



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

Another New Year!

We will continue to try to find the best ways to convert the culture to see the truth and beauty in life. It's that busy time of year, but our board has been reassessing the different opportunities we have for future activities.

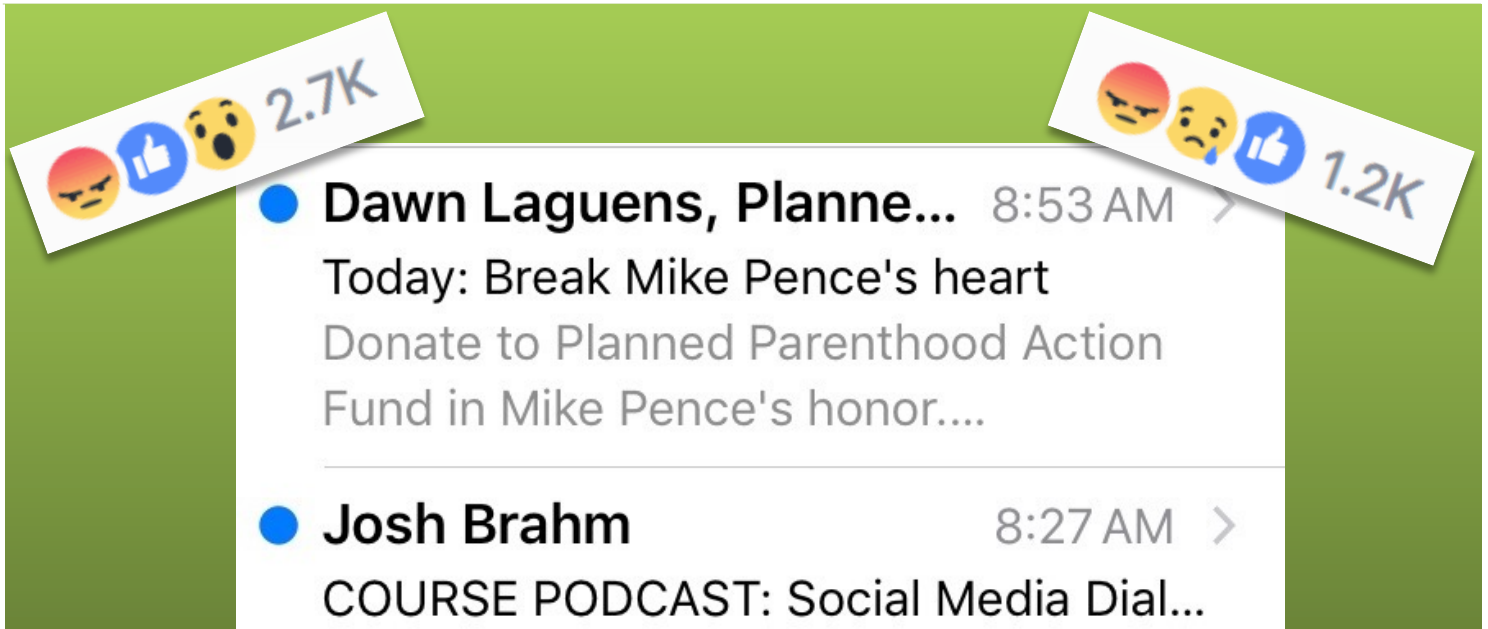
If you are interested in doing more to promote and defend the sanctity of human life, we could always use some help. It's easier to do new things when we have the support of our members.

