

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Monday, June 16, 2025



Top News

- **School Segregation Is On The Rise — And Trump Is Likely To Make It Worse**
- **Satanic Temple accuses Iowa officials of religious discrimination**
- **Faith leaders, lawmakers argue GOP bill benefits the ultra-wealthy by hurting the poor**
- **How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020**

School Segregation Is On The Rise — And Trump Is Likely To Make It Worse

When the Trump administration announced in April that it was dismissing the Department of Justice's decades-long effort to desegregate the Plaquemines Parish School District in Louisiana, the state's Republicans rejoiced.

"For years, federal judges have imposed unnecessary requirements that have cost our schools and our children tens of millions of dollars," Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry said in a press release. "Educational decisions should be made at the most local level and not by unelected, activist federal judges."

In 1966, the DOJ sued Plaquemines in order to force the school district to racially integrate its schools. The court order required the district to bus Black children to all-white schools and banned it from discriminating against students or teachers on the basis of race. It was just one of many court orders that came in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 Supreme Court case that found that racially segregated schools were unconstitutional.

Continue Reading: huffpost.com



No modern U.S. president before Donald Trump has explicitly called for the end of diversity initiatives and targeted schools that have programs designed to ensure equal access for all students.
Illustration: Kelly Caminero

Satanic Temple accuses Iowa officials of religious discrimination

The Satanic Temple Iowa on Tuesday filed a complaint accusing state officials of discriminating against the group because of its members' religion, having denied them access to the state Capitol building for a December holiday display and event.

The group's holiday observances garnered national attention in 2023 after a Mississippi man destroyed their Iowa Statehouse display depicting the horned deity Baphomet, which was permitted in the rotunda along with a Christmas tree and other religious holiday installations.

The Satanic Temple Iowa's application for a display and event in December 2024 was denied, a decision that the organization says violated its members' constitutional rights and Iowa civil rights law.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said in a statement that state Capitol policies reflect the potential impact on children and families, given that they routinely visit the public building and spaces around it.

"This satanic event, which specifically targeted children, would have been harmful to minors and so it was denied," Reynolds said.

Continue Reading: religionnews.com



People attend the Param Pratishta, or inauguration ceremony, of the new Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington temple complex in Beltsville, Md., Sunday, June 1, 2025. (RNS photo/Richa Karmarkar)

Faith leaders, lawmakers argue GOP bill benefits the ultra-wealthy by hurting the poor

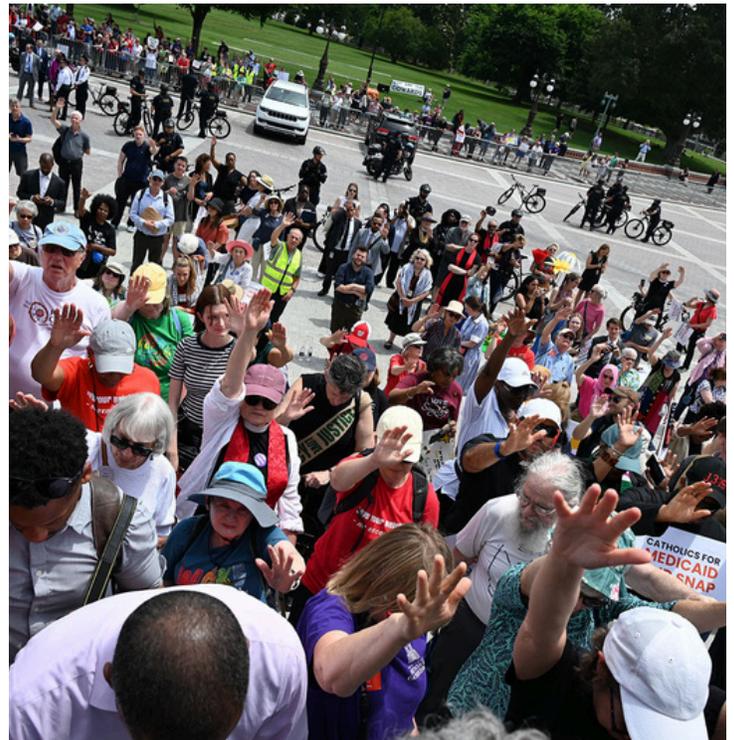
Religious leaders are ramping up pressure on lawmakers to reject the Republican-led budget bill currently before the U.S. Senate, arguing proposed cuts to health care benefits and food assistance programs as well as provisions involving public education will disproportionately hurt low-income Americans.

