



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

January 2021

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

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Another Year

We have begun another year, and the challenges continue to arise.

As usual, January kicks off the year with Marches for Life. In the political realm, there will be drastic changes at the federal level that already appears to have the abortion industry starting to increase their hours of operation in anticipation of more money and relaxed regulations.

We saw some great turnout this year at the National Life Chain in Cedar Rapids. We hope to continue such strong showings of support for pro-life causes in the year ahead.

Technology giants have raised some serious concerns that should cause us to consider how we reach other people and how we use technology. Speaking of technology, we've refreshed our website. We plan to make it a little better in the future.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesdays

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Fri, Jan 22

Starts at 10 a.m.

Online Only

Iowa March for Life

Experience the Iowa March for Life from anywhere!

Where: Online, broadcast from the Iowa Capitol Rotunda

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/IowansForLife>

Sun, Jan 24

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Outdoors Only

Cedar Rapids March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January!

Where: St. Matthew's Church to Planned Parenthood and back

2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html

Fri, Jan 29

Starts at 10 a.m.

Online Only

National March for Life

Experience the National March for Life events online!

Where: Online

More info: <https://marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events/>

Feb 17 – Mar 28

1-hour time slots

24 hours/day

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/>



Marches for Life

Cedar Rapids

The Cedar Rapids March for Life will start on Sunday, January 24th at 2 PM. **This year's event will have no indoor component to it.**

We will gather in the main parking lot at St. Matthew Catholic Church located at 2310 1st Ave NE. Signs will be available at this location. We will begin walking to Planned Parenthood, which is located at 3425 1st Ave SE. We will have several people speak briefly at that location, including some short prayers. We will not have the longer prayers as a group this time.

After our time in front of Planned Parenthood, we will head back to where we started. As mentioned earlier, there is no indoor component to the event, so we will not have the reception afterward.

We have been in communication with the city regarding the route. There is a significant construction project along the route. There should be a path along 1st Avenue by the day of the event. But even if

that doesn't work out, we will have a route planned by the day of the event, even if it strays from 1st Avenue at times. Flexibility helped us get through the past year and will help us make this event a success.

As usual, dress for the weather. We will have this march regardless of the weather. People may join us at Planned Parenthood if they are unable to participate in walking each direction. Please remember to park on the street and not park in their parking lot.

We had great turnout for the National Life Chain and would love to see lots of people at this event, too.

Iowa ~ Des Moines

Iowans for Life (IFL) has scheduled an event in the Iowa Capitol building's rotunda on Friday, January 22nd starting at 10 AM. That's the 48th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade ruling. IFL will broadcast the event live on their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/IowansForLife>

National ~ Washington D.C.

The National March for Life will not occur in person this year. The primary reason is the virus situation, although some people have concerns about violence. People are asked to participate remotely on Friday, January 29th, starting at 10 AM Central Time. To attend virtually, get info at:

<https://marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events/>

Many people know about the March for Life, but they don't know about the Rose Dinner Gala. This gala occurs every year. Information about the gala is also available using the link above. This year's keynote speaker is Tim Tebow. Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus will be honored with the 2021 Pro-Life Legacy Award.

They also have a one-hour training session to learn how to make your voice heard by lawmakers one day earlier on Thursday, January 28th at 8 AM, 11 AM, and 4 PM CT.





Government Update

Presidential Election

Despite a hotly contested election, the last step in the presidential election process prior to the swearing in of the president has been completed. This means Biden will be the President and Harris will be the Vice President.

This pair is very pro-abortion. This will make the next few years a struggle for the pro-life movement and women alike. Biden has promised to reverse some abortion-related policies on day one, which will initiate the shift toward abortion-friendly laws.

U.S. Senate Election

The year ended without resolution on the balance of power in the U.S. Senate. Georgia had both a regular and a special election to fill both of their Senate seats. They had the opportunity to give either major party the majority, since the VP would break any tie vote, and the party affiliation of the VP was known at that time.

Despite the national election being anything but a landslide, since the Presidency went to a Democrat and the U.S. House picked up several Republican seats, Georgians gave Democrats the tie, and thus a majority in the U.S. Senate. This finalized the single-party control of the presidency, house, and senate.

The lack of checks and balanced within the executive and legislative branches is disturbing under the circumstances, especially with how divided the nation is right now. This leaves the courts to keep things in check.

Possible Outcomes

There are some Democrats that have been around long enough to recognize the value of the filibuster. This might prevent the elimination of it in some important cases. There isn't a free pass on everything, though. The Hyde Amendment has been an amendment to bills passed throughout the last several decades that people credit for saving millions of lives. It was first passed in 1976 and has kept federal funds

from paying for abortions ever since. We haven't seen the effects of nationwide funding of abortion since the very early years following Roe vs. Wade.

We could also see the national approval of abortion pills by mail and similar methods of increasing access and availability of abortion. This could be done through regulation or law.

We can't be certain of what will happen, but we will keep our eyes on what bills and regulations get proposed.

Argentina

Argentina lawmakers turned their country into the largest country in South America to legalize abortion. There has been growing pressure on lawmakers in recent years to make abortion legal. They have caved to that pressure at a time when so many people are restricted due to COVID-19. Pro-abortion people rallied in the streets to show their support.



Big Tech's One-Two Punch

For most of a year, people have been deprived of significant in-person interactions with people. This led people to depend heavily on technology to stay in touch. Social media and video services have reaped the rewards. But so many people use and depend on a few popular services.

