



Hope, Gratitude and *Solidarity*



THE BOARD OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL STANDS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER with so many religious and non-religious organizations in denouncing the murder of George Floyd. We support peaceful protests that ask our nation to address the unaddressed causes of racism that sicken our society and our souls. The work ahead of us is profoundly challenging, but our faith traditions demand that we look upon each other with the eyes of compassion.

We call all people to sit in judgment upon their hearts, knowing that it is our actions and our inaction that reveal our character. Let this be the moment where the oppressed are heard, supported, and uplifted. Let this be the moment where those who have ignored the pain of racism in America awake to see the injustice suffered by too many Americans. Let this be the moment we work together to bring about justice for all.



Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

Hunched over the pulpit of the Washington National Cathedral on June 14, 2020, the Rev. Dr. William Barber II called upon God to “walk with us in these difficult times, as we stand for love, we stand for mercy and we stand for justice.” Gazing past the vacant pews into the lone video camera, he began his 43-minute sermon with words from the Book of Amos, Chapter 5, Verse 10. “People hate this kind of talk. Raw truth is never popular. But here it is, bluntly spoken...”

In his rich baritone voice, using carefully chosen words, Barber exhorted our nation to take inventory of itself, to scrutinize our history and examine our present reality. Our current public policies do not address the problem of poverty and because of this systemic injustice, there is too much death in this land. He declared that we have failed to live up to the creed that all people are created equal. But it doesn't have to be that way. As James Baldwin said, “A country is only as good... only as strong as the people who make it up and the country turns into what the people want it to become. We made the world we're living in and we have to make it over.”

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CORRECTION:

The introduction to Ani Depa's meditation on essential workers last week was taken from an Op-Ed in The Washington Post by William J. Barber II and Joe Kennedy III. *The editors of the newsletter erroneously omitted that attribution. If you would like to read the full Op-Ed [CLICK HERE.](#)*

A Story Circle in RECTANGLES

Many asked for more! On **Thursday, July 30** we will hold our second Zoom story circle, 7-8:30.

To attend, please register by sending an email to: DCICstory@optonline.net

Once you register, you will receive a Zoom link for the gathering.

Let America Be America Again

By Langston Hughes

Let America be America again.

Let it be the dream it used to be.

Let it be the pioneer on the plain

Seeking a home where he himself is free.

[CLICK HERE](#) for full text.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE to our CONGREGATIONS

Congregations and their members have an incredible opportunity to help the environment and local green innovation economy while also producing much-needed income, by participating in DCIC's partnership with **Nexamp Community Solar**. New York State's community solar program allows utility customers to subscribe to a share of a local solar farm and receive



credits on their utility bill for 100% of the energy produced by that share, while also paying for that electricity at a 10% discount. There is a special incentive in place for sign-ups by September 30th: Nexamp will make donations to both DCIC and the home congregation that signs up for an organizational account. In addition, individual congregants can sign up for personal accounts. For each participant, Nexamp will make a significant donation to the home congregation. There is no cost to join, no equipment installed, no long-term commitment, guaranteed savings, and no cancellation fee. This offer is available for residences (both owned and rented) as well as congregant-owned businesses and is available whether or not the home congregation signs up itself.



We urge everyone to bring this opportunity to the attention of your clergy and board members as well as friends in the many congregations that are part of the DCIC family! We thank Vassar Temple and Temple Beth El and their members, who are already seeing savings on their organizational and personal utility bills as well as donations to support both DCIC and their congregations.

Call **Yushi Kawasumi**, Community and Channel Manager at Nexamp, at (201) 314-3799 or email him at ykawasumi@nexamp.com. Yushi is available to meet virtually or speak with any Board of Trustees, property committee, or congregational gathering to discuss this opportunity. This is easy, financially beneficial, and socially responsible. This is a win!

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Poor People's Campaign *continued from page 1*

Watch Re. Dr. Barber's sermon here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eviTAayTGT4>

Read full text of sermon here: <https://cathedral.org/sermons/sermon-the-rev-dr-william-j-barber-ii-2/>

Rev. Barber has a vision for how to make this country over. Since 2015, Barber and the Reverend Liz Theoharis, Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary, have led [The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#), a multi-state movement of grassroots community and religious leaders and organizations. As Barber explains it, in order "to address poverty we must simultaneously address five interlocking injustices: systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy and the false and distorted narrative of religious nationalism."

The Poor People's Campaign takes up the work started by Martin Luther King, Jr. Toward the end of his life, Dr. King called for a "revolution of values" and planned for a group of 2,000 people to descend on Washington, D.C. to meet with government officials to demand jobs, unemployment insurance, a fair minimum wage, and education for poor adults and children designed to improve their self-image and self-esteem. Genuine equality could only come about when people of all colors and backgrounds had economic security.

On June 20, 2020, [The Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington conducted a Digital Justice Gathering](#) to call for a revolution of values to save the soul and heart of our democracy. As Rev. Barber says, "If we are going to make it [this country] over, we need real truth telling. And, in the words of the prophet Amos,"...let justice surge like mighty waters, and righteousness like an unending stream."

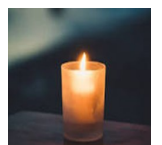
To read more about The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival [CLICK HERE](#).

To view the June 2020 Digital Justice Gathering [CLICK HERE](#).

In memory of all those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19 . . .

The number of confirmed deaths due to Covid-19 has surpassed 100,000. Those who have died were mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, beloved members of their community. In remembrance of those in our communities who have passed away from the virus, Dutchess Interfaith Council has established a "In Memoriam" page on our web site listing the names, ages, and a one sentence tribute of those who have died. Dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

[CLICK HERE](#) to leave the name, age and a one sentence tribute to be added to our websites "In Memoriam" page.



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