



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

August 2024

Editor & Writer: Jim Burke

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

Donate Here

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

## Fall Activities Approaching

We are starting to ramp up for this fall's activities. There is still so much to do in the pro-life movement and so much prayer is needed to ensure things don't go the wrong way!

Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood remains closed, but they still want to reopen this fall. This is a time we need to remain prayerful and vigilant. As I've said before, it's easier to keep a place closed than to close an abortion provider.

We are excited to have a former abortionist coming to Cedar Rapids on October 8<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss the opportunity to listen to Dr. Haywood Robinson about the abortion issue!

Jean Biermann has served on our board of directors for several years. She recently resigned, so she can focus on some other good things. This creates an opening on our board. We have been looking for someone to fill this position, but also welcome hearing from people who may be interested. Even if someone fills the spot in short order, it still helps to know who else may be interested in the future. She will continue to help with some of our activities, but she will be missed from the board.

# Upcoming Events

**Second Tuesdays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** Contact us.

**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Sat, Sept 14**  
3 p.m. Start  
3:30 p.m. Program

## Equipping Youth: New Executive Director

Local organization, Equipping Youth introduces their new director!

**Where:** Maranatha Bible Church (Commons Building)

526 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** <https://www.equippingyouth.org>

**Sun, Sept 15**  
1 p.m. Start

## Day of Remembrance for the Unborn

Join a memorial service to commemorate millions of abortion victims!

**Where:** St. Ludmila Church (Outside)

221 21<sup>st</sup> Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** Contact us

**Tues, Sept 24**  
6:30 p.m. Start

## Movie: Gridshock

This documentary sheds the light of sex trafficking in Iowa

**Where:** St. Matthew Catholic Church, Kearn Hall (Lower Level)

2310 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** Call Billie Burhite at 319-241-7604

**Sep 25 – Nov 3**  
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 6**  
2 – 3:30 p.m.

## Cedar Rapids Life Chain

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

**Where:** Meet at St. Matthew's parking lot, then spread out

2310 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

**Tues, Oct 8**  
6:30 p.m. Start

## Dr. Haywood Robinson (40 Days Event)

Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!

**Where:** African American Museum of Iowa

55 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

**Sun, Nov 3**  
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

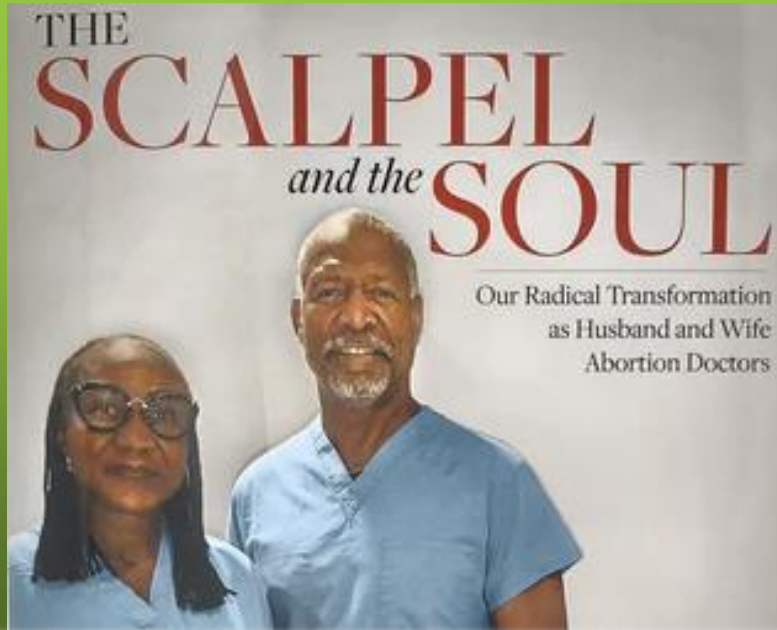
## 40 Days for Life Closing Rally

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>



## 40 Days & Life Chain

We are approaching the time of year when we have many events taking place. Our list of upcoming events fills a page. Some of the bigger events we organize are 40 Days for Life and Life Chain.

40 Days for Life will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on our online vigil calendar.

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

With the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood only temporarily closed, we want to increase our prayers in hopes that it can remain permanently closed. It would be a shame to have it so close to being closed for good, just to reopen. I assure you they have been trying, but failing. Please, invite friends and family to join you.

We like to bring in speakers when we can. Doctor Haywood Robinson

is a former abortionist who is on the national 40 Days for Life team. We will have him come speak in Cedar Rapids in October. The event will take place in the midst of the 40 days, rather than as a kick-off rally.

When you have a chance to hear from someone who has performed abortions, take the opportunity. They bring a perspective that we might otherwise miss out on. When one goes from doing abortions to pro-life activities, it really brings new perspective on the subject.

A few days before that event, we will have the Cedar Rapids Life Chain. While other activities tend to involve us gathering in one place, the life chain involves spreading out. There's nothing more impressive than seeing people holding life-affirming

messages on signs, with this spanning long distances. One block is not impressive, but miles are amazing.

It helps to spread out as much as reasonable. We stand on the sidewalk along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Much of this is in front of residential properties. No one wants people standing right in front of their home. So it helps if we stand at the corners of properties, halfway between homes. The gap between homes is a reasonable distance. It's worth it to avoid bothering people.

Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we have been making sure the police pass by on a regular basis. We want to make sure nothing bad happens. We tend not to have major issues, but this brings a greater level of safety for our participants. Please, join us! 🙏



## Government Update

### Iowa

The abortion industry dropped their lawsuit against Iowa's Heartbeat Law. The law was already allowed to go into effect after the Iowa Supreme Court overturned the injunction against it. That ruling included enough to make it clear they would lose if they spent time and money in appeals, and even more rulings could add to the legal opinions that generate precedent against their cause.

### Utah

Utah's Supreme Court ruled less than a week after last month's newsletter asked for prayers. They ruled the opposite as what happened in our state. Their case remains in the courts, but they cannot enforce their law while the case continues through appeals.

### Comparing Laws

Laws vary greatly between states. It's important to consider what goes on elsewhere to assess potential threats to life if those laws ever get pushed here or applied nationally.

In recent years, we've seen Minnesota change their laws to make abortion legal at all times, for any reason. They already didn't inspect abortion businesses the way they would if they were real health facilities. (Iowa is the same in this way.)

When they made abortion legal to this degree, they also made it legal to engage in what would normally be criminal neglect to the point of death. If a child survives an attempted abortion, such that the child is alive outside of the womb, and full U.S. Constitutional protections would apply, Minnesota law allows people to leave the child with no care to allow death to occur. Worse, they took away the need to report this action (or lack of action), so it won't be clear how common this becomes.

Minnesota came VERY close to passing a law to make assisted suicide legal, but one of their lawmakers was arrested at a time that kept her from being available when the vote would have been made.

Governments that try to pass such laws usually assure people there will be protections in place to prevent unlawful killing. But we've seen states like California enact assisted suicide, have issues, and also push to lessen those safeguards. Other governments with assisted suicide have had issues with cases of euthanasia, where someone actively takes the life of the victim.

Human trafficking has been a problem at the Southern border. It was getting under control a few years ago, when children were separated from people claiming to be their parents until such time as the relation was clear, since a large percentage of children were being trafficked. Those protections were thrown out a few years ago, leading to massive increases in human trafficking.

### Keep Praying

**Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states.** Pray for the closure of the businesses that kill for money. 🙏

## Pro-Life Challenge



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

- Rockford, IL abortion site;
- Minnesota's PP sites;
- Students for Life in Iowa;
- lawmakers & judges;
- religious leaders

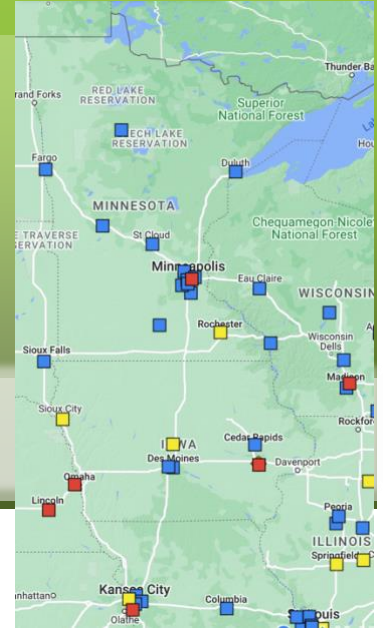
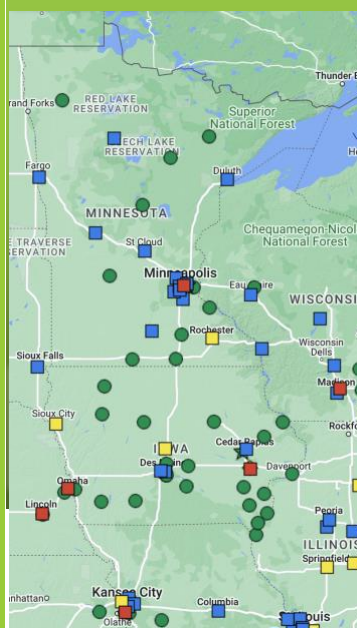
## VOLUNTEER



## 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!

# Pray for PP Sites



Some people struggle to keep praying when we have overturned Roe v. Wade and the local Planned Parenthood has been closed for nearly a year. I thought it was a good time to look back at the progress. Above this article are two maps. The one on the left has green dots that the one on the right lacks. The green dots show Planned Parenthood sites and abortion sites that have closed in the time since I moved here.

The one on the right shows what remains, although I didn't include stand-alone abortion sites that tend to exist in some of the same cities as PP sites. Prayer has played a major part in this. Even when we look at Minnesota, where they allow abortion for any reason at any time, PP sites have closed there, including one very recently and a few in very recent years.

South of Cedar Rapids, we see a large cluster of sites that closed in the past decade or so. Sites have closed, whether big or small. What remains

tends to exist in some of the larger cities along interstate highways.

The Cedar Rapids PP is still temporarily closed. Sources make it clear that they have been trying to get things ready to open, but have some of the same issues that were stated as the public excuses for why they closed a few sites last year. If they overcome those obstacles, they would bring abortion to Cedar Rapids. But if things continue to go badly, they could stay closed.

If their cameras and rare visits end up where they see we are still out there on the sidewalk, it could further make them realize it will be harder to get started up again than if we weren't there. Prayers have closed sites that seemed much harder to close than ours. Even in 2008, we were preparing to pray for 40 days regarding the old abortion site in town, but they unexpectedly closed before we started! Let's keep up the momentum! Keep Des Moines and Cedar Rapids abortion free! 🙏

**CFLI Board**

[one spot open]

Jim Burke (President)

Mary Cherion (Secretary)

Rick Delagardelle

Lisa Gignac (Vice President)

Sue Martinek

Brian Saunders

Melissa Schechinger (Treasurer)

Pat Semelroth



## 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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