



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

December 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## A New Year Ahead

We approach the end of one year and the start of a new year. What can you do to help the pro-life cause? The people on the other side of the issue are much more energized than they've been in many years.

We are happy to see so many good things happen in the pro-life realm. But we have to maintain our persistence. We have a busy part of the year ahead with marches for life and 40 Days for Life coming up very soon.

Thank you everyone who helped us out this year!

- Jim Burke

# Upcoming Events

<p><b>Second Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CFLI Board Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)</b> Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Fourth Tuesdays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CFLI Working Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)</b> Get involved in planning the activities for our organization! <b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Jan 17-21</b></p>	<p><b>National March for Life (March is Jan 19)</b></p>
<p><b>Sun, Jan 21</b> 12:30 pm. – 4:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>Cedar Rapids March for Life</b> Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January! <b>Where:</b> St. Matthew's Church to Planned Parenthood and back 2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html">http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html</a></p>
<p><b>TBD</b> <b>TDB</b></p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally</b></p>
<p><b>Feb 14 – Mar 25</b> 24 hours / day</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil</b> Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a></p>
<p><b>Sun, Mar 25</b> 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Finale Rally</b> Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a></p>



This was remarkable year! We saw Planned Parenthood lose most of their funding when the State of Iowa created their own program to avoid the federal rules for the Medicaid waiver.

We also saw the closing of **three** facilities in summer, and **one more** that is set to close at the turn of the year. The Quad Cities facility in Bettendorf should close this Friday if they stick to their plan. They've only been open 3 hours each Friday morning for a few months and only offered abortions.

When the statistics came out from 2016, we saw the downward trend for abortions in our area resume. It had stagnated for a few years when

webcam abortions were performed locally. Webcam abortions always seemed to be a tricky thing. It kept the abortion numbers and rates from dropping. But they also gave us an unprecedented ability to make Planned Parenthood's supporters recognize the horrible things PP does and question what they've been told in the past.

The Center for Medical Progress released a few more videos this fall, similar to the videos they released two years earlier that showed Planned Parenthood's involvement in the sale of baby body parts.

At the federal level of government, Neil Gorsuch

became the latest US Supreme Court justice. Very little resulted in Congress to advance pro-life bills successfully. Most actions were executive actions of the President.

As often happens when power shifts greatly in the federal government, there has been lots of effort on the other side to get their voices heard. They had marches and protests of their own, often much more crude than pro-life marches. They have had some success in elections.

**This is not a time to take it easy, or the pro-life movement will lose ground!**



## Government Update: Laws Obstructed

After countless pro-life laws were passed in states across the country, opponents tried to put stays on the laws. In Iowa we saw part of the law obstructed that tried to inform women of the consequences of abortion and that ensured they had time to reconsider abortion before going through with it.

UnityPoint was put in a tough situation, since they have facilities that do offer abortions in limited circumstances. But Iowa law now limits their ability to receive the family planning funds that they used to get through Medicaid, since the law prohibits funding any

organization/business that provides abortions, regardless of how many or at what facilities within the organization. Rather than discontinuing all direct abortions at their facilities, they are trying to appeal to the Iowa Department of Human Services, but the law is clear. They have not decided whether they will file a lawsuit or not.

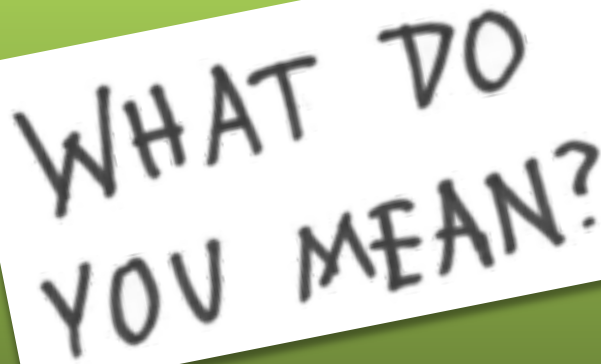
Note: UnityPoint does not perform abortions locally, and they have one of the best doctors in the area when it comes to reproductive health, who has written articles for us in the past.

A judge in Indiana recently put a stop to the Indiana law that aimed to prevent

the selling of baby body parts. The judge had a few reasons to justify the stay. Among the reasons, apparently the first amendment grew to include allowing people to perform just about any action as long as there was a desire to speak about it to teach others. Prohibiting horrendous crimes would impede on their free speech.

Some of the famous Texas law that was mostly enacted prior to this year was also put on hold. Many parts of the law have remained in effect.

