



FEBRUARY 2025

WHERE'S THE BIBLE, MR. PRESIDENT?

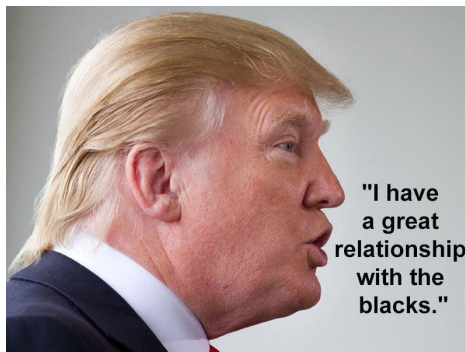
It is no secret to find the richest people in the world gather in Washington on the day memorializing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's, birth. Simultaneously the rebirth of the first President in history to enter office as a man charged and found guilty of 34 counts by a jury of his peers in the state where he was caught with his pants down, his larcenies and fraud. He is what he is. Nixon was a crook. Trump is a felon.

It could not be more remarkable. Now he will escape his criminality without anything more than a tap on the wrist. As a grifter, and rapist, he has stolen top secret files and information and stowed them in bathrooms in Mar a Lago, the location of his "kingdom." (Similar to Vladimir Putin's hidden personal castle which guarantees his safety and enables him to live in luxury beyond kings and queens throughout history.)

He has sold on-line college degrees, gold basketball shoes, and this heretic has even packaged and sold Bibles, made in China. He is an embarrassment to this country and has selected a team of incompetent people to surround him. All who offer their fealty to him.

With Inauguration Day falling on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it's understandable that this year's King holiday does not feel like a moment of celebration. Today ushers in a new era in Washington "in which those with power have pledged to dismantle efforts that promote diversity, equity and inclusion, while the assault on our civil and voting rights persists," Southern Poverty Law Center President and CEO Margaret Huang writes at The Daily Kos.

"However, we can find a path forward in the words of King, particularly in his call for economic justice. Huang notes that King "believed that a multiracial coalition of poor and working-class people could come together to demand better jobs, wages, housing, education and health care. He called for the prioritization of people over profit and for more equitable distribution of wealth and resources."



That same struggle continues today. Pursuing King's vision is a way to protect his legacy and advance economic justice and racial equality.

"By building coalitions with others who are vulnerable and helping them understand that prosperity does not have to come at the expense of any community, we can be ensured that our voices reverberate through our town halls, our state legislatures and our nation's capital," Huang writes.

Trump stacked the deck of the Supreme Court which has become an embarrassment for its lack of ethics, criminal behavior and biased opinions. Those placed on the court by Trump have had a field day protecting, even to the point of giving him "Presidential Immunity." The "Judge" (Cannon) in Florida has done all but block any action on the part of the

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Department of Justice to address his illegal activities at Mar a Lago, in Georgia, and other places. She is obviously expecting to personally fill the next opening of the Supreme Court.

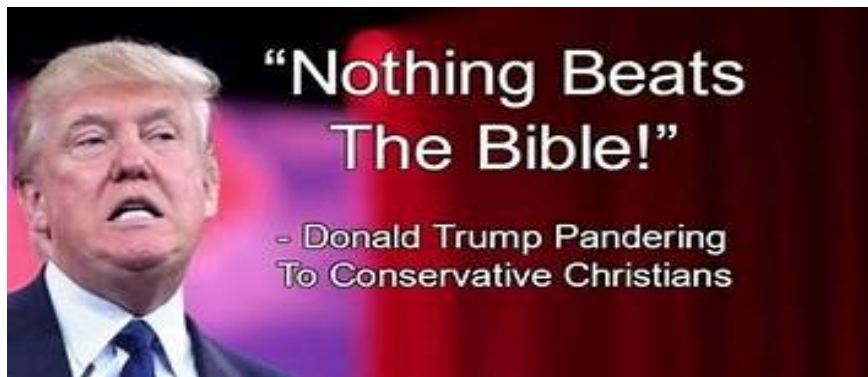
The plan is to gut social security, eliminate "Obama-Care", restrict women from abortions, close down PBS and NPR, and lower taxes on the wealthy by cutting back on social security and healthcare.

His plans are to refuse disaster aid or refuse to provide federal help during times of disaster, continue to support the availability of guns in and around schools, and to ignore bi-partisan work on immigration.

While he uses Catholics and Christian Nationalists to give him support, he has no understanding whatsoever of what these matters mean. So, we will see.

Today's words about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are often misappropriated. Many avoid the civil rights implications, forgetting that he was a "radical" about war and peace. He was against violence and for peace, he fought racism, poverty and a whole lot more than "dreaming". He was against the Viet Nam war, fought for voting rights, and died trying to help garbage men increase their wages. But, if you know the Bible, if you believe in what it says, **the most important day we have just experienced is not "Inauguration Day" but remembrance of what Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had to say and what he did when he lived.** And let's be very clear that being concerned about racism, poverty, and U.S. imperialism was the center of his life. The content of our character is to be understood for sure, but he was deeply concerned about structural oppression.

His speeches and sermons, and public comments contained dozens of biblical references. His mentor at Boston University Howard Thurman, the first Black leader of the School of Theology, visited with Ghandi, and encouraged MLK to learn from his own writings, including his **Jesus and the Disinherited** which he carried with him for years. MLK, Jr. was a student, scholar and leader. A true leader...



While "Nothing Beats the Bible".... It's too bad that Our Old, New President does not know what it says or what it means. Instead of placing his hand on a Bible as he took his oath of office, he surrounded himself with oligarchs.

Thank God for America and the hope of its future. May it be clear, the future is not to be left the hands of oligarchs, it is not under the powers worldwide that would have war, and pestilence spread throughout the world.

No. May we cling to the loving, caring example of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Amen

“THE ROAD IS LONG” – PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Many years ago, I had the gift of working along the pipeline in Alaska. The consortium of oil companies, Alyeska, needed assistance in dealing with native people who had grave concerns about what they were doing to their land and the people who had spilled oil on their land and were impacting the environment. My friend Fred Miller took on this work and asked me to help. This was the beginning of a journey that lasted for months. It enabled me to travel to places I had never been before with Alyeska footing the bill. I visited places that few had the privilege to see and brought me to stops along the pipeline where men were responsible for the management of the pipeline.

What I found was some of the most beautiful lands I’d ever seen, and a culture of people who had consciously taken jobs in some of the most remote places in this country. Most of those who worked keeping the oil pumping were Vietnam War veterans. People who had been drafted and witnessed the devastation of war and felt the desperation and loneliness of those who participated and watched friends killed and murdered in a war that was not warranted. Like Putin’s unwarranted attack on Ukraine.

