

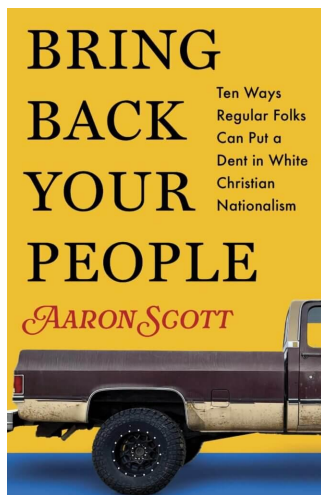
Massachusetts Episcopal Network for Justice & Joy (ENJJOY)

2025 Year In Review

After a brief hiatus in January and February, as many groups were re-grouping, we too fired back up in March. It was another busy year, and monthly highlights are listed below. We continue to:

- Host a weekly Bible study meeting of We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People's Campaign. Our numbers grew again this year, and we have a steady group who attend weekly and others who pop in when they can. Each week is self-contained, and we welcome all to join us! We are currently on our second reading of the book, and like our lectionary, we learn something new with each reading, conversation, and prayer around the chapters.
- Send out a Weekly Newsletter with information on ways to get involved with justice ministries, news, and events in the dioceses of MA, Province I, the national church and partner groups; justice- and joyful-related news articles; resources; and more. If you want to catch up, you can [view our archived newsletters here](#).
- Host a monthly Community Book Read.
- Send out urgent action alerts.
- Share the work of Episcopal City Mission and help amplify its messages and opportunities to engage.
- Steering Team meets regularly to discuss and plan social justice events and activities, as well as to continually discern our role.
- Host the [ENJJOY Website](#) with news and ways to get involved and stay connected.
- Host the [MA ENJJOY Facebook](#) page.
- Maintain MA ENJJOY Google calendar providing links to social justice events in MA
- Maintain [We Cry Justice](#) lectionary calendar, linking relevant chapters and scripture in the book.
- Stay in touch with the MAPPC to support its actions.

March



Many of us joined St. Dustan's in Dover for a Lenten study series on White Christian Nationalism. It was great to have folks from different parishes be part of the conversation. The last week of the study, we were joined by Aaron Scott, author of **Bring Back Your People** and the gender justice staff officer at The Episcopal Church. Aaron led us in an informative, engaging, enlightening – and at times funny – conversation about his book and the crisis of White Christian Nationalism, as well as touching on the work he does at the church and how these two issues are related. This doubled as our monthly community read.



We also helped promote and joined ECM for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Association's (MIRA) Lobby Day. The day began with a prayer service at The Cathedral, followed by an action at the State House, and visiting legislators to encourage support and protections for our immigrant neighbors.

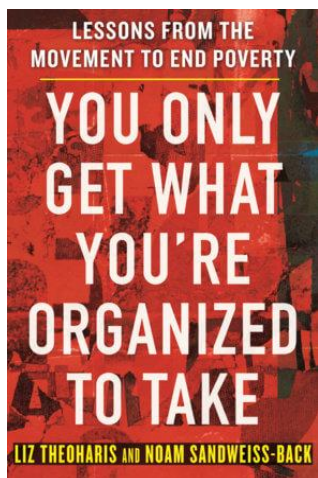
April

We participated and promoted the "Hands Off" rally on April 5 in Boston and other locations across the state. This rally was intended to demonstrate our support for those parts of the U.S. government, such as Social Security benefits, which are critical for many people, showing our support for those on the margins and equal protection for all. Once again, the day in Boston began with an interfaith prayer service at The Cathedral, which was open as a place of refuge and support throughout the day.

The Steering Team met with Bishop Julia to tell her about our network and offer support of Diocesan justice initiatives, and of course, to welcome her to DioMass!

May

On May 3, we participated in an Art and Theomusicology gathering at the Somerville Baptist Church, sponsored by the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign. This event was held to promote the development of community and emphasize the joy of making art and music.