Part of an effort that has built momentum over the past two months, on Tuesday (June 10), hundreds of clergy and religious leaders from mainline Christian, Black Protestant, evangelical and Catholic traditions rallied on the steps of the U.S. Capitol against the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" that passed the House and is set to be voted on by the Senate.

"This bill chooses to take from the poor and give to those who already have enough," said the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, general minister and president of the Disciples of Christ.

As she closed in prayer, she said, "May your will be done, and may this bill be killed," sparking cheers from the crowd.

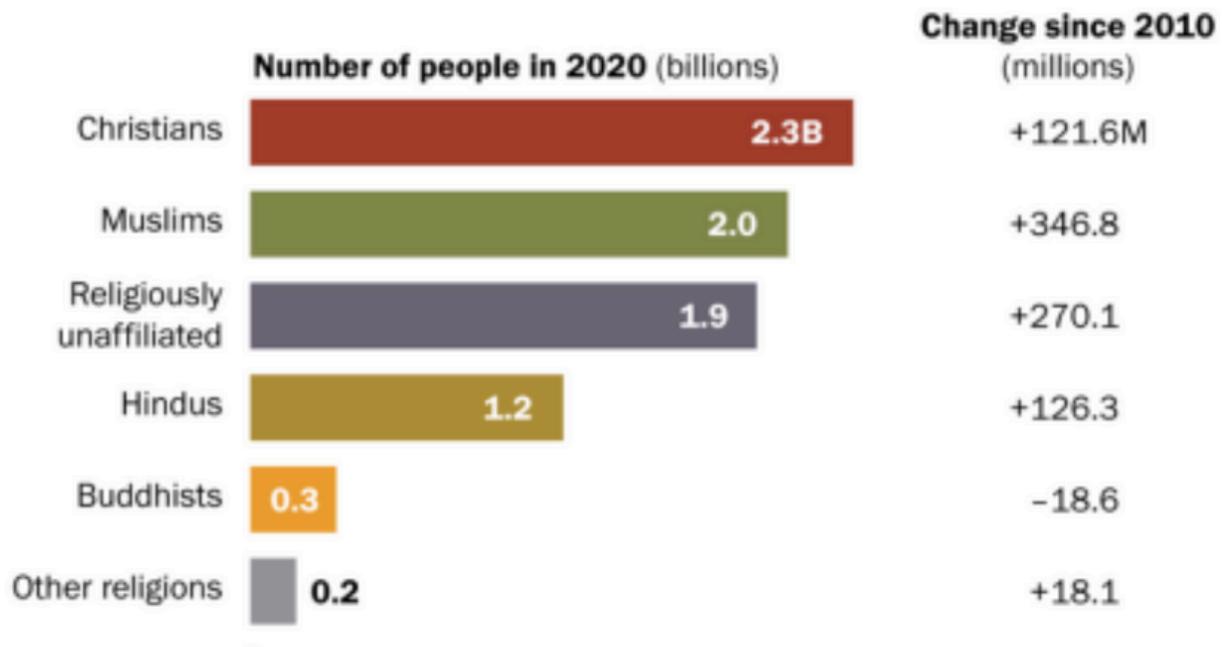
The faith leaders were joined by a group of prominent Democratic senators, including Chris Coons of Delaware, Raphael Warnock of Georgia, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.



Demonstrators pray on the steps of the U.S. Capitol during a rally against the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," June 10, 2025. (RNS photo/Jack Jenkins)

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How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on more than 2,700 census and surveys. "How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020."

The world's population expanded from 2010 to 2020, and so did most religious groups, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.

Christians remained the world's biggest religious group. But Christians (of all denominations, counted as one group) did not keep pace with global population growth from 2010 to 2020.

- The number of Christians rose by 122 million, reaching 2.3 billion.
- Yet, as a share of the world's population, Christians fell 1.8 percentage points, to 28.8%.

Muslims were the fastest-growing religious group over the decade.

- The number of Muslims increased by 347 million – more than all other religions combined.
- The share of the world's population that is Muslim rose by 1.8 points, to 25.6%.

Buddhists were the only major religious group that had fewer people in 2020 than a decade earlier.