The native people themselves were fearful and concerned. They loved their lives, the gorgeous eagles, the breathtaking colors, their dogsleds, and the gorgeous spectacles of wildlife. It is clear that we have made many mistakes in this country of ours, but we are not finished with what we do with oil, the environment, the devastation of the oceans, places we can no longer go to as they are of such great risk due to wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and so much excess, extremism and hate. It’s not new.

So, we have a long journey ahead of us, and may we find it in our hearts to not give up. To pull together to welcome people, to feed the hungry, to support justice and to remember that God is on our side. There is no reason for us to walk away in disgust, but rather to pull together and find mercy and love beside us as we take each other’s hands, “all God’s children” and find the comradery we may find with and for each other. Amen.

P.S. Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

On March 24, 1989, the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* grounded on Bligh Reef in Alaska’s Prince William Sound, rupturing its hull and spilling nearly 11 million gallons of Prudhoe Bay crude oil into the pristine waters of the Sound. By volume, the Exxon Valdez oil spill is the second largest in US waters after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon. Prince William Sound’s remote location made response efforts difficult. Whipped up by a windstorm, the oil spread widely, ravaging the ocean life, and its toxicity killed many ocean organisms, birds, marine mammals, and wildlife. The oil eventually covered 1,300 miles (2,100 km) of coastline and 11,000 square miles (28,000 km²) of the ocean. We arrived there shortly after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. We saw the devastation.



CHURCH NEWS



FRIDAY GATHERING

- **Entertainment** - if you would be interested in/ willing to entertain at a Friday Gathering Dinner, please let Judy Butterworth-Kremer know at judyvbk@aol.com.
- 230 adults and 45 children were served at Friday Gathering dinners in the month of December.

THURSDAY GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

- 450 people were served in the month of December.

JANET'S CLOSET -

- Volunteers (escorts) are still needed for Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 to 1.
- We need gently used seasonal clothing, blankets and shoes.
- Clothing racks are needed, too

SPECIAL DATES OF NOTE

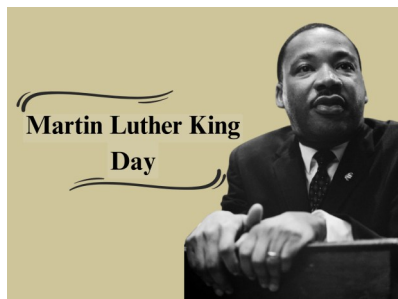
February 9th - Congregational Annual Meeting after Service

February 23rd - Black History Breakfast after Service

March 2 - 2 to 4 p.m. GHIAA Core Group - Urban's

SPECIAL EVENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was observed at Grace on Sunday, January 19th with a special after service luncheon. Dr. King's favorite foods were served and the tables held famous quotes from Dr. King.



MY THOUGHTS ON TRUMP'S INAUGURATION AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

As we witnessed democracy in action – the peaceful transition of power that is so foundational to our nation – I truly hoped the 47th president would give remarks that brought the country together and healed our differences.

Trump claimed he wanted to be a "peacemaker." He said he wanted to be "a unifier."

And yet, his remarks were filled with more of the same: Grievances and grandiosity, playing to cultural and political divisions – all while unelected tech titan billionaires watched closely on a raised dais alongside Trump, elevated above even Supreme Court justices and duly elected Republicans and Democrats alike.

Donald Trump is who we've always known him to be. He is no peacemaker. He is no unifier. He seeks to serve himself and elevate those with blind loyalty to his agenda. Case in point: Trump's sickening, repugnant pardon of nearly all the Jan. 6 insurrectionists.

I am more committed than ever to our core constitutional values and to fighting for a world that lives up to them for all Americans. Where there is common ground with the new administration, I will seek it and work in a bipartisan fashion to better the nation we love.

I will fight with everything I have in the Senate to prevent Trump from steamrolling over justice, freedom and democracy. That work has already begun as we scrutinize Trump's nominees for his Cabinet.

I will also not back down from going toe to toe with this administration to *protect* the nation we love.

Your partnership will be key. Your voice, your actions, your support – your participation in our democracy. I'm grateful to have you by my side in this fight, and I'll be sure to keep you updated every step of the way.

Sincerely,
Dick

Last Word

One of the rioters who turned down Trump's pardon. She said, "we were wrong" that day.



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MARIANN BUDDE, THE BISHOP WHO UPSET TRUMP WITH HER INAUGURAL SERMON



President Donald Trump is demanding an apology from the Episcopal bishop of Washington after she asked him to have mercy on the LGBTQ+ community and migrants during a prayer service after his inauguration.



Rev. Mariann Budde leads the national prayer service attended by President Donald Trump at the Washington National Cathedral, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Right Rev. Mariann Budde made headlines this week after she angered President Donald Trump with her sermon during an inaugural prayer service.

It was not the first time the cleric has publicly disagreed with Trump, but it became a striking moment in what is usually a staid and scripted event.

Here's more about the Episcopal bishop of Washington, who has continued to speak out in the wake of the president's derision.

What did Bishop Budde and President Trump say?

"Let me make one final plea, Mr. President," the soft-spoken bishop said from the pulpit of Washington National Cathedral.

"I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now," she said. "There are gay, lesbian, and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and independent families, some who fear for their lives," Budde preached.

She said "the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals," calling them "good neighbors" and "faithful members" of religious communities.

The Trump administration has already issued executive orders rolling back transgender rights and toughening immigration policies.

Trump and Vice President JD Vance looked visibly disgruntled at times as they sat in the front pew with their wives. Vance raised his eyebrows and said something to second lady Usha Vance, who stared straight ahead.

At the White House afterward, Trump said he "didn't think it was a good service." He later called Budde a "Radical Left hard line Trump hater" on his Truth Social site and demanded an apology for "her inappropriate statements."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Budde said she would continue to pray for the president, as is custom in Episcopal worship.

"I don't agree with many of his values and assumptions about American society and how to respond to the challenges of our time," she said. "I strongly disagree, actually. But I believe we can disagree respectfully."

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MARIANN BUDDE, THE BISHOP WHO UPSET TRUMP WITH HER INAUGURAL SERMON (continued from page 6)

She is the first woman to hold her church position

Budde, 65, is the first woman to lead the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, a position she has held since 2011. She oversees 86 churches across Washington, D.C., and Maryland, with 38,000 members.

National spokespeople for the Episcopal Church called Budde “a valued and trusted pastor.” They said, “We stand by Bishop Budde and her appeal for the Christian values of mercy and compassion.”

