

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE June 2018

## CKCPJ member serves on safety council

by Margaret Gabriel, editor

In March 2018, Fayette County Public School Superintendent Manny Caulk convened an advisory council of 28 people to discuss means by which Fayette County could assure school safety. Among the representatives of teachers, students, principals, and community members was parent representative Penny Christian, Vice President of the 16th District PTA and a member of the CKCPJ *Peaceways* committee.

Before the council was convened, administrators had decided to begin installation of metal detectors as a means of creating a culture of safety for Fayette County schools. One of the initial discussions of the District Safety Advisory Council was whether metal detectors would be effective, and how installation would be implemented.

As the newest school in the county, Frederick Douglass was best suited to accommodate the detectors quickly and efficiently.

On the same day that Frederick Douglass students passed through metal detectors for the first time, the advisory council released a white paper identifying four areas of emphasis that will move the community toward ensuring safety by focusing on relationship-building, funding of resources and juvenile justice reform in addition to

security enhancements at school entrances.

Penny cautions that the community must not look at the metal detectors, which the council recommends installing at all Fayette County schools, as the end solution, but only as a beginning.

“Metal detectors are not a cure-all, and I’m afraid they’ll make us complacent,” Penny said. “Ninety percent of the solutions to school violence start at home and in the neighborhoods. The council’s charge is not to figure out how to keep kids from getting shot, but to keep them safe before they even get in the building.”

The white paper states, “Almost unanimously, students, family members, and the community expressed opposition to arming teachers.”

Her daughter is a teacher in Nelson County, Ky., and Penny said she could never visualize Cathy shooting a child and believes that arming teachers is probably the least effective way to assure school

safety. “Pike County approved a measure that would allow arming teachers, but legally it can’t be done because of the banning of weapons on school property,” she said.

Schools are responsible for education, Penny said; safety issues are more properly the responsibility of the community. “What resources does the community offer?” she said. “If the issue is a need for mental health care for students, what does the community offer?”

Penny and other members of the council also emphasize the importance of empowering and enabling parents as part of the solution to curbing school violence. The white paper suggests that parents join and participate in PTA and booster organizations, meet with teachers at least twice a year, and encourage children to speak up if they feel uncomfortable or see something out of the ordinary.

The white paper created by the district safety advisory council is available on the CKCPJ website.

## CKCPJ Committee Action

The CKCPJ Peace Action Team is working to increase summer youth jobs, especially for impoverished and at-risk youth. Team chair Kerby Neill proposed that young people be prepared with “soft-skills” training (including time management and communication skills) and that such training is currently being offered by LFUCG program administrator Mattie Morton. The committee is also assessing the quality of youth job experiences and determining the short- and long-term impact on those who participate compared to youth of similar demographics who do not participate. The committee seeks to include additional resource groups, including multiple branches of LFUCG, Commerce Lexington, various churches, the NAACP and Urban League, and such service clubs as the Rotary and Kiwanis.

The committee is refining such first-year and long-term goals as funding sources, fund management, outcome measures, the role of volunteers and follow-up activities. The next team meeting is planned for June 5 at the Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Road. All are invited to attend.

The Lexington Advocacy Team plans to lobby Senator Rand Paul concerning the situation in Korea. Chair Richard Mitchell will report in the coming weeks about the outcome of the team’s effort.

A kick-off meeting for the Health Care Team is planned for June 12 at the Quaker Meeting House.

The steering committee is interested in launching a revival of the affordable housing team. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

<b>Gun Violence In America as of 5-28-18</b> (excluding suicide)	
<b>2018</b> (year to date)	
Killed	5,740
Wounded	10,591
<b>2017</b> (annual)	
Killed	15,612
Wounded	31,217
Source: <a href="http://www.gunviolencearchive.org">www.gunviolencearchive.org</a>	

# Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

In 2018, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is working to renew the 1968 campaign organized by Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to gain economic justice for poor people in the United States.

Kentucky is one of 30 states that are participating in the 2018 campaign. Every Monday from May 14 to June 18, Kentuckians are gathering in Frankfort for a non-violent moral fusion direct action. Direct action trainings are held before each event. For more information and to sign up for the campaign, see the website of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, [kftc.org](http://kftc.org).

