand changes in public policy—as well as calling attention to issues related to economic and healthcare inequities, racial injustice and voter suppression, and the climate crisis.

Prior to the launch of this national movement, Barber led the state-wide initiative in North Carolina known as the Moral Monday Movement during the 2010’s, in which tens of thousands of North Carolinians participated in marches and rallies at the State Capitol, conducted community organizing, and engaged in civil disobedience, in order to raise awareness regarding similar issues as those listed above, speak truth to power to state elected officials, and work to change public policy.

As part of his current leadership of the PPC and his affiliate organization known as Repairers of the Breach, Dr. Barber has also recently called for reactivation of Moral Monday’s in light of extreme legislation once again being enacted by the N.C. State Legislature.

The Poor People’s Campaign is named in honor of—and was re-launched to continue the work under the same name—of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was assassinated while striving to get the original organization off the ground in the late 1960’s as part of the Civil Rights Movement.

*For more information and media instructions for covering the Charlotte Moral Monday on July 24, please contact Samantha Turner, Southern Piedmont Circle Tri-Chair and lead organizer of Charlotte Moral Monday, at the following: (631) 943-2189 [samanthactppc@gmail.com](mailto:samanthactppc@gmail.com)*