Before her current post, she served as a parish priest at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Minneapolis for 18 years.

Budde grew up in New Jersey and Colorado, and for a time as a teenager, she identified as an evangelical. Later she returned to the Episcopal Church, the mainline Protestant denomination of her childhood.

She graduated from the University of Rochester and Virginia Theological Seminary, an Episcopal institution just outside Washington.

“I’m a mom. I’m a grandmother. I really care about the people in our communities,” Budde said.

A different kind of prayer service

She revised her sermon over and over again.

Budde knew last summer that the theme of the inaugural service would be unity after a “divisive election season.”

“Couldn’t we just acknowledge that we can’t paint whole groups of people in one broad stroke? That’s the stuff of political campaigning. I understand that. But we’re running the country now,” she said.

And as she watched the inauguration the day before she was set to preach, she noted Trump-supporting clergy offered a different Christian perspective in their prayers than her own. She hoped to show another way to interpret the world through the lens of faith.

More than a dozen religious leaders spoke during the cathedral’s interfaith service, including those from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

Notably absent from the invited clergy with speaking roles were conservative evangelicals, who are among Trump’s strongest supporters and now among Budde’s loudest critics.

The strong reactions to Budde’s sermon largely fell along predictable political and religious lines. Progressive people of faith found in her an inspiring example of “speaking truth to power.” Some conservative religious voices found her plea confrontational and disrespectful. Others took issue with a woman in a powerful church leadership role, which their traditions reserve for men.

Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Dallas, a prominent Trump supporter, was at the service and posted on X that Budde “insulted rather than encouraged our great president” and “there was palpable disgust in the audience with her words.”

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MARIANN BUDDE, THE BISHOP WHO UPSET TRUMP WITH HER INAUGURAL SERMON

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Budde felt some of that pushback when she processed down the aisle of the cathedral after the service. The president did not acknowledge her when she passed.

She thought phrasing her words to the president as a plea for mercy “was a very gentle way to do it because I was acknowledging his authority and his power.”

“I guess I had that wrong,” she said.

Budde has clashed with Trump before

The national cathedral has long been the ceremonial home of high-profile political events. But in 2017, it faced criticism from liberal-leaning Episcopalians for hosting Trump’s first inaugural prayer service. While Budde spoke at the service, there was no sermon that year at Trump’s request.

The content of Budde’s words this time should come as no surprise to those who have watched her career.

Budde has joined other cathedral leaders in rebuking Trump’s “racialized rhetoric” and blaming him for inciting violence on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of his supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to keep him in power.

Most notably, she said she was “outraged” in 2020 after Trump staged an appearance in front of St. John’s Episcopal Church, which is near the White House. He held up a Bible after the area had been cleared of peaceful protesters.

In 2023, Budde published a book that reflected on that summer of 2020 after George Floyd’s death, when she criticized the sitting president. It’s titled, “How We Learn to Be Brave.” “The capacity to respond in such a moment doesn’t drop from the sky, nor is its significance measured by a week’s worth of media coverage,” Budde wrote.

That kind of boldness, she argued, is preceded by countless, smaller decisions that summon bravery. “Its ultimate significance is determined by how we live after the moment passes.”

Associated Press reporters Darlene Superville and Gary Fields in Washington contributed to this report.

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6 TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUMP'S INAUGURATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS



The president's agenda threatens communities and basic rights, but the will of the people can still chart a different course.

by Aura Kanegis

JAN 21, 2025



Photo: Carl Roose/AFSC

In his inaugural address, President Donald Trump laid out an agenda that threatens to further harm marginalized groups, undermine rights and civil liberties, accelerate climate change, and more. Soon after, he signed a series of executive orders to begin implementing these threats.

As a Quaker organization that believes in the divine Light within every person, AFSC will continue to work alongside communities to resist these harms and build a more just, peaceful world.

Here are six takeaways from his inauguration and first day in office:

1. Trump's immigration policies will dismantle long-held rights, put long-term residents in danger, and make it nearly impossible for people to come to the U.S.

Our U.S. immigration system should be welcoming, dignified, and fair. But Trump has promised to massively expand deportation across the U.S., violating human and civil rights and putting families and beloved community members at risk.

He plans to close the southern border and suspend the admission of refugees to the U.S., shutting the door on people seeking safety and opportunities. He is deploying the military to the southern border. And he is attempting to revoke citizenship from some U.S.-born children of immigrants—a right protected by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

2. The administration's economic agenda will deepen inequality and exacerbate climate change.

Economies should work for all people and our planet. They should also promote thriving communities. Under the Trump administration's proposed agenda, the inequality produced by our current system would worsen exponentially, and damage to the common good would be unfettered.

The new White House chief of staff is a former corporate lobbyist responsible for managing an administration filled with a record number of billionaires who have made clear that they seek to consolidate their breathtakingly outsized wealth even further. At an inaugural address attended by billionaires worth a combined \$1.35 trillion dollars, the Trump administration promised to "drill baby drill," declaring a national energy emergency. Their economic agenda would give massive tax cuts to the rich while slashing vital social programs for people in need. It would undermine workers' rights, potentially reversing tremendous gains in recent years.

The president later signed an executive order again withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, under which nations work together to reduce greenhouse emissions. He also signed orders reversing clean energy initiatives and weakening environmental protections, polluting our environment to the benefit of fossil fuel companies. He issued orders undermining federal workers' rights and highlighted coming cuts to federal programs with the

6 TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUMP'S INAUGURATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS

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creation of the Department of Government Efficiency.

3. The administration's militarized approaches and "America First" policies will bring a surge in military spending at the expense of vital social programs.

The federal budget should prioritize human needs, not war and militarism. But for decades, presidents from both parties have presided over enormous increases in the Pentagon budget even while slashing spending for human needs under claims of fiscal responsibility. While Trump expressed a desire to be remembered as a peacemaker, he announced plans to deploy the U.S. military to the southern border and threatened to take over the Panama Canal. He promised to "again build the strongest military the world has ever seen" and proudly renewed the language of Manifest Destiny.

As Trump takes office, Congress is pushing for massive increases in military spending—potentially rising to \$1.6 trillion annually—while slashing funding for health care, education, environmental protection, and social programs.

4. Democratic institutions and civil society face unprecedented threats.

Freedom of the press, the right to protest, and a flourishing civil society are all important to a functioning and healthy democracy. But Trump and many of his appointees have threatened to jail journalists and use the military against protestors. Congress has already tried to pass a bill giving the Treasury Department broad power to target nonprofit organizations.