In its description of and support for the campaign, the KFTC website says, "Just as Kentucky was ground zero for the war on poverty, Kentuckians are targets of this war on the poor. Right here in Kentucky, we are facing the brunt of unchecked power and greed, with a darkness over Frankfort that rivals the darkness over Washington. But we are in a moment of great transition – a moral revival. People

are fighting back for their lives, communities, and deepest values. The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival has taken root in Kentucky, and we're excited to have you involved.

"Collectively, the Kentucky effort is made up of community organizations, faith-based organizations, individuals, and congregations that are active on state, local, and federal issues that align with The Poor People's Campaign Moral Framework.

"We are working for:

- Tax justice and a moral budget;
- Environmental justice and just transitions to cleaner economies;
- Racial justice and authentically desegregating our communities;
- Equitable access to quality educations for every Kentucky child;
- Health care for all;
- And criminal justice reforms that are rooted in justice.

"Together, we are creating a Kentucky that we've not yet seen."

See the reference to the People's Campaign on page 6.

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

*Board of Directors:* Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Rick Clewett, Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie.

*Peaceways Staff:* Margaret Gabriel (editor); Penny Christian, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (proofreaders). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ.

*Member Organizations:* ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter; Ahava Center for Spiritual Living; Amnesty International, UK Chapter; Bahá'ís of Lexington; Berea Friends Meeting; Bluegrass Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program; Bluegrass United Church of Christ; Catholic Action Center; Central Christian Church; Commission for Peace and Justice, Catholic Diocese of Lexington; Gay and Lesbian Services Organization; Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky; Hunter Presbyterian Church; Islamic Society of Central Kentucky; Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Kentucky Chapter; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Kentucky Resources Council; Lexington Fair Housing Council; Lexington Fairness; Lexington Friends Meeting; Lexington Hispanic Association (Asociación de Hispanos Unidos); Lexington Labor Council, Jobs with Justice Committee; Lexington Living Wage Campaign; Lexington Socialist Student Union; Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church; Newman Center at UK; North East Lexington Initiative; One World Film Festival; Students for Peace and Earth Justice (Bluegrass Community and Technical College); Peacecraft; The Plantory; Progress (student group at Transylvania University); Second Presbyterian Church; Shambhala Center; Sustainable Communities Network; Union Church at Berea; Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington; United Nations Association, Bluegrass Chapter.

# One World Film Festival

by Annette Mayer, OWF director

The 2018 One World Film Festival is now in the history books. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your unbelievable support and many, many kind words! It was a great year!

Attendance reached a new high, and proved what we, the OWF Committee, have known all along: The Lexington community wants and appreciates good cultural films.

If you missed a film showing from the recent series, the Lexington Public Library has DVD copies of all the films (on 7-day loan) with the exception of "If You're Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast." Also, due to a distributor's snag, we weren't able to obtain "I Am Evidence." We substituted "The Hunting Ground" which was part of our 2017 series. The library has copies of that film.

OWF is taking a break, but behind the scenes we are viewing films in

anticipation of bringing you another great series in 2019. If you stumble on a film you think would be appropriate, feel free to send us the title. No promises other than we'll take a look!

I cannot close without our usual plea. If you have a Kroger Plus card, and haven't registered for any non-profit, would you please consider registering for us. It is very simple and doesn't cost you anything. To register, have your Kroger Plus card handy and go online to [kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow](http://kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow) and register for us #18741.

Of course we'd never turn away a check of any amount you would care to give. You can send a check to our treasurer, Diana Rast, 3512 Winding Drive, Lexington, KY 40517. The OWF tax exempt ID is #26-0196296.

Have a great summer and we'll be back in touch in the fall!



*Peaceways* is published 10 times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138, Lexington KY 40511. The next issue of *Peaceways* will appear in July. Deadline for calendar items is June 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# Calendar for Peace & Justice

The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.

**Mon., June 4**

**Poor People's Campaign** State Capitol, 700 Capitol Ave., Frankfort, 2-4 p.m. Topic: Ecological Devastation and Health. For more information contact Tayna Fogle, Tayna@kftc.org.

**Mon., June 4**

**Lexington Advocacy Team** 6 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Lobbying efforts to continue to prevent war (especially nuclear) with North Korea.

