

**Martin Luther King Jr's Poor People's Campaign for Moral Revival** announced six weeks of direct non-violent action. The purpose of the Campaign is to unite the poor, disenfranchised and marginalized to take action together and become what **Dr. Martin Luther King** called "*a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life.*" For more information contact [wisconsin@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:wisconsin@poorpeoplescampaign.org) Website: [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org)

## 40 Days of Moral Action

### Week Six Theme:

### "A New and Unsettling Force: Confronting the Nation's Distorted Moral Narrative"

**TODAY (MONDAY)**

**June 18, 2018 2:00 pm Rally**

**at the State Capitol**

**JOIN US!**



The National Poor People's Campaign has launched a 40 Days of Moral Action across the country. They are calling attention to the issues that marginalized individuals face in our country by engaging in highly publicized, non-violent moral fusion direct action, over a 6-week period in at least 30 states and the District of Columbia. Between May 13 and June 23, the Campaign is forcing serious national examination of the enmeshed evils of systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy during a key election year while strengthening connection informed and committed grassroots leadership .



**People's Campaign Charlotte Mass Meeting: A National Call for Moral Revival: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis lead the first regional Mass Meeting for the Poor People's Campaign.**

In the United States, one out of every two people live in poverty, suffering the consequences of inadequate health care, housing, food, education, and employment. Many millions more of us live one layoff or health care crisis away from falling into poverty. Fifty years ago, **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** called for a campaign to unite poor Americans across racial lines to address what he called the evil triplets of society -- poverty, racism, and militarism. We draw on the history, vision, and unfinished work of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign and take as our task reigniting that campaign to unite the poor across many lines of division and fight to end poverty, racism, and related injustices by building a broad and deep moral movement. First, we must take action together and become what Dr. King called "a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life." We are in a national moral crisis and together we must revive the heart of our democracy. Everyone has a role to play.

(Please see over.)

*The Rev. Dr. William Barber II had just been arrested on the street in front of the Court alongside nearly 80 other Poor People's Campaign activists. And across the country, hundreds more were participating in nonviolent direct action to call for higher wages, union rights and fully-funded anti-poverty programs.*

*(Here in Madison to date scores of citizens have risked arrest--6.18.2018.)*

### **Rev. Dr. William Barber II writes here:**

*On Monday afternoon, we ascended the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court—clergy and people of faith, one of us for each of the nine justices responsible for deciding our nation's most critical cases.*

*We climbed the steps knowing that over the last five weeks, more than 2,000 people have been arrested as part of our revival of the Poor People's Campaign, challenging systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation.*

*\*We've been doing the work to get policy makers' attention across the country—but now we need to get together in one place to show how big our movement has become. So on June 23, we're taking the fight to D.C. for a Mass Rally to Stand Against Poverty and Systemic Racism. Come with us.*

*We came to the Supreme Court to pray for the judges, who earlier in the day put a legal stamp of approval on voter suppression in /A. Phillip Randolph Institute v. Husted/ and who, any day, are expected to rule in /Janus v. AFSCME/, a case that could make it easier for anti-worker extremists to rig the economy further by dividing working people.*

*We formed a circle, held hands, bowed our heads, and then we prayed. We prayed to say to our nation's capital and to the nine justices of this nation's highest court that everyone's life is sacred, that everyone has a right to live, to living wages, to love, to vote and to thrive. We cited sacred texts to say we are all each others keepers, and that workers who are exploited cry out.*

*"We are here, God, because another law came down today, a law that denies the very fundamental rights of your people—the right to be free," we prayed. "And when our rights to be free are violated, our voting rights, our housing rights, our labor rights, our education rights, we moral leaders, with you on our side, in front of this Supreme Court, do declare that we will continue to do your work."*

*We prayed over the voice of a Supreme Court police officer booming over a bullhorn, threatening us with arrest if we did not stop.*

*And we continued to pray as the same Supreme Court that in /Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission/ upheld discrimination against the LGBTQI community under the guise of protecting religious freedom, arrested the nine of us for praying on their steps. One by one, we were placed in handcuffs, our religious collars and robes removed. We were kept in cuffs for nearly six hours, and then placed in cells without pillows, blankets or mattresses— but overrun with roaches, where we have been held overnight. We have not slept in jail, but instead we have continued the work of the Poor People's Campaign, preparing for the great work ahead of us.*

*The difficult conditions we are facing now will not stop us from speaking out. We vow to continue our fight and to continue to seek justice for those living with the least in this nation.*