Steps are underway to push out federal officials in positions that do not normally change over with new administrations. And an atmosphere of revenge has already begun to impact voluntary behaviors beyond the scope of government. Businesses have been advised to cleanse their websites and corporate policies of language that could be seen as favoring Democrats or their policies, and many gave record amounts to Trump's inaugural fund. Groups serving the needs of immigrants or other targeted communities are assessing their legal liabilities and seeking counsel.

5. Trump administration policies fuel transphobia and dismiss efforts to address systemic racism.

There should be no tolerance for discrimination, whether based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. But Trump has already issued an executive order rolling back protections for trans and nonbinary people, eliminating funds for trans healthcare, and attempting to erase the existence of trans people. He has ordered the federal government to reject gender identity beyond binary categories and recognize only two sexes: male and female. He has also ordered his administration to dismantle federal programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion and end Biden administration that protect transgender people, including in federal prisons.

He has used racist dog whistles in language about urban crime, announced the reversal of Indigenous names to federal sites, and otherwise signaled a sharp turn away from efforts to address systemic racism in governmental policies.

6. None of this is inevitable.

People power—not presidential proclamations—will determine our future. History is full of people and movements who refused to accept the future that those in power tried to impose on

6 TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUMP'S INAUGURATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS

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them. Today, we have the moral imperative to protect one another, to refuse and resist injustice, and to build something new.

When we take action together, grounded in love, we can make a difference. Right now, people across the country are joining together and taking action in many ways, from developing mutual aid networks to organizing advocacy efforts for migrant rights, economic justice, and peace.

To learn more about concrete ways you can take action, sign up for our “Protect, Resist, and Build with AFSC” webinars every third Tuesday.

Aura Kanegis

Robin Aura Kanegis serves as Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the American Friends Service Committee. Prior to joining AFSC, she served as Director of Campaigns and the Iraq Peace Campaign Director for the Friends Committee on National Legislation.



THE OTHER HOSTAGES

by Jonathan Kuttab



It was truly amazing to see the joy and celebration surrounding the release of three Israeli hostages, who were released this week as part of a prisoner exchange/ceasefire agreement. They appeared to be well-fed and in good condition, though I am sure the psychological scars of their captivity will be with them for a long time.

But, what of the Palestinian prisoners?

90 of them, all women and children, were released the same day. But, we did not see them in mainstream media outlets, or know of their ordeals and the agony they experienced, or witness the celebrations of their families. In fact, Israel prohibited any public celebrations (or expressions of joy) to be made within its borders for their release. The police even visited the East Jerusalem families of released prisoners specifically to remind them of this law. The Israeli narrative is that Palestinian prisoners are “terrorists and hardened Hamas criminals,” who will probably just be hunted down and rearrested or assassinated once Israel gets back all of its hostages—as some Israeli officials have declared in the Hebrew news media.

From the Palestinian perspective: there are about 13,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails who are just as worthy of our concern and also merit our sympathy, and whose families will rejoice at their long awaited release. More and more Palestinians are arrested, continuously, including the medical staff of hospitals in Gaza and ordinary Palestinians in the West Bank. In fact, Israel just arrested 60 additional Palestinians, who were all the male worshippers in a Qalqilia mosque, the very same day as the release of the three Israeli hostages. It was as if they wanted to compensate for the 90 Palestinian hostages they released that day.

3,000 of the Palestinian prisoners (hostages is a more appropriate term) are “administrative detainees,” meaning they have not been charged with any crime nor will they be put on trial for anything. Among the Palestinians released last Sunday was Khalida Jarrar, a Palestinian Member of Parliament, who upon her release appeared like a ghost, her hair gone completely white and her figure like a skeleton. She reports having been in solitary confinement for 150 days prior to her

release. In fact, all the Palestinians released appear visibly weak, having lost about 30-40lbs on average, and are reporting serious abuses like beatings, deliberate starvation, and gross mistreatment. The Israeli Minister of Police, Itamar Ben Gvir, has proudly reported that since October 7 he made sure to increase the suffering of Palestinian prisoners and proactively worsen their conditions. He significantly reduced their food rations, their hot water and their ability to exercise. He confiscated books, papers, and other personal effects, along with hygiene supplies and other “privileges.” He cut off access to their families as well as the Red Cross, doubled their already crowded per room occupancy, and established a regime of beatings, punishments, and daily humiliations.

In addition to the “administrative detainees,” another 10,000 or so are serving various sentences after being tried in Israeli military courts. My own experience as an attorney, echoed by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations, is that these military courts are a total sham. With a conviction rate of 99%, verdicts are based almost exclusively on signed confessions extracted from the Palestinian defendant or other Palestinian “witnesses” under conditions of coercion and torture.

One of the prisoners slated for release is well known to the FOSNA community. I am thrilled to report that Mohammad Halabi is slated to be released during Phase 1 of the agreement. When he is released, we will share this wonderful news and update all who have been following his case.

Mohammad Halabi, who was arrested six years ago, was the Director of World Vision International (WVI) in Gaza. He was falsely accused of funneling World Vision development aid to Hamas, diverting aid money and importing building materials to Hamas, via the Rafah Crossing, to build tunnels.

The charges were ridiculous on their face, as the amounts alleged exceeded the World Vision budget and because WVI did not import any steel rods or other such “dual-use” materials as claimed. Two international audits confirmed that no money was missing or unaccounted for. Halabi insisted on his innocence, refusing to accept any deal that would allow him to return home in exchange for a confession. His lawyers (hobbled by secrecy requirements and threats) fought for his release over the course of 160 hearings before the judgement was finally delivered, sentencing him to 11 years in jail. The appeal is still pending. He could not receive any justice in Israeli courts, but he is now slated to be released as part of the ceasefire/hostage exchange deal.

The truth is that every single Palestinian home in the West Bank and Gaza has had a member or close relative imprisoned at one time or another. All are subject to arbitrary detention at any time. The primary goal of Hamas in taking hostages on October 7 was the release of prisoners. The taking of civilian hostages (as opposed to armed fighters) is a violation of international law, as well as basic morality. Yet, many Palestinians feel there is no hope for the release of their loved ones except through some political settlement or by obtaining some leverage through the capturing of Israelis and exchanging them for their own imprisoned hostages.

We rejoice with those whose relatives are released, and also for the return of the remains of those who have been killed to their loved ones for proper burial (Israel holds the remains of hundreds of martyred Palestinians, which it refuses to deliver to their families). Hopefully, they will be returned in Phase III of the current agreement.

As we rejoice in this partial victory for all, let us remember with empathy and humanity all who are imprisoned in this ongoing tragedy. We pray for the release of all prisoners and hostages and, in the meantime, pray for their humane treatment until the day of their liberation.