**Tues., June 5**

**CKCPJ Peace Action committee**, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussion of schools, non-violence training, summer youth jobs, and work with the Congolese community.

**Mon., June 11**

**BUILD** Celebration 7 p.m., Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, 601 Hill 'n Dale Dr., Lexington. The event will recap the victories of the May Nehemiah Action and will lay out the activities for the coming year that will keep BUILD moving forward in areas of social justice.

**Mon., June 11**

**Poor People's Campaign** State Capitol, 700 Capitol Ave., Frankfort 2-4 p.m. Topic: Everybody's Got the Right to Live: Jobs, Income and Housing. For more information contact Tayna Fogle, tayna@kftc.org.,

**Tues., June 12**

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Our speaker is Christopher Duckworth of GLSEN Bluegrass. GLSEN is a national organization working to ensure that schools are safe places — where all students are valued and respected regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

PFLAG welcomes LGBTQ persons, family members, friends and allies. Come to learn. Come for support. Come to stand with us. Meetings are always followed by a confidential support group meeting. Visit [info@pflagcentralky.org](mailto:info@pflagcentralky.org) or call (859) 338-4393.

**Tues., June 12**

**CKCPJ single-payer health care committee**, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include promotion of the single-payer health care concept, how it will benefit citizens, and how it can be promoted to lawmakers.

**Mon., June 18**

**CKCPJ steering committee meeting**, 5 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives, and continuing action.

**Mon., June 18**

**Sierra Club**, Tree walk and potluck picnic. 5:30 p.m. Ashland (Henry Clay Estate), 120 Sycamore Rd., Lexington. A local expert will explore the trees on the Ashland property. The potluck picnic will begin at 6:30; please bring a dish to share (no alcohol, please), the plates and cutlery you would like to use (to eliminate the waste of disposable products) and a chair.

**Mon., June 18**

**Poor People's Campaign** State Capitol, 700 Capitol Ave., Frankfort 2-4 p.m. Topic: A New and Unsettling Force. For more information contact Tayna Fogle, Tayna@kftc.org.

**Mon., July 16**

**CKCPJ steering committee meeting**, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives and continuing action.

*Afflict the comfortable; give comfort to the afflicted.*

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## CKCPJ on Facebook

There are some interesting posts on the CKCPJ Facebook page. If you haven't looked lately, you might spend some enlightening moments reading posts from a few days in late May:

- Beth Musgrave at the [Lexington] *Herald-Leader* reports on the Task Force on Neighborhoods in Transition, a group that will examine the reintegration of affordable housing in Lexington. The task force will be chaired by Councilman James Brown.

- Robert Reich, a political commentator, author and professor (University of California at Berkeley) has an enlightening explanation of the importance of voter turnout. Short, funny and eye-opening!

- A story is posted from the *Los Angeles Times* story about Dianne Feinstein's shift in position on capital punishment. The story was originally posted by the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

- Nancy Jo Kemper's reflection on her 2016 campaign to defeat Andy Barr. Originally published in *Reflections*, a publication of Yale

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# All creatures great and small ... have control of you

## **The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics and Religion.**

By Jonathan Haidt, 2013. Vintage Books, Random House. 371 pages.

## **Guest appearance by This Is Your Brain on Parasites: How Tiny Creatures Manipulate Our Behavior and Shape Society.**

By Kathleen McCauliffe, 2016.

First Mariner Books. 220 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Jonathan Haidt, a New York University ethics professor, was the first to describe conscious vs. subconscious power in the metaphor of “riding the elephant” (in his earlier book, *The Happiness Hypothesis*). You get it intuitively; my conscious mind is in rational control, sure, but my subconscious, subliminal, psychological desires are the elephant I’m riding. Sometimes I can tell the elephant what to do and control it; other times, my rational mind goes where the elephant goes.

Now in this effort, we blaze the next path into what he calls “moral psychology,” and reach the unremarkable conclusion that many of us decide what we believe about something before we evaluate the reasons pro and con. As any Fox News viewer knows (even if few of them could articulate it), we seek out and accept information that reinforces what we’ve already decided to feel. Think back to the time you last really dramatically changed your mind about anything, and you’ll see what Haidt means. (I’ll bet it was at least months ago, if ever.)

