



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

July 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

Time to Build Up

Summer is here! This is the time we rest up from the busy seasons of the year. But it's also the time we build ourselves up to increase our effectiveness for the year ahead.

I wanted to learn even more about what we can do, so I attended the National Right to Life Convention in Milwaukee. It was a great conference, and I might go to next year's convention in Kansas City.

For students, there's some pro-life training in Iowa City in mid-July. Students are critical to the pro-life movement. They already do so much within the movement, but we could always use more locally.

What are you doing to build up for the upcoming months of pro-life activities?

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

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| <p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>CFLI Board Meeting (2nd Tuesdays) Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization! Where: St. Patrick’s Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>CFLI Working Meeting (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in planning the activities for our organization! Where: St. Patrick’s Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Sun, Sep 24 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.</p> | <p>40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally Join us to kick-off our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p> |
| <p>Sep 27 – Nov 5 24 hours / day</p> | <p>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p> |
| <p>Sun, Nov 5 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p> | <p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p> |
| <p>~ 2018 ~</p> | |
| <p>January</p> | <p>Midwest March for Life in Des Moines</p> |
| <p>January</p> | <p>Cedar Rapids March for Life</p> |
| <p>January</p> | <p>National March for Life (March is Jan 19)</p> |
| | |



Pro-Life Training for Students

Do you know any high school or college students? No? Seriously! Johnson County Right to Life is offering a pro-life apologetics course on Saturday, July 15th.

LIFE DEFENDERS is a FREE, interactive, and engaging workshop designed to equip high school and college students to become effective ambassadors for life. Many people today reject or are indifferent to the pro-life view, often because they've never heard the pro-life position presented in a

compelling manner. LIFE DEFENDERS will offer engaging content that will prepare you to confidently communicate and defend the pro-life position to others.

Presenter: Mike Spencer from the Life Training Institute.

COST: FREE- Lunch will be served and all attendees will receive a t-shirt.

Check out their [promotional video](#). We need to instill pro-life values in each

generation. But beyond just instilling values, people need to know how to argue effectively for the cause.

There are a few sources of good pro-life apologetics training, and this is among them. RSVP as soon as you can for this great opportunity that's less than one week away!

<http://www.jcrtl.org/life-defenders-pro-life-training.html>



Government Update: Laws Take Effect

The abortion-related laws took effect in Iowa on July 1st. Three Planned Parenthood facilities closed on June 30th, and another (the one in Bettendorf) remains open until the building sells or until the end of the calendar year. Until that one closes they will offer only abortions at that facility.

The laws prohibit government family planning funds from funding any services provided by an abortion provider. A separate law prohibits performing abortions after 20 weeks. That law included a 72-hour waiting period, which is not in effect while it faces legal challenges.

In Oregon, the legislature approved a bill to make abortion free. I wish there was a hyphen between those words, because an abortion-free Oregon would be good news. But instead, abortions may soon become a no-cost procedure in that state.

Political solutions offer a major advantage in the pro-life movement when it swings to our favor. But it can be very damaging when it swings the other way. But even with the advantages we presently enjoy in Iowa, we need to stay vigilant. It's important to continue to contact our lawmakers. But it's also important to know how to talk to people about the pro-life issue.

Each time abortion access is hindered something new comes up to offer access. We saw this in Iowa when Planned Parenthood of the Heartland invented and put into practice webcam abortions. But there are efforts to spread do-it-yourself (DIY) abortions. There are also other things continually being developed.

Therefore, I strongly urge everyone to learn to learn and practice pro-life apologetics. The best part is that by practicing defending the pro-life view, you will also spread the word to reach new people. If we don't convert the culture and eliminate the demand, death will win.



Gosnell Reminders

The Minnesota-based Pro-Life Action Ministries released a video in June featuring a woman who alleges that the staff at the mega Planned Parenthood in St. Paul would kill children in the same way that put Kermit Gosnell in prison for the rest of his life.