6 WAYS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS RIGHT NOW

Here's how we can take action together for immigrant rights under the Trump administration.

by Amy Gottlieb

UPDATED JAN 21, 2025



Colorado action calling on the U.S. government to welcome immigrants with dignity and protect human rights for asylum seekers. Photo: Jordan Garcia/AFSC Colorado

Everyone deserves a chance to build a good life, regardless of where they were born or when or how they migrated. When people make the difficult choice to leave their homes, they are seeking safety, opportunities, and a chance to contribute to a new country. They should be welcomed with dignity.

The U.S. has the resources to ensure humane, comprehensive support for newcomers. But today, the Trump administration is threatening immigrant safety by calling for mass deportations, the dismantling of longstanding rights, and policies that dehumanize immigrants.

As a Quaker organization, AFSC's belief in the divine worth of every person calls us to act for justice, working alongside people of all faiths and backgrounds. We refuse to accept these unjust policies. And we will not sit back and watch as communities and families are torn apart and fundamental rights are eroded.

When we take action together, grounded in love, we can make a difference. Here are six ways you can join us in resisting harms to our communities and building toward the more just, humane, and peaceful world we want to see:

1. Promote messages and policies emphasizing that immigrants make our communities stronger. By talking about welcoming, dignified, and just immigration policies, we can shift the narrative away from the anti-immigrant rhetoric we often hear. You can **talk with your family and friends**, write letters to the editor, comment on local media websites, meet with editorial boards, and host community conversations.

2. Urge your members of Congress to keep families and communities together. Research shows that 74% of people in the U.S. support taking immediate steps to make our immigration system more welcoming and dignified, according to a 2024 YouGov poll conducted last year on behalf of AFSC. But the administration's plan for expanding deportation and detention across the U.S. violates human and civil rights and puts families and beloved community members at risk of separation. **Send a message to Congress today: please do everything you can to keep families and communities together.**

3. Join our webinar "Third Tuesdays: Protect, Resist, and Build with AFSC." Hear directly from AFSC staff and partners to stay up to date on issues affecting immigrant rights, economic justice, and peace. You'll connect with activists across the country and get concrete ways to take action.

4. Take part in protests, rallies, vigils, or actions in your community. Public witness in support of humane policies and opposing harmful ones has an impact. It can garner media attention, put pressure on elected officials, and engage many others in our efforts. You can also **download and print these protest posters to take with you.** <https://afsc.org/posters-just-migration>

5. Accompany immigrants in your community. Whether you're an immigrant or an ally, you can join efforts in your community to accompany immigrants as they go through court processes, check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or to other appointments. If you're in or near [San Diego, California](#); [Colorado](#); [Miami, Florida](#); [New Hampshire](#); [New Jersey](#); or [Oregon](#), you can connect with a local AFSC office. You can also look for other immigrant rights programs in your area and find more ways to volunteer your services.

6. Make a gift. Donate to our Refugee Response Fund to help bring critical support to migrants, refugees, and displaced people, including immigrant communities in the U.S. Choose monthly giving to join a group of committed supporters providing steady funding we can count on throughout the year.

Amy Gottlieb is AFSC's U.S. Migration Director.



MLK'S DREAM IS TRUMP'S NIGHTMARE

by Adam Russell Taylor
JAN 16, 2025

SOJOURNERS



The juxtaposition is hard to ignore: President-elect Donald Trump, who launched his political career by questioning — without evidence — the citizenship of our country's first Black president, will take his second oath of office on the day we remember and honor Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., this country's greatest champion for civil and human rights.

Though I hope and pray Trump's second term will follow the moral vision we honor every year on King's birthday, I fear the dream King cast for America is much more akin to Trump's nightmare.

And what, exactly, was King's dream? While we don't need to agree with everything that King said or stood for in order to honor him, I do think we need to be more honest about the dream he sought for our country, especially if we hope to realize that dream. Despite the ubiquity of the speech he delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, we rarely appreciate the depth and breadth of King's vision — a vision that some have co-opted to advance agendas counter to King's vision. Jonathan Eig notes this in his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *King: A Life*. "We've heard the recording of 'I Have a Dream' so many times we don't really hear it anymore," he writes, "we no longer register its cry for America to recognize the 'unspeakable horrors of police brutality' or its petition for economic reparations. We don't appreciate that King was making demands, not wishes."

In an often-overlooked part of that famous speech, King uses an extended banking metaphor: He asserts the people who signed the Constitution had signed "a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir" to "unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But while African Americans had been told their check had bounced, "we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt," King counters. As the speech develops, King

builds a vision of country that offers expanded opportunity for everyone — a vision that also requires seeking restitution for those who have long been shut out.

I see this as the most important theme throughout all King's speeches: a moral vision for the United States in which everyone, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or creed, is equally valued and has the opportunity to thrive. This is the essence of the Beloved Community, the vision that unifies the work of many civil rights leaders, including King. Building on that legacy, I've defined the Beloved Community as a society in which neither punishment nor privilege is tied to any form of human hierarchy and our growing diversity is embraced as a strength, not a threat. This vision, which refuses to leave anyone out, is transformative. In 1956, after winning a major victory in the Montgomery Bus boycott, King explained the ultimate aim of the Civil Rights Movement, saying: "...the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends."

Though difficult to put into practice, King refused to succumb to hate or violence against his oppressor even as he was courageous in his truth-telling and nonviolent protest against injustice. I share his belief, anchored in my faith, that every heart and mind can be changed; there can be no "us versus them" — we must all cocreate a radically more inclusive and just world.

In the last years of his life, King's vision sharpened around the importance of dismantling "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism," as he put it in his famous speech at Riverside Church. King explained how the racism, poverty, and war were (and are) inseparable and mutually reinforcing in the United States, such that tackling these systems holistically is required. For example, then as now, the United States' gigantic military budget makes it more difficult to secure adequate government funding for programs of social uplift, including expansions to affordable health care, the child tax credit, and housing assistance. King's economic vision was also quite specific; buried in the annals of Civil Rights Movement history are documents such as the Freedom Budget in which King collaborated with Bayard Rustin to propose "a practical, step-by-step plan for wiping out poverty in America," which promised jobs, living wages, and an adequate income for those who can't work.

The contrast between King's dream and the vision of America Donald Trump has cast could not be starker.