On May 13, we hosted a community book read of **You Only Get What You Are Organized to Take: Lessons From the Movement to End Poverty** by Liz Theocharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back. Led by our own Kris Wile, we had a great conversation around the book and in anticipation of the book tour coming to Massachusetts later in the month. Many noted the stories we had not heard before – the powerful and inspiring work of the National Welfare Rights Union, the National Union of the Homeless and others – as well as the way certain groups –

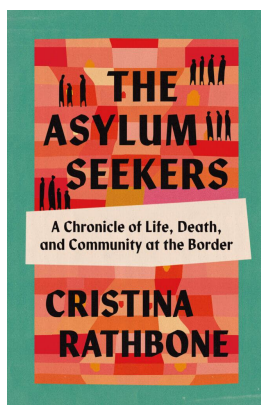
like the Black Panthers – were portrayed in the media because their work in communities was seen as threatening to the powers that be.

May 29-30: The MA Episcopal Network for the PPC was a state cohost for the book tour for **You Only Get What You Are Organized to Take: Lessons From the Movement to End Poverty** by Liz Theoharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back. Working with the MAPPC and groups across the state, we helped welcome the Kairos Center team to events in



Boston at The Cathedral (a faith leaders & partners lunch & strategy session and a book talk) and in Pittsfield at the United Church of Christ, Pittsfield (book talk). It was wonderful to be in community with so many folks who are doing this work – fighting for justice, creating projects of survival, building community and more. You can read a [recap of the event](#) that was sent to attendees here. See more pics on our Facebook page: [Boston Event Pic Here](#) and [Here](#) and [Here](#); and [Pittsfield Here](#).

June



On June 11, we hosted a community book read on Zoom for **The Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death and Community at the Border** by Christina Rathbone. Rev. Sean Leonard of St. Dunstan's led the conversation, and Rev. Rathbone, who is an Episcopal priest, joined us for part of the conversation. It was wonderful to hear from her as she shared her experience on the border and the work she is doing with immigrant communities here in the state with the **Massachusetts Council of Churches**.

On June 14 we joined and helped to recruit participants to the No Kings, but Yaaaas Queens parade in Boston with many other Episcopalians. It was a joyful day and the Diocese helped organize Episcopalians in Boston and at parades across the



state. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Julia Whitworth led the large group while sitting in a convertible, waving and offering small children rides. It was great to meet up with MAPPC and friends! [See more pics here.](#)

May-June-July:

Supported the Office of Government Relations in a call to representatives to oppose the harmful cuts in the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” which called for cuts in vital programs:

- Make significant cuts to Medicaid.
- Add barriers to access food assistance.
- End environmental programs and increase carbon emissions.
- Expand detention centers for migrants.
- Add to the national debt.

We also supported the PPC in calls to Congress to oppose the “Big Beautiful Bill” for the same reasons as the church outlined. We also reached out to people to remind them that, while the Massachusetts congressional delegation opposes the bill, they still need to hear from everyone - our stories, how the bill will impact us and our communities, and that this is morally wrong and they must stand strong!

July



We recruited participants and participated in “The Good Trouble” march and gathering in Boston on July 17. The event honored the legacy and lessons of civil rights leader John Lewis who promoted the need for “good trouble” to save the soul of the nation. It was great to once again jolin up with MAPPC friends. [See pics here.](#)

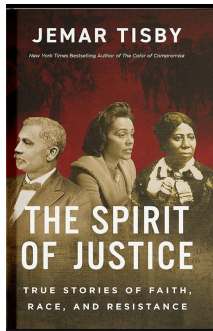
We took a day hosting the Ministry of the Steps at the Cathedral. We played Bingo, asked folks what was on their hearts and minds, and just hung out. We also handed out literature about the PPC and EN. [See pics here.](#)

August

ECM and others helped alert us to an immigration hearing for Blanca, an Episcopalian on the North Shore. We helped let folks know how to show up in solidarity with her and for her. More than 300 people showed up to surround her in prayer and song. [See pics and read more here.](#)

September

On September 1, we promoted and joined Labor Day activities with the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign events in Boston and Holyoke. We also promoted the Labor Day Prayers for Liberty Walk from Lexington to Boston organized by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization.