Continuing with this animal metaphor, Haidt describes our collective group psyche as 90 percent chimpanzee and 10 percent honey bee. We usually think and experiment for ourselves on an individual level, but we have the capacity to throw the “hive switch” in ourselves and all pull together, each doing our specialized job for the common good.

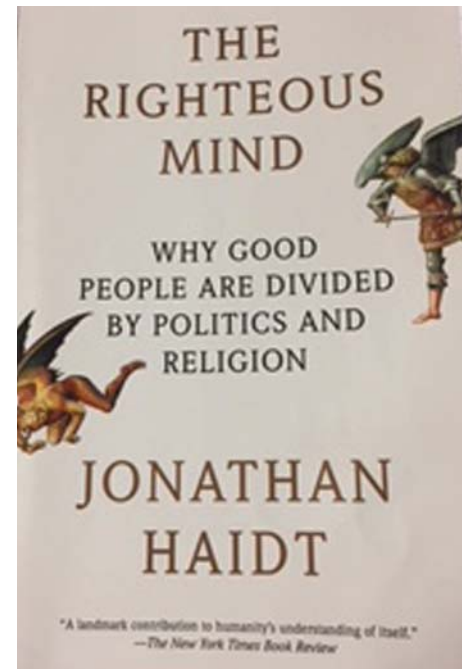
It is sobering that Haidt believes right-wing conservatives here have a social advantage over liberals, because of the reassurances of the hive mentality. Haidt

maintains that social capital is acquired when everybody in a group can trust everybody else, share common values, and do predictable things. Sounds dull to me; I celebrate individuality. But when you’re always changing things around, people aren’t as happy. Social capital is depleted among a bunch of free-thinkers each doing their own thing. There is no chance for a group of individuals to draw comfort from predictable social norms when everybody’s a crazy hippie.

Now to the part of Kathleen McCauliffe’s microbial view that is most relevant here. There’s a part of the brain called the *anterior insula*. It makes you barf, but, interestingly, it also fires up when you witness injustice. She cites the unprovable theory that, as cave people, we learned instinctively that bad personal habits (such as lice infestations) by one person would be bad for the group – it would cause disease and discomfort in others. This triggered the disgust reflex of the *anterior insula*, and over the eons we learned to physically shun people with habits too different from ours.

Haidt goes through several chapters of charting the axes along which we make our decisions about religion and politics. He doesn’t dig up anything too radical. Your beliefs come from what you’ve experienced, what you’ve found to be true in your own case, and your place on the graduated scale between such poles as caring and harming, playing fair and cheating, liberty and suppression, and so on. It’s all, excuse me Prof, rather basic and intuitive. The happy conservatives are his most startling conclusion.

McCauliffe is at her most interesting when she deals with brain chemistry. For example, this *anterior insula* is much more well-developed in women than men. This increases women’s sensitivity to disgust. Psychopaths, people with Huntingdon’s brain damage, and almost all men don’t mind the smell of intestinal gas nearly as much as most women do. Again, no surprise – listen to most wives



gripe about their husbands and this subject will extrude before long.

On the positive side, this well-developed brain lobe makes women trend more empathetic than men – as you can observe, McCauliffe says, when either parent tries to calm a crying baby. The woman is often much more empathetic and successful than the man. Hey, it’s not sexism, it’s biology.

So we map our animal natures and our life experiences against Haidt’s matrices and McCauliffe’s brain chemistry theories, and finally it’s a wonder we can put one foot in front of the other most days without getting into fights, even if political and religious details haven’t yet emerged.

And, by the way, Haidt wrote his book in 2012, four years before Donald Trump. Imagine what he thinks about mankind and their elephants by now.

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Reviewer Jim Trammel loves honey bees, chimpanzees, and elephants. His wife claims he outputs more natural gas than the state of Montana. Wives, honestly.

# Submissions to *Peaceways*

Articles submitted to *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity.

Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End- or footnotes are not used. Please query submissions to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) before writing a feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. If you submit material that has been published or which you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this. Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story. Submissions should be made in Word format *via* email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published monthly except January.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings**, third Monday, 5 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. More info: (859) 488-1448 or [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace**, every Thursday, 5:30 - 6 p.m. at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

**Migrant Network Coalition**, first Monday, noon - 1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, [lmatingly@lexpublib.org](mailto:lmatingly@lexpublib.org), (859) 231-5514.