We are in the midst of our spring 40 Days for Life campaign. We have a few more events coming up this spring. We will keep everyone posted of our events as they draw near.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

<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>Feb 14 – Mar 25 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, Mar 25 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>Sat, Apr 28 5:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Culture of Life Dinner This dinner raises funds for NaProTechnology medical training Where: St. Wenceslaus Parish Hall 623 Fairchild St, Iowa City, IA More info: http://stwenc-ic.com/kofc/culture-of-life</p>
<p>Fri, May 11 Time is TBD</p>	<p>An Evening with Bridgehaven Gala Come to the annual fundraising gala for Bridgehaven! Where: Details coming soon. More info: http://bridgehavencr.org/events/banquet</p>
<p>Tue, May 22 Time is TBD</p>	<p>Cedar Valley Guiding Star Gala Come to the annual fundraising gala, featuring Abby Johnson! Where: Details coming soon.</p>



Right & Wrong Attitudes

The primary image above this article shows consecutive emails I received. The email from Planned Parenthood calls people to break someone's heart. The email received less than 30 minutes earlier aims to help people with dialogue in situations where it's difficult to address controversial matters. While one tries to attack others in hurtful ways, the other seeks civil understanding, which allows us to learn from each other.

When I look at many of the posts from Planned Parenthood's Facebook page for drawing their supporters to political action, I see strong emotional triggers and misleading information. When the anger emoji is the most

common reaction for so many posts, you're probably following a page that's feeding anger. This is not only present on pages that support abortion access. Pro-life pages that elicit similar reactions consistently lead me to lose interest in them.

It can be easy to play with people's emotions. Much of today's marketing depends on it. But we need truth and love, or lies and violence result. We have seen "pro-life" people who killed abortionists or performed other anti-life actions. They never connected with existing pro-life groups, who tend to recognize the importance of sowing the seeds of peace, love, respect, etc.

It is irresponsible to draw people to anger so consistently. Yes, there is a time for righteous anger, but tempered with the proper ways to turn that into productive action. What would you prefer to motivate you? If you could read about people who love life, save lives, and sacrifice for the benefit of others, I suspect you would like that. But if we always wrote about killers like Kermit Gosnell, the areas where people are dying, etc., I suspect you would be saddened, depressed, or wanting to lash out in some way. We try to offer a balance so you see both good and bad. We seek truth and love in response.



Government Update: Session Continues

Iowa

Senate File 2281 ([SF2281](#)) passed the Iowa Senate on Feb. 28th. It will move on to the Iowa House. The companion bill, House File 2163 ([HF2163](#)) has remained in committee. Both bills will protect life once a heartbeat is detected in a preborn child. It's an election year, which makes it harder to pass controversial laws, and other states have been unable to enforce their laws yet.

[HF2162](#) prioritizes abortion providers lower than others for educational grants, which would get them out of most schools. Planned Parenthood has been very busy in our schools in Linn County. So this is important, and it gets businesses that profit from the failures of bad sexual

education programs away from our children.

Senate File 335 (SF 335) and House Study Bill 569 (HSB 569) sought to reinstate the death penalty for certain offenses. Both bills have stalled in their respective legislative chambers.

California

[SB320](#) aims to force college campuses to carry and dispense abortion pills. It has already passed the California senate. It's often important to watch what happens in California, since it often leads the way in laws that make abortion more accessible. Planned Parenthood has made it clear that it plans to push many bills in several states. They are trying to build

grassroots support. This year's elections could determine their success for a few years.

Washington (state)

The state of Washington is very likely to end their use of the death penalty. SF6052 has passed their senate and could pass their house any day now. Their governor put a moratorium on the use of the death penalty a few years ago, so as long as it passes the house, it should become law. Their session ends just a week into March, so this is coming up fast.

Nation

Taxpayers continue to fund Planned Parenthood, due to the inability of the Senate to take action on the matter.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Cedar Rapids, IA

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life has begun! It started on Wednesday, February 14th and runs through Sunday, March 25th. We're two weeks into the effort, and the weather is warming up.

The power of prayer is remarkable. If anyone doubts this, they should read the 40 Days for Life book. It's full of amazing stories that show the power of prayer. It's easy to lose hope, assuming there are no good results. But we know of lives saved in Cedar Rapids resulting from our 40 Days for Life efforts. Even Jesus only had on man come back after healing several. We see a tiny percentage of the good that results from our prayers.

