



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

January 2026

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

Donate Here

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

A New Year

Please try to attend the Iowa City March for Life on Saturday, January 24th. If you have never engaged in a march where pro-abortion activists show up by the dozens, this could be eye-opening. I go into much more detail on page 7.

I've considered writing about a particular topic for quite a while, but didn't want to waste my time, if it wasn't focused on fighting threats from outside of the pro-life movement. A few things in the past month have led me to make this newsletter two pages longer to address the topic. If the All or Nothing article makes you want to learn more, then listen to The Kristan Hawkins Show podcast, episode 45, from January 9, 2026. I could refer people to more resources, if desired.

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. They are preparing the building for sale after being unused for the past few years. 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>Thurs, Jan 22 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Adoration for Life Join in prayer for a pro-life hour of Eucharistic Adoration Where: St. Pius X Catholic Church 4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fri, Jan 23 All Day</p>	<p>National March for Life People across the nation march for life in our nation's capital! Where: Washington D.C. More info: https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life</p>
<p>Sat, Jan 24 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Iowa City March for Life Pray outside the closest abortion site! This is a big deal! Where: St. Wenceslaus Church to Emma Goldman Clinic and back 630 E Davenport St, Iowa City, IA More: https://www.jcrtl.org/march-for-life-2026---iowa-city.html</p>
<p>Thurs, Jan 29 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Turning Point USA Pro-Life Event Hear about, "How Students Shape the Pro-Life Movement" Where: Memorial Union, Room 2630 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA More: https://pulseforlife.org/event/turning-point-event/</p>
<p>Thurs, Feb 5 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Iowa Prayer Rally for Life Hear state pro-life leaders & lawmakers, pray, learn, lobby, and rally! Where: Iowa Capitol Building 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA More: https://pulseforlife.org/event/prayer-rally-for-life-2/</p>
<p>Feb 18 – Mar 29 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>Sun, Mar 29 5 p.m. – 7 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>

PP Closures



Collapsing Upward

Planned Parenthood continues its gradual collapse, while they have generally managed to perform more abortions at the same time. It's like collapsing upward.

When the Dobbs ruling overturned Roe vs. Wade, that led to several states protecting lives by banning most abortions. Specific to Iowa, we have seen the Heartbeat Law take effect for over a year, which greatly limited what PP could do.

This past year, the federal government cut Medicaid funding for one year. Lawsuits intermittently allowed funding, until they lost each of their cases. This reduced the full effect of the funding cuts, but also created legal precedents against their claims. That should make it harder for them to do it in the future, unless they keep coming up with more types of legal challenges.

The combination of funding cuts, abortion bans, and PP's focus on using technology to reach clients without a local facility, they closed many sites.

When people see PP funding cuts and sites closing, it's much harder for them to hire personnel. Who wants to apply to work at a business that might close, soon? Few people apply. Some people who apply are highly motivated by PP's claims of helping women. However, when they start working, they see something different. They see a business that's not focused on health, isn't good and consistent with practices real healthcare providers follow, and poor treatment of employees. They end up with high turnover—many employees quit and need to be replaced in a short time period.

Temporary closures happen at times, but often become permanent, because their problems tend to get worse. When sites temporarily close, clients go elsewhere for healthcare. Employees find other jobs. PP ends up having to overcome more hiring challenges, and it's hard to get enough clients, again.

Planned Parenthood just announced temporary closures of three of the four sites they have in the western half of Pennsylvania. Imagine if these become permanent the way the Cedar Rapids PP went from temporary to permanent closure. Please pray.

More than 50 PP sites have closed in the past year or so. However, the abortion pill and technology has allowed them to perform more abortions than before, while cutting other services.

The Emma Goldman abortion site in Iowa City has grown stronger in recent years. They may spend a million dollars per year, but they bring in at least 30% more than their expenses. So, the Iowa City PP is likely weaker than Emma Goldman is at this point.

The US hasn't enforced the Comstock Act for a long time, but it prohibits sending abortion drugs through the mail. Even if we could get all abortions banned, those pills would still flow into Iowa. 🇺🇸

100% or 0%, where both yield 0%, And Things in the middle are non-zero



All and Nothing

There is a movement about which I haven't written, but I believe it's important to draw some attention to it. The movement has organizations with various names, but they each contain the term "Abolitionist" in their names. I first noticed them several years ago, when one of their organizations posted things on Facebook. I shared some of those from my own account, until I learned more about them. Before I go into details, I'll point out that because there are multiple organizations, and my observations occurred over several years, there could be differences between organizations or changes over time.

Early on, I saw another pro-life movement with posts I felt were worth sharing. But when I looked into what their leadership was saying at the time, I saw that they were primarily religious, with the abortion issue as a secondary matter. They would seek to convert people religiously, and then hope that pro-life views would result. They opposed my own religion,

along with what is held by a large percentage of the pro-life movement. This seemed divisive.

With time, I would hear from friends in other states who did effective sidewalk counseling that saved lots of lives that whenever abolitionists showed up, women rarely chose life. It would waste the time of the effective pro-lifers to remain at that site, so some of them who were near other sites may drive to other sites after realizing this.

A while back, I saw a video a friend created that explained how the abolitionists focus on making the government align to their interpretation of Christianity, which again doesn't match that of many Christians. It would be like having Christians who refuse to drink alcohol demanding prohibition. Most people wouldn't agree with that, as we have seen in our nation's own history. People reacted so quickly that they amended the constitution after prohibition to revoke it. Abortion ends up an issue because our laws don't align with

protecting life in the womb, and because it's a significant issue.

Abolitionists tend to approach laws as all or nothing. This was tried in Canada several decades ago, and they failed to get everything they demanded, and Canada considered the issue resolved, leaving no pro-life protections at all. We see the direction Canada has gone, getting worse over time. One can't even get the abortion issue debated in their parliament.

Abolitionists tend to divide the pro-life movement. We saw 40 Days for Life unite the pro-life movement, and we saw lots of success when we set aside other matters. But if pro-lifers support something that fails to protect 100% of lives, often referred to as the incremental approach, then they claim those pro-lifers have evil intentions. They will claim the pro-life leaders aren't really pro-life, or that they think some lives aren't worthy of protection, and they have even been caught lying after making claims that conflict with what pro-lifers they attacked actually said

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All and Nothing (continued)

earlier in a speech. They even claim that leaders of pro-life organizations don't want abortion outlawed, because then they wouldn't have a job, even though we can expect the other side to fight back for decades to come.

A few years ago, I noticed they liked to say that incrementalism never accomplished anything. At the time, the partial-birth abortion ban was the primary accomplishment, which just forced abortionists to use other methods to perform abortions. But things have changed drastically since then. We have states that ban abortions from conception. We have states like Iowa that ban abortion after the heartbeat is detected. There have been significant successes, while they have yet to have a single success.

Mature pro-life organizations look at the laws, legal precedent, constitutions, public support, and lawmaker support for life issues. There is lots of strategy involved. If you pass something the public considers too extreme, then you end up with courts overturning it, establishing legal precedent against life. The people could quickly shift the government to lawmakers who aren't pro-life at all, and they try to do like several states where pro-abortion lawmakers protect abortion in their constitutions. While some minor changes can swing like a pendulum between the political left and right, there is a whiplash effect

if people think something is extreme, and one can be locked out of meaningful protections for lives for many decades or even centuries.

In the past few years, we've seen pro-life bills in some states that had just enough support from pro-life lawmakers that they should have passed and protected several more lives. However, abolitionists managed to get the bills to include punishing the pregnant women who have abortions into the bills near the time of a critical vote. Most lawmakers don't support that, and it effectively kills the bill. The people who claimed they thought failing to protect every life suggested that pro-lifers thought some lives weren't valuable ended up failing to protect all of the lives those bills would have protected.

South Carolina should be able to pass a life at conception protection, but the main bill proposed at this time would also punish women. Such a bill has never had enough popular support to pass, which could delay progress in South Carolina.

The broader pro-life movement has generally learned from the abolition of slavery. Although our country fought a civil war over that matter, the British had William Wilberforce, who found an indirect way of starting the end of their slave trade. The pro-life movement wants abortion abolished, but like trying to rescue people caught in a fire, we save the lives we can save. We

don't assess the situation and give up if we can't save everyone in a burning building, just because someone might claim we didn't value the lives of those we couldn't save.

