



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

March 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

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**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events**

Help Wanted

We still have a few things to do before summer. But the ending of 40 Days for Life for a while puts us on the time of the year that we start to get a chance to catch our breath after our busiest time of year. While we continue with a few of our springtime activities, we invite our members to consider ways they can apply their time and talents.

If you like to write, you could help write articles for the newsletter. If you like to do more with graphics or laying things out, you could help with posters, the layout of the newsletter, etc.

If you really want to make a difference in the pro-life movement, please start considering if you'd like to join our board. If you prefer to help with any particular activity, tell us what that is. I'm sure we can find a way for you to do great things. We may start some new activities. So your help would be very helpful.

Help us convert the culture to see the truth and beauty in life.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	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
Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	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
Sat, Apr 28 5:15 p.m.	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
Fri, May 11 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	An Evening with Bridgehaven Gala Come to the annual fundraising gala for Bridgehaven! Where: Cedar Rapids Marriott 1200 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: http://bridgehavencr.org/events/banquet
Sun, May 13	Mother's Day
Tue, May 22 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Cedar Valley Guiding Star Gala Come to the annual fundraising gala, featuring Abby Johnson! Where: Details coming soon.
Sun, Jun 17	Father's Day



Contrasts in Women's Health

The Planned Parenthood in the Quad Cities stopped providing services other than abortions last July. It closed at the end of 2017 after struggling for several years. When people grow accustomed to seeking reproductive healthcare, and then they lose the provider they previously went to, they typically seek others who provide the same type of services. They do this whether or not it offers them what is best for them.

Some of what Planned Parenthood does could be considered good. But those services have traditionally been paid for by taxpayer funds. Thus, any medical provider could have offered those

services. But Planned Parenthood was able to build up a base of clients that trusted them.

Their other non-abortion services have a tendency to create a demand for abortions. Birth control gets people to believe they can avoid having children. Then, when they are told they will have children, they go into panic mode and the children are considered "unwanted".

By not having the best pro-life medical care rush in to fill the void Planned Parenthood left, other providers see a need they will fill. Great River Health Systems plans to open a facility in Burlington.

It's great that they will not provide abortions. However, they plan to offer many of the other products and services the prior abortion giant provided. They even hired a couple of Planned Parenthood's prior staff. This could refuel the demand for abortion before people adjust their behaviors and health options to more permanently reduce abortion demand.

When I look to the Cedar Valley Guiding Star clinic, I see something very different. By offering good healthcare, they provide better healing, better reproductive health, and they do so in a way that avoids leading people to

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Government Update: Session Ending

Iowa

April 17th is the last day of the 2018 regular session for the Iowa Legislature.

Senate File 359 ([SF359](#)) passed the Iowa Senate last year. It was focused on prohibiting the sale of fetal body parts. After passing the Senate, the House amended the bill to add the heartbeat legislation to the bill. So the bill is now the best hope for pro-life legislation to pass. But time is very limited. It needs to pass through the Iowa House and then go back to the Senate to have the amended bill passed. The bill 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.

It does not look like the other bills will get through the legislature, since the others we mentioned this year have not passed out of the chamber in which they were introduced.

With only a few days left to the legislative session, now is the time to contact your lawmakers to get bills passed. If you don't know who your representatives are, follow this link:

[Find Your Iowa Legislator](#)
www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find

California

[SB320](#) remains in the California legislature. It aims to force college campuses to carry and dispense abortion pills. It has already passed the California senate.

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. Some of the legal challenges to laws passed that favor abortion are looking promising for us.

Nation

Taxpayers continue to fund Planned Parenthood. Congress had a good opportunity when the spending omnibus bill was up for a vote, but that opportunity has come and gone.

At least our US Senators and our representative in the US House have proven themselves as voting more pro-life than most others at the federal level.



40 Days for Life

We brought our Spring 40 Days for Life campaign to an end on March 25th. We had a great closing rally.

We changed the format a bit this time. Our final hour of prayer stayed more focused on prayer. The part when we speak and make various announcements was brought indoors. We heard from Mike and Sandy Alt. They provided a bit of local history.

After their talk, we had a few quick announcements, and then we had some pizza. We thought we ordered enough pizza, but it was clear we needed to order a few more. Those disappeared pretty quickly when they were served.

This is the time of year we get a chance to take a bit of

a break from 40 Days for Life, although we often try to gather in large numbers a few times throughout the summer. There are a few other pro-life events in the area this spring. We tend to do things on Mother's Day and Father's Day. There are some other organizations with fundraisers coming up.