When the horrors of Gosnell's abortion business came out several years ago, the rest of the abortion industry and their advocates tried to claim that Gosnell was not characteristic of the rest of the abortion industry. Planned Parenthood provides more abortions in this country than any other business, so they really wanted to distance themselves from admitting

that they do anything like what Kermit Gosnell committed.

But this latest news from Minnesota suggests that among Planned Parenthood's larger facilities, which is the heart of their business and profits, they resemble Gosnell much more than they are willing to admit.

The video from Pro-Life Action Ministries is available at the following:

<https://youtu.be/VVUXD-2P1bs>

While at the 2017 National Right to Life Convention, they showed a sneak-peak of the Gosnell Movie. Rather than approaching it in the way a documentary would use, they chose to portray it by re-enacting the events, and thus telling the story the way

it happened.

The movie was made in such a way as to make it accessible to the most people possible. In a style reminiscent of older filmmakers, they didn't have to show the violence or gruesomeness of abortion. Yet the horrors were still clear, including making it clear that Gosnell snipped the spines of babies born alive, cut off the feet of children to keep in jars, kept the remains of many children onsite, while shoving the bodies of others down a garbage disposal and clogging up the plumbing. It was a great feat to convey such gruesome acts without showing it. It should hit theaters in 2018—see it!





National Right to Life Convention

This year's National Right to Life Convention just ended on July 1. The convention had several very interesting speakers.

Ben Shapiro was a keynote speaker at this year's convention. He offered [counters to the 10 most common arguments](#) against abortion. Although the speech was received well by the crowd, it works better among pro-lifers or in a debate. We should still engage people with relational apologetics.

David Daleiden is well-known for leading the Center for Medical Progress and the release of several videos showing the ugly side of Planned Parenthood. [David spoke at length about Planned Parenthood](#) and the concerns we should all have.

Ryan Bomberger is the president of the Radiance Foundation. He spoke at the prayer breakfast, and unfortunately we're not aware of any video footage of that event, and thus there is no link (unlike the other speakers have in this article). He called on us to be "factivists" We can call people to action, but let's spread the truth as well.

Ann McElhinney is co-author of a book about abortionist Kermit Gosnell and a producer and director of the Gosnell movie that should be released next year. She [spoke about the terrible things Gosnell did](#) and provided an early showing of the full, feature-length film. They wanted as many people to be able to see it as possible. Rather than show the gruesome

things Gosnell did, they used a rather impressive way of capturing the story that allowed people to realize the terrible things that were done, while making it watchable. They avoided showing the photos of the aborted children. It was much more common in early film making to leave out the violent and gruesome things most modern films intentionally include.

There was an early viewing of the film short entitled, [I Lived on Parker Avenue](#). It is a short documentary about a mother's agony in choosing what's best, the joy of a couple starting a family, and young man's search for where his life began. The full film short will be available on March 8th of 2018.

Pro-Life Challenge

VOLUNTEER



Help us out!

The pro-life movement is experiencing greater success than we've seen in the past several decades. But with success brings an even greater need for help. Please help us build a culture of life!
Volunteer!



Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. There are many needs. The harvest is plenty; harvesters are few. Many hands make for light work!



Moving Day at PP

As we announced last month, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland planned to close four of their 12 facilities in Iowa. Three of them closed on Friday, June 30th.

Although their Cedar Rapids facility remains open, it always reveals quite a bit about what's going on elsewhere in the state.

Within the past month, we observed the moving of records into the Cedar Rapids facility. On the official closing days of facilities in Eastern Iowa, we tend to see lots of items brought into the Cedar Rapids facility. Nearly half of the facility remained relatively empty. When the Dubuque facility closed, we watched as they moved things into the part of the building that might as well be called

“the warehouse.” Des Moines observes similar things in the space they use for their annual book sale items.

In some ways it's great to see things moving in, since that means more facilities close. But we have to hope they don't make full use of the items they move in. In the past few years, the numbers of abortions performed on women living in Linn County have gone up slightly.

But Planned Parenthood's business continues to drop. The decrease in business is why the other facilities closed. They blame changes in laws, but their business has dropped off greatly. New laws will further decrease their client numbers.

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