If you have a story to share from your time out on the sidewalk, please email us and share your story. We could include it in our email updates or our newsletter.

We will pray and fast for an end to abortion as we have done so successfully in the past. We could always use more people participating so we can cover more hours, especially while they are open. But any time works.

Dubuque had people praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility that used to be there. They never missed a single hour that it was open. EVERY HOUR the Dubuque Planned Parenthood was open, SOMEONE was outside, praying, offering hope, being a witness for life. THAT is how we end abortion!

Abortion facilities don't close themselves. If everyone could recruit a few prayer partners so we could cover more hours, it would make a huge difference!

As usual, we will conclude the 40 Days for Life with a rally on Sunday, March 25th, starting at 5 pm. We update everyone with how things went. We make some announcements about pro-life activities. We get in some prayer. Then at 6 pm, we head to Godfather's Pizza to share a meal together. We provide the pizza and non-alcoholic drinks. We always accept a free-will donation, and we are grateful for everyone's generosity.

Come pray with us. Bring friends and family!



Upcoming Movies

I Lived on Parker Avenue

A 30-minute film short will become available on March 8th. The movie is called, I Lived on Parker Avenue. I had the privilege to preview it this past summer at the National Right to Life Convention. The official movie synopsis is as follows:

Adopted at birth and raised in Louisiana, David Scotton is on a journey to Indiana to meet the birth parents he's never known. His tattooed birth mother, Melissa, and reserved birth father, Brian, anxiously wait for him, concerned David will reject them for decisions they made before he was born. I Lived on Parker Avenue is a short documentary about a mother's agony in choosing what's best, the joy of a couple starting a family, and a young man's search for where his life began.

The story is very touching and it is very uplifting. We see the

good that can come from entrusting a child to adoptive parents who can provide what one might otherwise not be able to provide for the child.

You can watch it online starting March 8th. If you want a physical copy of the movie, their website will offer videos starting on the same day. The website is: <http://ilivedonparkerave.com>

Gosnell Movie

The producers of the Gosnell Movie are very close to making an announcement about its release. This movie is a feature length movie, which I also had the privilege to preview at the convention this summer.

The movie tells the story about how the drug enforcement agents were led to abortionist Kermit Gosnell and the horrors they found. It shows the terrible conditions of his abortion facility, where he became our nation's most prolific killer. He killed countless

children after birth in the privacy of his abortion practice. Women were severely injured and died. The state failed to hold Gosnell to minimum health standards. They didn't inspect his facility for a very long time.

I was amazed at how the film was able to convey someone who performed such terrible acts of evil in a way that made it known just how terrible it was, but without showing anything gruesome. In some ways, it reminded me of the way older films would have the camera turn away as something bad was about to happen. In the court room, we don't see the image of one of the many babies who had the spine severed after birth...we see the back of the image being held up for the jury. We instead see their reactions, which were their real reactions. They didn't bother with a second take for that scene.

We will inform you once this movie has a release date.

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!



Reaching More People

As 40 Days for Life began, a church in a nearby county contacted us. We were happy to see they wanted to do more pro-life activities. We want to reach more people with the pro-life message, and it helps to get more people involved.

We've seen some churches get involved and stay involved. Some work together with others to maximize their effect. And some just do their own thing. If you attend a church that doesn't have pro-life activities, consider offering to help with such activities. We can always offer ideas and we have some resources.

We thought a group was going to help some local churches get active pro-life groups, but they disbanded before achieving that.

Our organization has members who are part of such groups within their own churches. We also know of people in other cities and towns who have started pro-life groups. We used that network to make sure we were offering the best advice to the pastor who reached out to us.

People have said that if every church was actively working to promote the pro-life message and to oppose abortion, then abortion would either not be legal or it would at least not exist in the numbers we see today. Imagine what would be possible if every church was active in this movement!

If you know of a church that might be interested in pro-life activities, please tell us.

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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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