After we take a little time to regroup, we would like to start recruiting more people than ever for this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign. We would also like to make the one we do in fall greater than ever in other ways.

But to do this, we need to build a team to help out. The more people we have, the easier it will be on everyone involved. We would love to have some people who are willing to make a

commitment to make this one great. We also know people who like to help out that don't have as much time. We welcome anyone who is willing to help. The summer gives us more time and flexibility for your schedule. Although we would like to have people who can keep helping beyond this fall, we want to allow others to experience the rewarding work we do that has saved lives.

If you can help just until fall, but you find yourself liking it, you're always welcome to help out some more.

Please take some time to discern if joining our team is a good way to apply your time and talent, and then contact us if you're willing to make a difference!



GUIDINGSTAR cedar valley

Together, Building a Culture of Life!

Women's Health (Continued)

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abortion in the future.

They offer the kind of health we've previously wrote about called NaProTechnology.

The results are far beyond what you find in most other medical facilities, since so many places offer the same approaches used by Planned Parenthood.

We need more medical professionals trained in NaProTechnology. Imagine treating most cases of infertility, while avoiding pregnancy in cases that require that. Imagine treating PMS, post-partum depression, and avoiding

75% of hysterectomies.

Beyond the better approaches to health, they also consider the needs of mothers by offering childcare during a patient's visit to Guiding Star.

They will have their fundraising gala in the Cedar Falls area in May. Abby Johnson will speak at the event.

In addition to supporting good and morally acceptable health options, it's clear that we need to do what we can to spread such options to new places. Imagine how different Burlington would be if they had something like Guiding Star.

The Knights of Columbus in Iowa City raise funds at an

annual Culture of Life Dinner to help pay for more people to learn to provide such healthcare. Several years ago, they granted some of the money they raised to Jamie, who runs the Guiding Star clinic. She in turn led Doctor Pranger to the NaProTechnology approaches to health.

This year's Culture of Life Dinner is on Saturday, April 28th in Iowa City. RSVP at the link on page 2. That will be a busy day for us. Some of us will go to the dinner as usual. But we will also have a speaker at this year's Catholic Men's Conference earlier that day at Xavier High School.

Related article:

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/family-planning-clinic-set-open-burlington-following-planned-parenthood-closures#stream/0>

Pro-Life Challenge



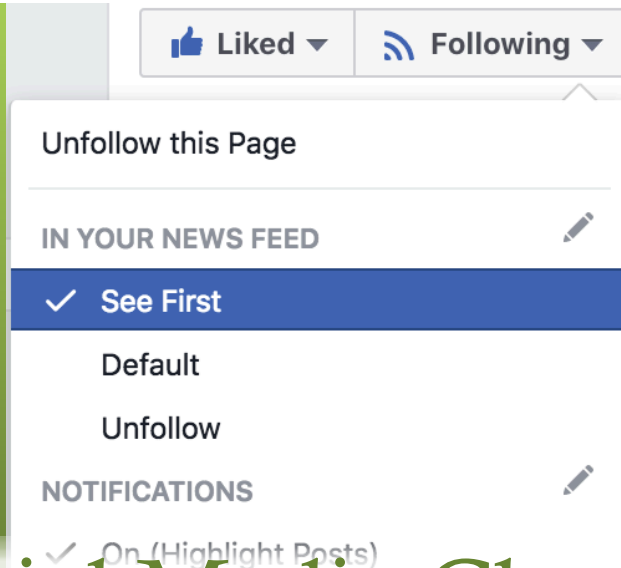
Help us out!

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!



Social Media Changes

Facebook has made some changes in the past year, with the most dramatic change occurring in the past two months. These changes have dramatically reduced the visibility of organizations like ours who use their website.

Non-profit organizations loved Facebook several years ago. You could reach lots of people easily and inexpensively. But more pages exist now, and they post lots of content. People follow lots of pages. As a result, it lost the personal touch.

It appeared that Facebook greatly reduced visibility of posts from pages like ours when they tried to get advertising funds. You had to pay to reach some of your own followers!

But in the January/February timeframe, they reduced visibility further. In some cases, posts might be seen by as few as 1 in 10 compared to a year ago! This means many of you might miss things we post.

What can you do? If you want to see the posts of organizations like ours, here's how you do it.

On a computer, access the group's page on Facebook. Click on the pull-down list on the button that says "Following" or "Follow". There is an option called "See First". Select it if it doesn't have a checkmark next to it.

This ensures that you won't miss our posts. You'll see each post at least once.

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Mary Cherion
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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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Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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