North Carolina Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

January 2025 NCPPC Newsletter

New Year's Message from NCPPC

We know that many of us are troubled by the narrative that came out of last year's election. We are a nonpartisan group of people from across the ideological and political spectrum, so partisan victories are not our focal concern. That being said, however, many of us were disturbed when the story of hatred beat out the story of Love; when the story of division overcame the vision of unity, when the story of rampant xenophobia and scapegoating "trumped" the narrative of our collective responsibility for forging a better future. So, many of us have been struggling with the election's outcome, not for partisan reasons as much as for the story that it tells about us as Americans and what it says about the character of our nation and its people.

But as we enter this new year, we want to let you know that we are fully encouraged. We are encouraged not just because we told a different story in the state of North Carolina where we have all worked hard for more than a decade to foster a moral narrative… though this is encouraging. We are encouraged because we trust in a God Who is greater than all partisan politics, because we believe in the power of justice that is coming to pass in our work in North Carolina; and because we get to stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you as part of the North Carolina Poor Peoples' Campaign and all of our justice partners.

You see, in the midst of these difficult times our work is not over. No matter who is in control of the White House and how our Congress is composed, we would always have had work to do. Our job is not limited by the outcome of partisan elections; our job is to center the voices of the marginalized, to end the suffering of those systematically impoverished, and to produce a better nation that is worthy of our collective striving. If one thing is clear about our partisan system it is that all of our parties have ignored the poor. So, our work has not changed!

As we prepare for this upcoming year, let us do so beginning by cleansing our collective soul. Let us engage in those spiritual disciplines that we all have as part of our faith traditions and reflective practices that center God, goodness, peace, and justice. Let us find the soul-strength in each and every one of our hearts and minds to make ourselves ready for the fight that lies in front of us. And as we do, let us realize that we have pledged ourselves to work for a better world with a vast cloud of witnesses of different colors, creeds, contexts, and ideological camps to make this vision a reality. As we stand with God and shoulder to shoulder with other justice advocates, let us always be encouraged by the often quoted movement mantra, "I believe that we will win!" Forward together…not one step back!

- Rev. Rodney Sadler on behalf of the NCPPC Tri-Chairs

2024: NCPPC Year in Review

- **January** - Ramped up for the "Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers' State House Assembly and Moral March on Raleigh and to the Polls" for March 2nd.
- **February** - Moral March to the Polls Tour travels from Hickory to Charlotte to Asheville in February.

- **February 22** - Leandro Day of Action at the State Capitol with Bishop Barber speaking.
- **March 2** - Thousands descend on Raleigh for the Moral March on Raleigh on March 2nd with a broad coalition of North Carolinians.
- **March 4** - Delivered demand letters to all 170 members of the NC General Assembly.
- **April 24** - Witness Wednesday welcomed back the NC General Assembly for the “short” session. We delivered demand letters and blue balloons representing the Rainy Day Fund that could fully fund child care across North Carolina.
- **Week of June 10** - Worked with The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of NC and NC Domestic Workers Alliance to organize a Child Care Funding Cliff Call Blitz. Groups took half-hour slots to create an unbroken chain of phone calls to Senate Leader Berger and Speaker Moore, demanding they NOT let funding for childcare collapse at the end of June.
- **June 12** - Witness Wednesday begins at the NC Freedom Park with powerful speakers, from low-wage workers in need of childcare to child-care workers demanding the NC General Assembly fund child care and NOT private school vouchers for millionaires.
- **June 26** - Deadline for Day Care brings a crowd to NC General Assembly. Eight moral witnesses, including faith leaders and child-care providers, are arrested for nonviolent moral civil disobedience outside the legislative chambers, because Moore and Berger had refused multiple requests to meet with poor and low-wage North Carolinians about the urgency of child care and other issues. Later that day, the NC General Assembly begrudgingly passed stabilization grants that would help keep hundreds of daycares open through the end of the year.

Click here to see the rest of the year!

The Poor People's Campaign: Knowing Our History

The Poor People’s Campaign is deeply rooted in the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, when it was announced by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at a staff retreat of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in November of 1967, just five months before his assassination. Its first action would come just weeks after his death.

Civil rights and voting rights laws had passed, and now it was time to start working on the persistent economic inequality. People of color still lagged behind whites in education and job opportunities, and poor whites were led to believe it was people of color who were keeping them down.

The Poor People’s Campaign would help educate and advocate for living wages, safe housing, educational opportunities, health care and more through direct action that included marches, rallies and peaceful protests to bring attention to the plight of people in poverty.

Click here to read more...

Moral Monday in the News

“Hundreds of protesters descended on the North Carolina Legislative Building Monday evening to demand lawmakers halt the passage of Senate Bill 382, a controversial power shift bill they decried as a ‘legislative coup.’ The event marked the return of ‘Moral Monday’ rallies in the state’s capital. " - *NC Newsline*
Read about our powerful gathering of hundreds in the capital on Monday, December 9th.

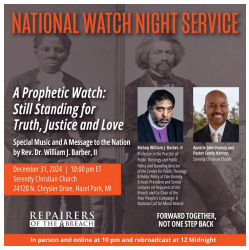
RSVP HERE

Other Important Info

Gov. Cooper Commutes 15 Death Sentences in Response to Activism

"Gov. Roy Cooper today commuted 15 death sentences to life without parole, an unprecedented grant of clemency by a North Carolina governor. Leaders of the coalition that organized a two-year public campaign calling for death row commutations said they believed the governor's action was a victory for justice."

Read more at NCCADP



Stream December 31 Watch Night Service with Bishop Barber

On the eve of an uncertain 2025, Bishop William J. Barber, II delivered a powerful reminder and charge to the nation in a special Watch Night Service live from Serenity Christian Church in Detroit, MI.

Watch at Fusion Films

"Christ is Still in the Rubble"

Reverend Munther Isaac, of the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church in Bethlehem, follows up on his historic sermon about Gaza from last year.

Watch at DemocracyNow!