Throughout his political career, Trump has re-popularized former President Reagan's slogan of "Make America Great Again" in ways designed to stoke racial grievance around economic insecurity and the changing demographics of this nation. Where King saw the greatness of our nation as its constitutional promise of equality for all, Trump's vision of American greatness promises great privilege for some — while often casting immigrants and many minorities as scapegoats for all that detracts from American greatness. Trump began his first presidential campaign by calling Mexican immigrants "rapists" who were "bringing crime" and "bringing drugs" into the country. Since then, he has continued to promote a vision that praises and promises protection and favor to far-Right Christians, billionaires, "patriots," and his political allies while labeling others — such as immigrants, transgender people, Muslims, Black Lives Matter activists, and his political opponent — as threats.

And it's not just rhetoric: The policies Trump supports have often upheld this vision of inequality and injustice for people of color and other marginalized groups including new restrictions on voting rights, decreased LGBTQ protections, a revived Muslim ban, continued attacks on reproductive rights, and cruel deportation policies that separated families. Trump has also

supercharged efforts to dismantle affirmative action, end racial equity programs in the government and private sector, and prevent many of the ugly truths from our racialized history from being taught. In King's vision, everyone is created equal and even enemies are worthy of agape love; in Trump's vision, there are promises of revenge and spreading falsehoods about perceived enemies.

Trump's economic priorities also so often directly counter what King fought for. Despite styling himself as a champion of the working class, Trump has consistently opposed efforts to pay a living wage, including within his own companies. His administration questioned whether people truly needed the aid they received and proposed draconian cuts to social programs such as SNAP and WIC that provide a lifeline of support to struggling Americans. The idea of a basic level of income for those who are unable to work seems anathema to Trump's worldview and priorities, which prioritize tax cuts that disproportionately benefitted the wealthy and corporations and falsely castigate social programs as "socialism."

Trump has so often appealed to many of our country's worst demons — chief among them the very same triplets of racism, excessive materialism, and militarism that King worked to dismantle. Trump also both exploits and amplifies for his own benefit the pernicious feelings of grievance and victimization that are all so prevalent among his many of his ardent supporters. In contrast, King constantly sought to appeal to our better angels, calling us to live up to the promises and ideals of our founding documents and the timeless moral teachings of his Christian faith such as agape love, altruism, and service. "You are what you are because of somebody else," King said. "You are what you are because of the grace of the Almighty God. He who seeks to find his ego will lose it. But he who loses his ego in some great cause, some great purpose, some great ideal, some great loyalty...he who discovers that he stands where he stands because of the grace of God, finds himself."

Since our nation's inception we have seen a tug of war take place between very different moral visions. These visions matter because they often undergird our politics and communicate who we are and who we want to become. On this day when both King and Trump will be in the lime-light, along with their competing visions, I hope that each of us — and our nation as a whole — choose King's dream and seeks to make it reality.



Adam Russell Taylor

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor is president of Sojourners and author of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community*. Follow him on X [@revadamtaylor](https://twitter.com/revadamtaylor).

10 WAYS TO STAY GROUNDED DURING TRUMP'S SECOND TERM

SOJOURNERS

For us to be of any use during the next four years, we must resist the temptation to cower in fear, isolation, exhaustion, and constant disorientation.

by Daniel Hunter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

SEEING THE RISE of right-wing populism globally, several months ago I began to lead scenario-planning and writing



about what might happen if Donald Trump won. I played out strategies for how folks might meaningfully respond. Yet when he won, I still found myself deep in shock and sadness. In the days after, I reached out to my community to try to assess and get my feet back underneath me.

Being grounded is difficult when the future is unknown and filled with anxiety. Trump has signaled the kind of president he will be: vengeful, uncontrolled, and unburdened by past norms and current laws. If you're like me, you're *already* tired. The prospect of more drama is daunting.

As a nonviolence trainer working with social movements across the globe, I am blessed to have worked with colleagues living under autocratic regimes to develop resilient activist groups.

My colleagues keep reminding me that good psychology is good social change. For us to be of any use in a Trump world, we must pay attention to our inner states, so we don't perpetuate the autocrat's goals of fear, isolation, exhaustion, and constant disorientation. As someone raised by a liberation theologian, I'm reminded of how we lean hard on community and faith in tough times.

In that spirit, I offer some ways to ground ourselves for the times ahead.

1. Trust yourself

TRUMP IS ARRIVING at a time of great social distrust: There's more distrust of the media, medical professionals, experts, politicians, community institutions, and membership groups. There are rifts among friends and family. Even our trust in predictable weather is diminished. Distrust fuels the flame of autocracy because it makes it easier to divide people.

Trust-building starts by trusting your own eyes and gut. This means being trustworthy — not just with information, but with emotions. If you're tired, *rest*. If you're scared, make peace with your fears. If you need to stop checking your phone compulsively, *do it*. If you don't want to read this article now and would rather take a good walk, *do it*. Start with trusting your inner voice. Trust in self is foundational for a healthy movement life. I wrote some resources at FindingSteadyGround.com that you may find helpful.

2. Find others who you trust

IN A DESTABILIZED society, you need people who help ground you. Hannah Arendt, author of *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, uses the word *verlassenheit* — often translated as loneliness — to describe a kind of social isolation of the mind. Constant attacks on social systems turn us away from leaning on each other and toward ideologically simple answers that increase isolation.

In Chile in the 1970s and '80s, the dictatorship aimed to keep people in such tiny nodes of trust that everyone was an island unto themselves. At parties, people would commonly not introduce each other by name for fear of being too involved. Fear breeds distance. We must consciously break that distance.

Find people you can regularly touch base with. Use that trust to explore your own thinking and support each other to stay sharp and grounded. For the last several months, I've been hosting a regular group at my house to "explore what is up with these times." Our crew thinks differently but invests in trust. We emote, cry, sing, laugh, sit in stillness, and think together. All of us will

benefit from actively organized nodes to help stabilize us.

3. Grieve

THE HUMAN THING to do is grieve loss. Humans are also good at compartmentalizing, rationalizing, intellectualizing, and ignoring — the damage this does to our body and psyche is well documented. But the inability to grieve is a strategic error. After Trump won in 2016, we saw colleagues who never grieved. They remained in shock. For years they kept saying, “I can’t believe he’s doing that.”

When Trump won the first time, I stayed up until 4 a.m. with a colleague for a tear-filled night of naming things that we had lost. This helped us find the sadness, anger, numbness, shock, confusion, and fear inside of us. We grieved. We cried. We held each other. We breathed. We dove back into naming what we *knew* we’d lost and things we *thought* we’d be likely to lose. It wasn’t strategizing or planning. Ultimately, this helped us *believe it* — so we didn’t spend years in a daze saying, “I can’t believe this is happening in this country.” Believe it. Believe it now. Grief is a pathway to acceptance.