- The number of Buddhists worldwide dropped by 19 million, declining to 324 million.
- As a share of the global population, Buddhists slipped by 0.8 points, to 4.1%.

People with no religious affiliation – who are sometimes called "nones" – were the only category aside from Muslims that grew as a percentage of the world's population.

- The number of religiously unaffiliated people rose by 270 million, reaching 1.9 billion.
- The share of "nones" climbed nearly a full percentage point, to 24.2%.

Hindus grew at about the same rate as the world's overall population.

- The number of Hindus rose by 126 million, reaching 1.2 billion.
- As a proportion of the global population, Hindus held steady at 14.9%.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

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25-28 SEPT.

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OVERCOMING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

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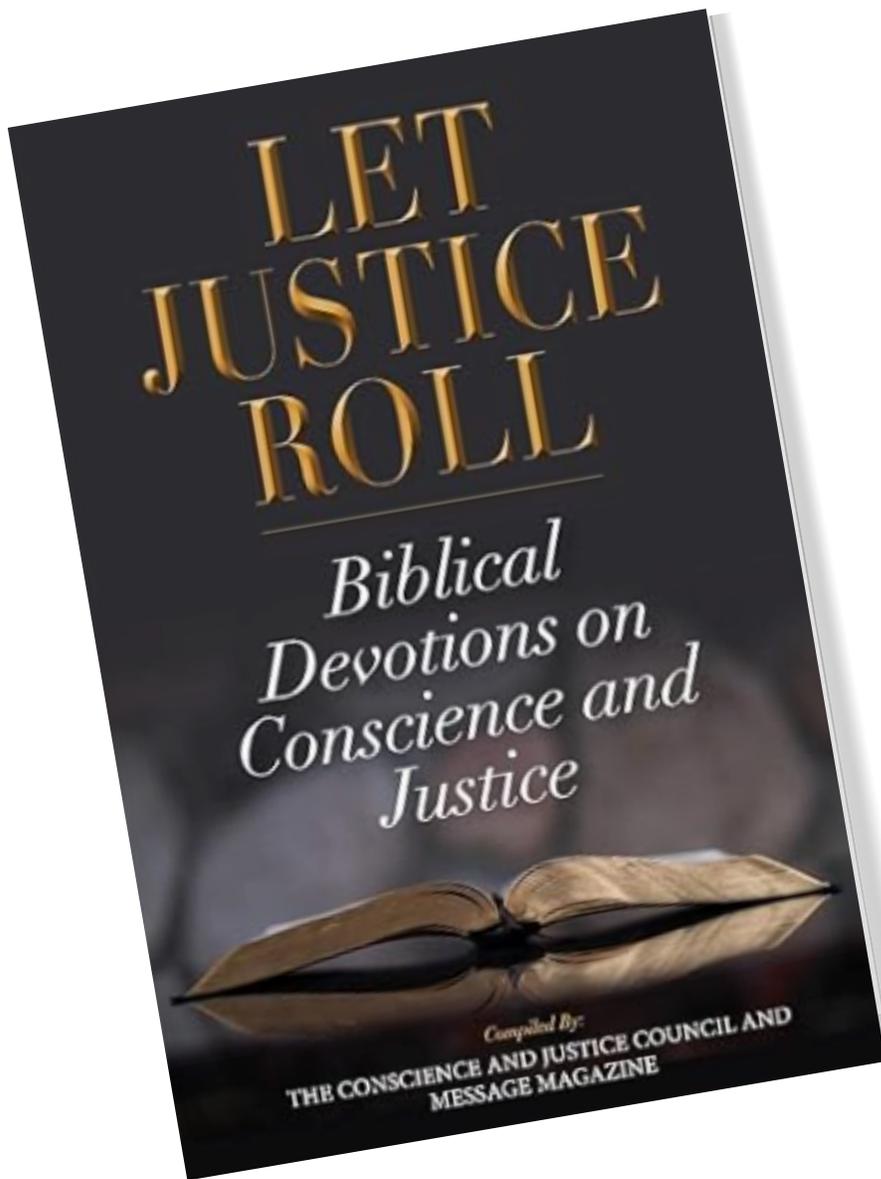
NOTE:
Must be registered for the
Conscience & Justice Council
Convention

KEY DATES

Apply By: August 1st, 2025

Submit By: August 31st, 2025

Expo: September 28th, 2025



Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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