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, second Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Visit [info@pflagcentralky.org](mailto:info@pflagcentralky.org) or (859) 338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

**Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky**, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or [info@lexfair.org](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

**Wednesday Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" discussion group**, 7 p.m., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours. and other links at [www.glsso.org](http://www.glsso.org).

**Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky**, first Thursday, 7 p.m., Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. Meetings are open to people of all beliefs willing to express their opinions in a civil manner. Child care is provided. Contact President Staci Maney, [staci@olliegee.com](mailto:staci@olliegee.com) or (859) 797-2662.

**Kentuckians for the Commonwealth**, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at Fourth St. and MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact Beth Howard, (859) 276-0563.

**NAMI Lexington Support Groups**, every Sunday, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Ct., Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit [www.namilex.org](http://www.namilex.org).

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program**, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call (859) 277-5126. The Christian-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

**Dance Jam**, every Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session to cover space rental. Contact Pamela, [info@motionmatters.org](mailto:info@motionmatters.org), (859) 351-3142.

**Movies with Spirit**, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 p.m., film at 7.

**National Action Network**, third Thursday each month, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, Lexington.

**Showing Up for Racial Justice**, second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# PEACEWAYS



The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138,  
Lexington KY 40511  
Issue #312 • June 2018

*“Hope is being able  
to see that there is  
light despite all of the  
darkness.”*

~ Desmond Tutu

Dear Movement family,

As the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival prepares for our third week of direct action, the nation pauses for Memorial Day weekend. Listening to many, including veterans in this movement, we chose to focus this week on our challenge to militarism and the war economy as well as the proliferation of gun violence in the US. We believe the greatest patriotism for moral agents is insisting that America become a more perfect union.

As we reclaim legislatures at the people’s houses across America this Tuesday, some of us will carry American flags to symbolize the unfulfilled promises for which our people have sacrificed. I carry the flag for my father, who offered first-class blood for second-class citizenship during World War II, only to come home to the Jim Crow South where German POW’s rode in the front of the train while he was forced to sit in the back. Veterans like my father knew the hypocrisy of this nation. With Langston Hughes they cried, “America never was America to me / and yet I swear this oath: / America will be!”

When we visited a homeless camp in Washington State, a veteran living there flew the flag on a stick outside his tent. He asked us to carry the flag for him—for the veterans who live and die in poverty while corporations make a killing on killing.

Some will also carry flags and kneel to protest the killing of innocent Black, Brown and Red people at the hands of police. Some will carry flags because at the same time as flags fly at schools across the country, many are killed by a society that feeds on gun violence.

As we gather this Tuesday, some of us will be wearing carnations to remember the people who died while serving in our nation’s military. We remember Memorial Day’s roots in Black people honoring the graves of soldiers who fought in the Union army to end slavery and create the possibility of Reconstruction. We honor each person who was willing to serve when we cry out against unjust war-making and unnecessary military spending that robs the poor here at home. We remember all those who have suffered moral injury and died from suicide and from the loss of limb and mental stability.

We remember all the people who have died in unnecessary war—children and families from Afghanistan to Iran, Iraq and Palestine—because of decisions to promote war instead of peace.

We also remember those who die from the proliferation of guns on our streets and the militarization of poor Black and Brown communities here at home.

This is why, in addition to flags and carnations, we will also carry sackcloth this Tuesday to remember the 250,000 people who will die this year because of low wealth while we invest over \$700 billion in a bloated military budget. We declare that as long as 140 million people live in poverty in the richest nation in the history of the world, none of us are truly honoring those who gave their lives serving this nation. As long as systemic racism cripples our democracy through voter suppression and as long as this administration weaponizes deportation—even deporting veterans and their family members—we are not honoring “liberty and justice for all.”

Around the world and among the poor in this nation, we understand that many are angry and ashamed when they see the U.S flag. Great evil has been done under this banner—and much of it to us. But just as we refuse to give up the Bible to extremists’ heretical interpretations, we refuse to give up the flag and the hope that a movement of people can make America into the nation we have never yet been. We are pressing on toward a Third Reconstruction.

Forward together,

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II  
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

Co-Chairs of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival