



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2023

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

Donate Here

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

Life Chain & 40 Days

On Sunday, we will have our annual Life Chain along 1st Avenue. Join us in the parking lot of St. Matthew's Catholic Church to get signs, have a photo taken, and send off to our respective blocks.

The important part of Life Chain is to SPREAD OUT! Vehicles going 35 mph travel more than 50 feet per second. If signs are much closer than 50 feet to another, people would have to speed-read our signs. Also, we reach more people by spanning more blocks and miles, and it's very impressive when we can span miles. So, invite friends!

We also want 40 Days for Life to grow. It helps if everyone invites others to join in the activity. Planned Parenthood announce their intention to begin abortions again in Cedar Rapids. We need everyone we can get to pray on the sidewalk.

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sept 27 – Nov 5
1-hour time slots

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

Sun, Oct 1
2 – 3:30 p.m.

Cedar Rapids Life Chain

Take to the streets and spread the pro-life message!

Where: 1st Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA (specific blocks coming soon)

More info: <https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/>

Sat, Nov 4
Save the Date

Culture of Life Dinner (Solon)

Learn about real reproductive healthcare while raising funds!

Where: St. Mary's Church
1749 Racine Ave, Solon, IA

More info: <http://www.solonstmary.org/culture-of-life-events.html>

Sun, Nov 5
5 – 7 p.m.

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;

then Godfather's Pizza at 3647 1st Ave SE

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



The End of Life

I was able to attend some events this month. But I wasn't able to attend the event focused on end-of-life matters, coincidentally because I was helping to plan a funeral within my own family.

With that being so recent, I can't say for certain how well each aspect of pre-planning will play out in the end. Many details about the funeral itself had not been planned out, while many legal or financial matters had been planned and tweaked over the years. I expect much of that to make things go smoothly in the weeks or months to come.

The experience makes even more clear the importance of pre-planning and the value it can provide to others in helping to reduce the length of the list of things to do between the time of one's death and funeral. We will all die at some point. Planning helps

make things better for those who survive and would otherwise have to make plans. It can also help ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Some people pre-plan a funeral, but overlook legal documents like wills, trusts, etc. Some people focus on the legal documents, but leave funeral details up to people in those few days between death and burial.

Many things in this case were pre-planned, but not everything. Many people don't realize that funerals and the non-legal matters can be pre-planned at no cost by going to any funeral home and asking about pre-planning a funeral.

It's possible to pre-pay for various things, but I have seen that backfire for some people. Sometimes companies buy out the one that the agreements were with, and they

don't always fulfill the obligations of the liabilities of the companies they bought out. I've even heard of people who had to pay additional money for things they had fully paid for in advance. Perhaps they could sue, but people aren't in the mood for that when mourning.

However, some things may make sense to pay for in advance. Obviously, if one wants to be buried next to loved ones who have already died, one should acquire the needed plots.

Many people are uncomfortable talking about anything related to death, even though we know we will die someday. The things we do to plan ahead can make things easier on those who we leave behind. Getting it in writing where people can find it also helps. I know of someone who told each of their children parts of their plan, and too much was forgotten. 🕊️



Government Update

A long-time opponent of pro-life laws recently died. Senator Dianne Feinstein died on September 28, 2023 at the age of 90. She served in the United States Senate for 31 years on behalf of the people of California.

Dianne was often a strong voice to push for laws that would codify the unconstitutional Roe decision into law, and fought many times to make abortion more available. Sadly, tens of millions of American children died during her terms in the United States Senate, with her having no intention of stopping that, but rather to make it more common, so it can continue well into the future.

Last year, she posted the following to Twitter:

“I remember the days when abortion was illegal, when we would pass the hat at Stanford to collect money so a classmate could go to Mexico for an abortion. Overturning Roe would return us to those dark ages where women don’t have safe, open access to reproductive care.” - 9:46 AM · May 3, 2022

Although this is just part of what she did in her many years in the Senate, this forms a huge blemish on her service.

States

The Florida Supreme Court heard the arguments regarding their 15-week abortion law. Unlike many states with legal challenges, Florida is allowing the 15-week law to remain in effect while the court forms a ruling on the matter. What’s at stake for them is their heartbeat law. Because there was already a challenge to their 15-week law, the heartbeat law was contingent on the 15-week law being found constitutional.

If that fails, then the heartbeat law in Florida will not go into effect, and the current law would revert back to what they had before the 15-week law went into effect. But if the 15-week law is upheld, then the heartbeat law will go into effect about a month of the ruling. Like any such challenge, it will take months for their court to rule on this matter. But the ruling has major consequences.

Pray About Legal Challenges

There are several states with legal challenges that could make a big difference if judges/justices end up siding with protecting life. The laws were passed to protect life, and it would help if people prayed for good outcomes.

If the pro-life side prevails in the states of Arizona, Utah, and/or Wyoming, then those states will provide full protections throughout pregnancy. If the pro-life side prevails in the states of Iowa, Ohio, and/or Florida, then those states will provide protections from the moment a heartbeat is detectable.

The farther a woman must travel to get an abortion, the less likely she is to get an abortion. This seems intuitive, but is also backed up with statistics. Thus, the more states that add protections for life, the better the overall outcome will be.

There is still much to be done to protect human lives in our laws. We hope our states and nation will do what is right. 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



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

Çantana (pro-lifer); Rockford, IL abortion site; Central Minnesota's PP sites; UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges; for the Iowa heartbeat law to go into effect again

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!



PP Ends Fundraiser

Planned Parenthood has raised funds for over 60 years by selling books at their twice-per-year book sale in Des Moines, Iowa. They are about to have their final book sale. There will be no more book sales in future years.

The city is acquiring the facility previously used for book storage and the sale as part of eminent domain. Compensation for the property will be given.

Planned Parenthood assessed alternatives. The cost to relocate was not worth it. They realized they could take the funds and endow them. The endowment would spend only the interest. Endowments can do great things when the cause they fund is good. But endowments can provide funding forever for bad causes, too. This reminds me of the year when David Daleiden was revealing the evils of Planned Parenthood, and the affiliate in Minnesota stashed \$50 million into another non-profit organization they created. That one could forever fund their primary cause with millions of dollars per year, while keeping those funds isolated from lawsuits that might be

made against the affiliate. That affiliate has since merged with the one in Iowa.

It is good to see that a large fundraiser will cease. It should help diminish the interactions they have with the public. But funding an endowment is a concern. They know they can make more money and do so without lots of work. This will make things easier on Planned Parenthood.

But the sale was popular for so many people that this could really reduce their public support long-term. Lots of people won't go to a fundraising event where they pledge to donate money without getting something in return, the way most fundraising dinners operate. Lots of people like books, so the book sale connected people to Planned Parenthood using a sale of something they wanted. Planned Parenthood could gain name recognition and positive associations with an event that many people liked. That will go away, unless they come up with some other fundraiser. The ability make more money with less effort may leave them not looking for any replacement activity. 🍷

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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