Although some women may fully understand what they are doing, many do not fully understand. It's often sufficient to punish the abortionist that is critical to making abortion available, rather than insisting that women are punished. Abolitionist bills usually seek a total ban on abortion, without exceptions, and not exempting the women seeking the abortion from legal penalty. Most of that sounds good. Yet, unless we reach a point when society reaches a point where everyone knows how wrong abortion is, most pro-lifers seek to help women in these situations, rather than punishing them. When sidewalk counselors seek to help abortion-minded women, it yields great success. It's not surprising when things turn for the worse when those seeking punishment arrive.

With all this said, there are valid points made by abolitionist organizations or their members. But the lack of strategy and a history of not just failure but harm to the pro-life movement led me to not share their posts, because I knew people might see that as a positive endorsement for such organizations. They claim to be Biblical, but have lied and have fruits of division. 🕊



Government Update

National

The federal government drags their feet on pro-life matters after good things early this year. The FDA fails to act on the abortion pill, despite serious concerns. The abortion pill continues to be illegally shipped through the mail. In January, a reconciliation bill will draw attention, providing another chance to defund abortion providers for up to 10 years, if all goes well.

North Dakota

North Dakota's attorney general is going after a company for distributing abortion pills, in violation of state law. States have generally not gotten involved like this. A recent ruling allowed ND's abortion bans to be enforced. This allowed enforcement of any cause of abortion, including pills.

Virginia

Virginia's state government swung in a direction in the last election that is leading to swift action to try to provide abortion rights in their constitution, among a variety of other things that deeply divide the

nation. Once pro-abortion lawmakers have a majority, especially when they have a trifecta (governor, house, and senate), they act swiftly to pass the most extreme constitutional amendments at the most foundational level of government—the constitution. When states gain such pro-abortion majorities, it's a predictable outcome, since it's harder to change the constitution than mere laws. If they can amend the constitution, it tends to lock in abortion protections for decades, if not centuries.

Wyoming

The Wyoming Supreme Court ruled in favor of abortion, striking down pro-life laws. Only one justice ruled in favor of protecting life, while the others treated abortion as if it was healthcare.

The people passed the Health Care Freedom Amendment in 2012 to allow people to make decisions about their health, in response to concerns about the Affordable Care Act. Wording of amendments and laws can be tricky, and judges can apply them in ways we don't intend.

Iowa

The Iowa legislature has convened again. We hope to see bills to ban abortion pills and protect life from conception. 2026 is an election year when we will elect a new governor and U.S. senator. State and national happenings could swing votes. We encourage people to become active in the political process. Caucuses are on Monday, February 2nd.

Utah (Active Abortion Case)

Utah has an abortion case addressing constitutionality. In this case, it 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. Pro-life lawmakers help, but don't always 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; success for other pro-life groups

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!

March for Life



Iowa City has an annual March for Life. I **STRONGLY** encourage everyone to participate in their march. They march to the nearest abortion facility relative to where we are in Cedar Rapids.

We grew used to Planned Parenthood (PP) in Cedar Rapids, where some people might shout out their windows as they drive by. On occasion, people might get out and interact with us. But this event is different. Pro-lifers usually end up across the street from the Emma Goldman abortion site, while pro-abortion activists show up in significant numbers, too, on the other side of the street in front of Emma Goldman's facility.

I really think more pro-lifers need to see the stark contrast between the pro-life and pro-abortion sides of the street whenever they do a March for Life. It is **NOTHING** like the marches we've organized. The first abortion site to begin after Roe vs. Wade was in Iowa City. It's in the heart of where abortion has thrived since Roe vs. Wade.

Not only does it help for more pro-lifers to see how the pro-abortion activists behave (not very appropriate for children), but it helps to have more people praying and to show up in large numbers. Imagine if we couldn't fit on the block! That would be amazing!

If you can't make it, please pray during that time for those who are participating. It really helps to be protected in prayer.

If you can make it, please behave yourselves as you have at our events. It might seem a bit harder when you see how the others act. But we remain peaceful and prayerful. People live on that block on the side we end up on, and I recall times when they would come out and need to walk on the sidewalk. We need to allow them to pass through, and it's respectful, too.

If you can't get there, but want to participate, perhaps you can invite others who can take you and possibly others. Carpooling can really help.

Let us join in solidarity with Johnson County Right to Life this year! 🙏

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- 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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