



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2025

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We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

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

Changing Mood

Charlie Kirk was assassinated earlier this month. I initially thought I would share some thoughts in this newsletter, but I had so much to say that I will put what I've written and still plan to write in a special edition. Needless to say, this has been major news, and it has led to a shift in the mood of the nation and the world, especially in the pro-life movement, politics, and religion.

We have already kicked off this fall's 40 Days for Life and we have the Life Chain coming up on the first Sunday in October. Please consider praying for other sites and 40 Days campaigns while praying about the local Planned Parenthood site. Check out the link below if you want to pray for other sites.

https://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life_files/WebOfPrayer.pdf

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! When an organization shrinks, there's room for further collapse. We await the day a For Sale sign can go up, and really look forward to a Sold sign. But until then, we will pray outside the gutted building. Some recent news suggests a new business could move in without having to see for sale signs, but we will keep an eye on matters.

Upcoming Events

<p>First Mondays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays) Get involved in our organization! Where: Contact us. More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sept 24 – Nov 2 1-hour time slots</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: https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</p>
<p>Mon, Sep 29 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Remembering Charlie Kirk Join a candlelight vigil with people remembering Charlie Kirk Where: Maranatha Commons Parking Lot 521 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA</p>
<p>Wed, Oct 1 5:45 p.m. Start</p>	<p>Movie Showing: Unplanned It's been a while since this movie was shown, locally. Check it out! Where: St. Ludmila Community Center 211 21st Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://stludmila.org/</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 5 2 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>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 1st Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 2 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sat, Nov 22 Doors Open: 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Pulse Life Advocates Christmas Gala Hear from Students for Life founder Kristan Hawkins! (\$100) Where: Marriott Downtown Des Moines 700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309 Sign up Link: https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E343960&id=23</p>



Recent Pro-Life Activities

We kicked off our 40 Days for Life on the day we participated in the Day of Remembrance for the Unborn. This is an event we like to shift around from one place to another as the years go on. This year, Xavier High School hosted our event.

Sheryl from Johnson County Right to Life came and spoke. Iowa City has multiple abortion providers, and they are the closest sites that offer abortions. Please pray for these sites when you are on the sidewalk outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood.

Also consider joining them. They have their own 40 Days site, which you can join on the national 40 Days for Life website. Abortions used to occur on Thursdays. Now, they are doing them on Mondays and Thursdays. Demand has increased at the Iowa City sites, since there aren't as many providers in the area.

Sheryl told us about what happened a couple years ago. A man and wife went to the abortion facility. The woman was inside, and it was late in the day. The pro-lifers were able to talk to the man.

A rather odd thing happened. The abortion provider had run out of abortion pills, and since it was late in the day, they decided they would just mail them to her. The couple now had information from the pro-lifers, and they had some time before any pills might show up.

Oddly, the pills never arrived. The couple also changed their minds based on the information and encounter with the pro-lifers.

Sheryl wasn't onsite one week later, but the couple returned and wanted to talk to her. The other pro-lifers could pass along the message. The couple chose life. They already had a few children. Sheryl had a large photo of the children from that family, including the life that was saved that day.

In the Bible, we hear of the 10 people Jesus healed one day, and only one came back. It's common for people not to come back to thank or even inform those who played a major part in saving a life or doing other good that they had that positive effect. We have heard from a few people over the years that by having pro-lifers out on the sidewalk, a woman's child was saved, a grandmother's grandchild was saved, etc.

While the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood may be closed, we can still pray for other sites and make them effective from a distance. I've encountered the power of prayer from a distance, and I want to see us spread the power of our prayers to other places in need.

Iowa City is not only the location of the nearest abortion sites to Cedar Rapids, but the first abortion business to open after Roe v. Wade took effect was the Emma Goldman site in Iowa City. Roe is gone, but abortion remains in Iowa City. 🇺🇸



Government Update

National

The defunding of abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood (PP) has resumed. This is causing some more PP sites to close, and the Wisconsin affiliate will cease performing abortions on October 1, until they figure out what they will do to adapt to the laws.

That affiliate has 3 abortion sites, but many referral sites. Roughly half of their income comes from Medicaid, so it was clear they couldn't afford to lose that funding.

Before that announcement, the Wisconsin PP affiliate announced the closure of just one site. One in Aurora, Colorado closed, and of course Louisiana will be free of PP sites on October 1st.

The federal government will perform a formal abortion pill safety study. Recent studies have revealed the safety is not even close to the safety level claimed by the abortion pill makers.

Iowa

The Iowa Senate has a new Majority Leader. Although Republicans control the Senate, the Majority Leader is the only Republican serving in the Senate who voted against the Heartbeat Law. That is a bit troubling.

Iowa Senator Claire Celsi has entered into hospice care. She has voted in favor of abortion quite consistently. Unlike the people who cheered the assassination of Charlie Kirk, we do not celebrate the death of people who oppose our views as if it makes the world a better place. Please pray for her. We obviously disagree with her abortion stance, but we respect all human lives.

The 2026 election will determine who will fill the seats being vacated by our current governor and one of our U.S. Senators. Both of them said they would not seek another term. Both have many pro-life votes.

Texas

Texas prohibits abortion pills from being mailed into their state. The law allows people to sue those who ship the pills into the state, and they would get some of the money.

Active Abortion Cases

North Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah each have abortion addressing constitutionality. In each of those states, the cases could decide if life is protected from conception or not.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states. Pray for an end of the culture of death. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in governments in our nation and world. Even when pro-lifers are in positions to set public policy, it's possible that others will prevent them from achieving good things. We need to pray and to contact lawmakers to let our voices be heard. The abortion industry adapts. It's important to achieve results this year! 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



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

For people to prioritize the value of human life;
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!



Promote Life

We are in the midst of our 40 Days for Life activities. We continue to pray outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood (PP). Yes, it has been closed for roughly two years, but PP still owns the property. We need prayers to bring their presence to a conclusive end! We can also pray that any future business there is something good. We will continue to engage in prayer at that site as long as PP owns the property.

While we want to pray for them to leave Cedar Rapids, and we should, we should also pray for other sites while we are out there. I strongly recommend praying for the closures and end of abortion in Iowa City, at both the Planned Parenthood and Emma Goldman sites. I know I've said this more than once in this newsletter, and even a bit in a recent newsletter, but we still have a place to pray where it makes sense to pray, and there are greater needs than at our site. So please pray for other sites, while also allowing God to work on the local site.

On Sunday, October 5th, we will again participate in the Life Chain, where we hold signs with life-affirming messages. We line up along 1st Avenue, spreading out from the starting point of St. Matthew's parking lot.

This activity works best if people spread out. It's tempting to talk with friends, but if talking causes people to gather in large clumps, leaving most of a block empty, it breaks the chain. Feel free to talk with friends afterward. If you have children with you, obviously you may need to keep smaller children close to you.

Consider what it's like for the people who live along the route. Not everyone agrees with us. I've found that it works well to stand on the sidewalk at the point where two properties meet. This avoids standing in front of someone's front door, which is annoying if they disagree with us. It also spaces the signs far enough apart that people driving by are more likely to read most of them.

Please invite friends and family to join you in our activities! 🙏

CFLI Board

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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!

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com