Fortunately, many laws and parts of laws did go into effect and have stayed in effect.



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

## Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Abortion

Some people identify as “pro-choice” and get upset when people think of them as “pro-abortion.” They don’t want to promote abortion and wouldn’t have one if given a choice, but they think it’s best to allow people to have the choice to have an abortion or not.

First, I will make a point that I think is very important. Whenever talking to someone, it really helps create an open dialogue that goes somewhere by referring to them using the terms they prefer. Consider how conversations are less likely to go anywhere productive if someone refers to you as “anti-choice” or “anti-women” or some other similar term.

Getting to the matter at hand, to be pro-choice, we have to consider what

choice we are permitting. If we are pro-choice about allowing someone to shoot someone on the sidewalk and face no consequences for that action, I think most people would oppose that form of choice, because it harms others and the victim’s right to life takes priority.

It seems like they choose analogies that aren’t as analogous. Instead of having that moral component or the loss of life, they might liken it to choice in products you can buy. For instance, I personally don’t like coffee. I don’t want government interfering with people’s choice in buying coffee, even though I don’t like the taste of it. But there is no moral issue with whether someone consumes coffee or not.

We may not like abortion, but that is not why we think it should be illegal. It should

be illegal because it violates the right to life and harms people. Making abortion illegal doesn’t make it stop, but it greatly reduces how often it happens. I would challenge anyone to name any law that eliminates a behavior entirely. But it is done to bring about justice, by imposing a penalty for actions that harm others. Abortionists have ended the lives of tens of millions of children and countless women.

If we oppose something that is unjust but support choice to do it, we promote anarchy and injustice. It’s good to understand WHY people oppose abortion personally. If they believe it causes harm or death, then they may not have thought their stance through very much, because inaction promotes abortion.



## March for Life

We will have our annual Cedar Rapids March for Life on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. We would love to see everyone there!

This year's schedule:

- 12 noon: Rosary
- 12:30 pm: Mass
- 2 pm: March for Life
- 3:30 pm: Social

The activities before the march take place at St. Matthew's Church, located at 2310 First Avenue NE in Cedar Rapids. We will gather in the parking lot just before the march begins. We will walk with signs from the church to the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood, located at 3425 First Avenue SE.

It usually takes us about 30 minutes to walk from one place to another. Dress for the weather.

We remain outside of Planned Parenthood for about a half hour for prayer before heading back. Upon arriving back at the church, we will have a social with chili.

Anyone unable to march is welcome to drive the route and participate in the events. All are welcome to attend all or part of this activity.

Many people join us for the march, but they often leave before the social. Last year, we had many additional announcements and activities inside. We liked how the Midwest March for Life had the majority of their event indoors. They marched outside and a few people spoke very briefly. But they would go inside for a meal and listen to

several amazing speakers. We don't have as big of an event as they had, nor do we have lots of great speakers. But we would love to have more people stick around and share a meal with us.

We will only make a lasting change if we all do what we can to promote the pro-life cause. Some of this is in our larger gatherings. Some of it is in our prayers. Some of it is in learning how to make a solid case for life. Some of it is in having conversations with people about life issues. Some of it is in trying to help people in greater risk of having an abortion or some other life or death circumstance.

So join us for this year's march!

## 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 comes 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!



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Our local 40 Days for Life will experience some change this spring. I'm handing over the lead role to Pat Semelroth, who has served us well on our board for several years already.

I'm asking everyone to do what they can to make the upcoming 40 Days for Life a success. There will be some challenges that were not expected, so every bit of help from our members is appreciated.

This spring's 40 Days has a very unique timeline. It begins on Valentine's Day, since Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. And 40 days later, it ends on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, which usually marks the Annunciation of our Lord,

when Jesus was conceived (9 months before Christmas). One week after we end the spring 40 days is Easter, as usual. But even Easter occurs on a unique day...April Fool's Day!

With the closing of so many Planned Parenthood facilities across Iowa this year, it seems very likely that a few more could close in the coming years. Although Cedar Rapids is the second-largest city in the state, abortions haven't worked well here, so the facility here isn't as profitable as they would expect.

If we can step things up this year, who knows what might result? We will provide more details of the events and activities as the days near.

**CFLI Board**

Jean Biermann  
Rich Brandt  
Jim Burke (Vice President)  
Mary Cherion  
Sue Martinek  
Tim Mason (President)  
Pat Semelroth  
Bonnie Yount (Secretary)  
Russell Yount (Treasurer)



## Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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