4. Release that which you cannot change

ON HER BEDROOM wall, my mom had a copy of the Serenity Prayer: “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote this during the rise of Nazi Germany.

Trump has proclaimed that his first day will include everything from pardoning Jan. 6 insurrectionists, reallocating money to build the wall, pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, and firing 50,000-plus government workers to begin replacing them with loyalists. It’s doubtful that day two will be much quieter. Amid that chaos, it will be hard to accept that we *cannot* do it all.

A colleague in Turkey told me that something bad happens every day, and if he were to react to every bad thing, he’d never have time to eat. Another time, an elder saw me trying to do everything and pulled me aside. “That’s not a healthy lifelong strategy,” she said. She’d been raised in Germany by Holocaust survivors who told her, “Never again.” She felt she had to stop every wrong. It wracked her and contributed to several ongoing medical conditions.

I’ve created a journaling exercise. It asks what issues in the coming years I would “completely throw down for, do a lot for, do a little for, or — despite caring about — do nothing for at all.” That last question can feel like torture for many of us, but the desire to act on *everything* leads to bad strategy.

5. Find your path

LAST SPRING, I wrote *What Will You Do if Trump Wins*, a choose-your-own-adventure-style book. Differentiated pathways of resistance will emerge, as will plenty of opportunities to join the cause. You may be attracted to some pathways more than others. Your path may not be clear right now. That’s okay. Below are just a few paths. You can find more at WhatIfTrumpWins.org.

Protect People. These are folks surviving and protecting our own — especially those of us directly targeted, such as trans people, folks choosing abortions, and immigrants. This might mean organizing outside current systems for health care and mutual aid or moving resources

10 WAYS TO STAY GROUNDED DURING TRUMP'S SECOND TERM

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to communities that are being targeted.

Defend Civic Institutions. This group may or may not be conscious that current institutions don't serve us all, but they are united in understanding that Trump wants them to crumble so he can exert greater control over our lives. Institutional pillars understand a Trump presidency is a dire threat. These insiders will need external support, such as showing compassion that some of our best allies will be inside, silently resisting. Celebrate people who get fired for doing the right thing, then offer them practical help with life's next steps.

Disrupt and Disobey. In Norway, to create a culture of resistance during World War II, people wore innocuous paperclips as a sign they wouldn't obey. In Serbia, protests against their dictator started with student strikes before escalating to strikes by pensioners before finally escalating to the game-changing strike of coal miners. The ultimate goal is paving a path for mass noncooperation: Tax resistance, national strikes, work shut-downs, and other nonviolent mass disobedience tactics are the most effective strategies to displace authoritarians.

Build Alternatives. We can't only react. We need a vision to build alternatives that are more democratic, loving, and kind. This might include grounding and healing work, rich cultural work, different ways of growing food and caring for kids, participatory budgeting, or seeding constitutional conventions to build a majoritarian alternative to the Electoral College mess we're in.

6. Do not obey in advance; do not self-censor

IF AUTOCRATS TEACH us any valuable lesson it's this: Political space that you don't use, you lose. This is for all levels of society — lawyers advising nonprofits, leaders worried about their funding base, folks worried about losing their jobs. I'm not coaching you to never self-protect. You can decide when to speak your mind. But we must combat the slippery slope. In Timothy Snyder's helpful book and video series *On Tyranny*, he cites ceding power as the first problem: "Most of the power of authoritarianism is freely given. ... Individuals think ahead about what a more repressive government will want, and then offer themselves without being asked. A citizen who adapts in this way is teaching power what it can do."

Put simply: Use the political space and voice you have.

7. Reorient your political map

A FEW MONTHS ago, I sat in a room with retired generals, Republicans such as Michael Steele, ex-governors, and congresspeople. We were scenario-planning ways to prevent Trump's abuse of the Insurrection Act to target civilian protesters. For a committed antiwar activist, the phrase "strange bedfellows" doesn't begin to describe the bizarre experience I felt.

A Trump presidency reshapes alignments and possibilities. How we position ourselves matters: Are we only interested in maintaining ideological purity and preaching to our own choir? Even if you don't want to engage, we all must give space to those who *do* experiment with new language to appeal to others who don't share our worldview.

Empathy will be helpful: At the close of that planning day, I saw a lot of pain in people of great power who were admitting a kind of defeat. The generals said, "The military cannot stop Trump from giving these orders." Politicians said, "Congress cannot stop it." The lawyers said, "We cannot stop it." I felt compassion that surprised me. Only the left activists said, "We have an approach of mass noncooperation that can stop this. But we'd need your help." I'm not sure that projected confidence was well received. But if we're going to live into that approach (and

I'm far from certain we can), we need to be pragmatic about power.

8. Get real about power

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXHAUSTION AND despair are high. We're not going to *convince* Trump not to break norms and laws that get in his way. Marches and symbolic protests will not change his mind. We must recognize that his power is unstable, like an upside-down triangle. It naturally topples without support. Power relies on pillars of support to keep it upright. Describing these pillars, nonviolence strategist Gene Sharp said: "By themselves, rulers cannot collect taxes, enforce repressive laws and regulations, keep trains running on time, prepare national budgets, direct traffic, manage ports, print money, repair roads, keep markets supplied with food, make steel, build rockets, train the police and army, issue postage stamps, or even milk a cow. ... If people would stop providing these skills, the ruler could not rule."

Removing one pillar of support can gain major, life-saving concessions. Removing many will result in systemwide change. In *Blockade*, Catholic activist Dick Taylor described how he and a tiny group changed U.S. foreign policy by blocking armaments sent to support Pakistani dictator Yahya Khan. They repeatedly sent canoes to block military shipments leaving from East Coast ports until the International Longshoremen's Association was persuaded to refuse to load them. This broke the back of national policy.

Power will need to emerge from folks no longer obeying the current unjust system. This tipping point of mass noncooperation will require convincing many people to take huge personal risks for a better future.

9. Handle fear, make violence rebound

OTPOR, A SERBIAN student organizing group, took a sarcastic response to regular police beatings by joking, "It only hurts if you're scared." Their attitude wasn't cavalier — it was tactical. They refused to grow fear. When hundreds were beaten on a single day, their response was: This repression will only stiffen the resistance. Handling fear isn't about suppressing it — it is about constantly redirecting.