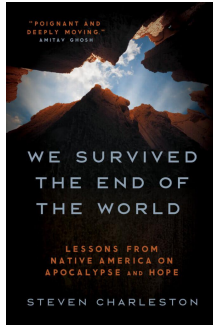
On Sept. 3, we hosted a community read for [The Spirit of Justice](#) by Jemar Tisby on Zoom. Led by Meredith Haider, it was a robust and inspiring conversation as we discussed the people in history who we hadn't heard of before as well as those well known, and what kept them all going in times of trial.

We helped promote and attend a non-violence resistance training hosted at The Cathedral. [Read more and see pics here.](#)

After the August check-in, Blanca was once again asked to go to the Burlington ICE facility. Once again, we and others rallied to support her, including Bishop Julia. She was granted a year stay! Read more [Here](#) and [Here](#).

And our biggest news: after some discernment and to more clearly communicate our role, we changed the name of our group to the Episcopal Network for Justice and Joy (ENJJJOY). The name change reflects our continued commitment to partner with the Poor People's Campaign while broadening our focus to include other justice initiatives and emphasize our networking role within the Episcopal church.

October



On October 8, we hosted a Community Book Read: **We Survived the End of the Earth: Lessons from Native America on Apocalypse and Hope** by Steven Charleston. Dan Field facilitated the discussion, helping us learn about resilient hope.

We participated and helped recruit others to the No Kings rally on October 18. [See pics here.](#)

We helped promote and attend the Sacred Journey to Deer Island on Oct 13. See pics and read more [Here](#) and [Here](#). [Next steps are here.](#)

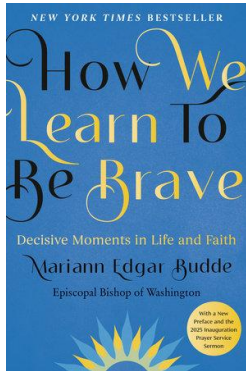
We helped support the Rent Control ballot measure initiative and get signatures. From ECM:

We Did It! Rent Control Gets Enough Signatures for the 2026 Ballot

Question! In mid-October, the task ahead of us and the Homes For All Coalition was daunting: collect 125,000 signatures across the state to get rent control onto the 2026 ballot. Many ECM grassroots grantees were leading in this campaign, and we saw a unique opportunity to work closely across our teams by also organizing for signature collection. Episcopalians tabled in their parishes and even hit the streets - including over 25 volunteers at No Kings Day rallies - and raked in over 1,800 signatures, 80% above our goal of 1,000! Additionally, we worked closely alongside interfaith partners including UUMassAction and ECCO, hosting a zoom training and a pep rally together, and our total interfaith collaboration brought in nearly 7,700 signatures!

On October 25, we hosted our second Episcopal justice groups gathering at The Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston. It was a mixed group of clergy and lay leaders, and it was an opportunity for us all to learn more about each other and the justice ministries in the Diocese. We discussed how we can collaborate and support one another in our efforts. We reviewed where we are as a network and ways in which the network can be a resource and support in our efforts.

November



On November 12, we held a virtual Community book read on: [How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith](#) by Mariann Edgar Budde. Bishop Budd is an Episcopal Bishop in Washington, D.C. who braved presenting an inaugural sermon in January of 2025 requesting justice, mercy and love for all residents of the United States.

We also solicited donations and participated in a direct service event, “Food on the Table,” at Grace Church of All Nations in Dorchester on November 15, which MAPPC partners were supporting. We were able to secure over 125 pies for Thanksgiving food bags. Over 150 families were served by this effort. It was a welcome and joyful event during this time of food insecurity for many residents. See news coverage [Here](#) and [Here](#) and [Here](#).



December

We met with Clayton McCleskey, the new Canon for Communications, Witness, and Engagement, to tell him about our network, ask how we can support and work with his initiatives, and offer support for Diocesan justice initiatives.

We helped promote and attend the Christmas Eve Vigil at the Burlington ICE Facility. Read more and see pics [Here](#) and [Here](#) and [Here](#).