People who point to 1st Amendment rights need to keep in mind that it doesn't apply to businesses.

Companies can establish terms of their own. They must abide by their own terms, though.

Many people have concerns about censorship. They have to balance that with safety concerns that arise from people who cause fatal harm, such as someone yelling "fire!" in a crowded space. In the past few years, there have been many people who have called for violence, including lethal forms of violence who failed to be held accountable for their words. More recently, words were spoken and tweeted that did not call for violence. Tech companies have chosen to interpret the words in the worst possible way.

This double standard reveals their bias and threatens freedoms of people who have views in opposition to these tech companies. That includes pro-life views. We've seen censorship and biased reporting against pro-lifers before.

When social media platforms like Twitter can simply delete and ban people or organizations on a whim, this makes them a bad service to depend on. Facebook and their services like Instagram could be viewed the same way. Amazon hosted Parler's social media platform, but halted their hosting service with very little notice. Parler is taking Amazon to court.

Social media platforms issued the first punch (other than the government's restrictions that took away so much public interaction). The second punch that appeared to be coordinated was when both Apple and Google removed Parler from their app stores. This implicated the main sources of mobile device operating systems.
Note: Not all brands depicted above the title were involved.

It's important to keep some things in balance. If pro-lifers disappear from the places where the most people are, our voice is lost, and people will only grow more disconnected from the pro-life message. But we shouldn't become dependent on untrustworthy social media companies that could drop us in less than a day. Paying them to advertise our message seems a bit unwise at this time. Some people don't even want to be on their services as much, knowing they have paid advertisers that benefit the social media companies the longer you view social media content, even if you don't click on the ads.

We need pro-lifers in all career fields and in places where people share thoughts and ideas. This one-two punch is very troubling. We seek peaceful ways to oppose the violence of abortion. We train our members in ways to do that when talking in person. But we will have to make sure we handle our online presence carefully.





40 DAYS FOR LIFE™
Cedar Rapids
40 Days for Life

We will begin our springtime 40 Days for Life on Wednesday, February 17th. It will occur until Sunday, March 28th.

During 40 Days for Life, we peacefully pray for an end to abortion outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. People sign up for 1-hour time slots. It's best for there to be at least two people per time slot. It's ideal to have about five people. It's nice to have larger groups at times. But it's even more important to have people present as much time as possible. It's when we each time different times that we can maintain a consistent presence outside of Planned Parenthood. It is when we can blanket that place in continuous prayer that we bring the most benefit to the situation.

We want to maximize the time slots we cover, especially during the hours Planned Parenthood is open. In order to coordinate hundreds of people, we have an online scheduling system. We cannot stress enough how much it helps to have people use this vigil calendar. Without people signing up online,

we don't know what hours get covered. It uses color coding to indicate what hours are completely open and which hours are covered. People can always show up and enter time later. But the more we can enter time in advance, the easier it is to plan this activity. It's better to have people sign up for a weekly time slot and not make it once than not know they are present at all. Please go to our 40 Days for Life page and sign up for vigil hours!

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

The Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood has recently increased their hours. They are now open from 9 AM to 5 PM each weekday except Tuesday, when they are open from 12 noon until 8 PM. They are still open on the second Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 3 PM. They had previously reduced their hours to a mere 24 hours per week for a typical week. This recent change puts them back at 40 hours per week, except for the weeks that contain the Saturday open hours. Those weeks turn into a 45-hour week.

It seems likely that the increase in hours anticipates the likely return of federal funding for abortion providers. Even though Iowa has a state-based program that avoids the federal Medicaid program, the affiliate that operates in Iowa spans several states. Therefore, Planned Parenthood can get plenty of funding in other states and shift donor money to operating in Iowa.

We had a few months when it was easier to try to cover each hour that they were open. We need each of you to invite others to join you in prayer. There will be significant challenges in the years ahead, and if we depend on a few people who coordinate the event to recruit each new participant, we will have far less ability to grow than if we have everyone engaged. We pray outside, so it should be easy for people to participate even if they have concerns about the virus. People can pray at a distance from others.

Join us in prayer, and help recruit others to pray for this noble cause!



Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites; a good start for UNI Students for Life

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Refreshed Website

Near the turn of the year, we made one of our larger transformations of our website. Pages have different addresses than they had before, but it's still on the same site as before.

The new format and the underlying parts of the site should make it easier to manage. We tried to make sure we had the most important content from what was there. But some information was summarized in a way that many people have said is easy to navigate and understand.

There are still a few issues that we'd like to solve, but the average viewer wouldn't notice some of those issues. It's still a work in progress.

We also aim to add some new content. A website can allow more depth into subjects that newsletters can't dig into very deeply. Newsletters tend to hit a range of topics, leaving only a page or two of space per topic. For instance, the ethics surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines could easily span many months to touch on each of the areas of concern. Some of the content so far might suggest all is well. But there

are still some concerns, and more needs to be done to convince the medical community that we need ethical solutions.

We're going to try to include a balance of education and ways to take action. We will continue to list our events. The page that lists the events is much more concise. It should make it easier for us to maintain and to you find what you're looking for, whether it's an upcoming event or the cycle of events that occur throughout the year.

The ways to take action are very limited at this time, but as we add more educational content, the pages to take action will also increase. We don't want people just learn what's wrong about things. We want people to know what can be done.

We're excited to roll this site out. The future content will make it even better with time. It's not clear how quickly content will get added, but we will point to some pages as they get added. You may want to explore the site a little. <https://lifeiowa.org>



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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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