Activist/intellectual Hardy Merriman released a studied response about political violence that surprised me: Physical political violence remains *relatively* rare in the U.S. *Threats* of violence, however, trend upward. CNN reported: "Politically motivated threats to public officials increased 178 percent during Trump's presidency," primarily from the right. He noted that a key component to political violence is to intimidate. We can shrink into a cacophony of "that's not fair," which fuels the fear of repression. Or we take a page from the great movement strategist Bayard Rustin. Black civil rights leaders were targeted by the Montgomery, Ala. government, during the 1950s bus boycott. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. went into hiding after police threats of arrest based on antiquated anti-boycott laws. Rustin organized them to go to the station and demand to be arrested since they were leaders — making a positive spectacle of the repression. Folks held their arrest papers high in the air amid a cheering crowd. Fear turned into valor.

10. Envision a positive future

WE'VE ALL IMAGINED how bad it might get. We would do ourselves a service to envision a positive future. As writer Walidah Imarisha says, "The goal of visionary fiction is to change the world." We may mount righteous indignation that leads to mass noncooperation far beyond our expectations. Faith groups may play a critical role in leading morally charged strikes, tax resistance, and refusals to comply with unjust orders. Exposed political weaknesses could

10 WAYS TO STAY GROUNDED DURING TRUMP'S SECOND TERM

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quickly turn many inside Trump's organization against him. That feels far away from now. But possibilities remain.

Practicing future thinking gives me some hope and some strategic sensibilities. On the days when I can't imagine good political possibilities, I zoom out to the lifespans of trees and rocks, heading into spiritual reminders that nothing lasts forever. *All* the future is uncertain. But a more hopeful future is more likely if we keep thinking of creative solutions.

Daniel Hunter trains activists globally on nonviolence and founded Choose Democracy. He is the author of the *Climate Resistance Handbook* and *Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow*. This article is adapted with permission from wagingnonviolence.org.

Daniel Hunter



WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR...

**WOMEN'S
MARCH**



The People's March on January 18th was a demonstration of what is possible when we refuse to accept a system that prioritizes billionaires over our communities. Together, we are fighting for what we know we deserve:

- **Our people deserve quality and affordable housing within our communities** that allows us to maintain the bonds essential to our collective survival.
- **Our people deserve access to quality and affordable healthcare in their communities – without restriction** – that honors our right to make decisions about our own bodies, our families, and lives.
- **Our people deserve to know that our resources are not funding or supporting political violence or war**, and that we are safe in our homes and communities, no matter who we are or where we live in the world.
- **Our people deserve access to quality, robust, and free education** that accurately reflects both history and the lived experiences of our communities.
- **Our people deserve a thriving democracy** with access to all the components that keep it healthy, including secure elections, the right to vote and to protest, and freedom of speech and the media.
- **Our people deserve the freedom to move**, whether in search of safety, quality of life, or simply to be with our loved ones without stigma or the threat of detainment, imprisonment, or violence.
- **Our people deserve a healthy environment**—our air, water, and earth free from pollutants—and a comprehensive response to the climate crisis that protects this planet for future generations.
- **Our people deserve to live free from the perpetual violence of prisons and policing.**
- **Our people deserve the freedom to express the diversity of our genders, sexualities, families, and lives**, free from the threat of violence, discrimination, and loss of opportunities.
- **Our people deserve community, solidarity, and action.**

The fight for what we deserve is long, but together, we are powerful.
In gratitude,
Women's March

POPE' S MESSAGE



Wednesday, January 22, 2025

"To leave so as to follow. It is always like this with Jesus. One can begin in some way to feel his appeal, perhaps because of others. Then the awareness can become more personal and can kindle a light in the heart. It becomes something beautiful to share: "You know, that passage from the Gospel struck me... That experience of service touched me..." — something that touches your heart."

Pope Francis

POPE'S MIXED MESSAGES, OFFERS TRUMP BLESSINGS, CRITICIZES DEPORTATION PLANS



EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY

Pope Francis speaking in a TV interview which aired yesterday (January 27) here in Italy said that if incoming US president Donald Trump comes through on his promise of mass deportations it would be "a disgrace if this is true. It is a disgrace because it makes the poor unfortunate who have nothing pay the price of imbalance."

Those comments have been seen as a sharp criticism of President Donald Trump but today on the day of Trump's inauguration the pope sent a message to the White House in which he said "May almighty God grant you wisdom strength and protection", he went on to offer Divine blessings to the "beloved " American people and to president Trump and his family and he said that he was praying that the Lord would help guide efforts towards peace.

From EWTN
Blessings

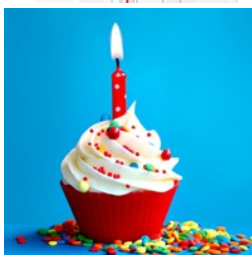
Politics News



FEBRUARY 2025 BIRTHDAYS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Nilda Bolorin	2/6
Sally Nolen	2/7
Nina Kretschmer	2/9
Lee Whittemore	2/10
Melissa Brown	2/11
Marty Holmeen	2/16
Susan Carey	2/22
Roy Nelson	2/23
Paul Yigle-Kaljob	2/23
Lisa Dugan	2/24



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**Pastor Rick Kremer &
Judy Butterworth-Kremer 2/9**



***May you all be blessed as you celebrate your
special days!***

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Contact the office at 860-527-7792 or email office.gracelutheranhartford@gmail.com to update our records.

Grace Lutheran Church – Readers for February 2025

Note: If you are unable to read on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else.

Date	Reading #	Reading	Reader
2/2	1	Malachi 3: 1-4	Betsy DeRoma
	2	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Mildred Unfried
	Psalm	Psalm 84	Rodney Carr
2/9	1	Isaiah 6: 1-13	Barbara Calogero
	2	1 Corinthians 5: 1-11	David Eberly
	Psalm	Psalm 138	Unison
2/16	1	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	Rodney Carr
	2	1 Corinthians 15: 12-20	Mary Holmeen
	Psalm	Psalm 1	Rodney Carr
2/23	1	Genesis 45: 3-11	Rebecca Lewis
	2	1 Corinthians 15: 35-38	Nina Kretschmer
	Psalm	Psalm 37: 1-11, 39, 40	Pastor, then Congregation
3/2	1	Exodus 34: 29-35	Dorothea Glatte
	2	2 Corinthians 3: 12 to 4: 2	Betsy DeRoma
	Psalm	Psalm 99	Unison



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Dorothea Glatte, Lay Minister

Lloyd Smith, Lay Minister

Betsy DeRoma, President

Lou Oliver, Vice President

Dale Eberhardt, Treasurer

Judy Butterworth-Kremer, Secretary

Janice Potter, Financial Assistant

Dale Eberhardt, Organist

Emma Coleman-Carr, Altar Guild

www.graceistheplace.org

