



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

February 2026

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

Donate Here

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

Keep It Up!

Planned Parenthood sites continue to close, although the rate of closure is slowing. Florida has the latest closure. Many more could close if the federal government extends their funding cuts regarding abortion providers. If that is not extended, then July 4 could bring about the return to their funding, and some sites may reopen.

Several pro-lifers gathered for the Adoration for Life in January. Many also prayed in Iowa City's March for Life.

We began our 40 Days for Life on Ash Wednesday. Please join us on the sidewalk this Spring! We don't want Planned Parenthood to reopen, and they still own their property in town. It may seem odd to pray outside of a closed business, but it's also easier. One of the most common mistakes pro-lifers make is to think we achieved success and quit doing what has worked before the full victory is achieved.

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! 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've prepared the building for sale after being unused for the past few years, but haven't put it up for sale, yet. We will keep an eye on developments.

Upcoming Events



First Mondays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Feb 18 – Mar 29
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: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sun, Mar 29
5 p.m. – 7 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 for Life

We've kicked off our Spring 40 Days for Life campaign. We heard from Steph Gilbertson. She has joined us on the sidewalk for many years at this point. She stands out in part because she comes with a guitar when she is out on the sidewalk.

Steph told us about Andrea (Andi), who she brings out with her on the sidewalk. Andi was born shortly following the Roe v. Wade ruling in the 1970s. The way the culture approaches children with disabilities, long-term conditions, and anything that deviates from being just like everyone else in nearly every way has changed over the years.

A growing number of countries use abortion to wipe out the children who would otherwise teach their parents to love and care for others. Parents of children with special needs may go through more struggles, but they also learn to love more deeply.

She mentioned someone who offered to provide Andi rides on a

pony. That offer was redeemed many times over many years. The concept of connecting people with animals caught on and grew into what is now known as Miracles in Motion. That organization even helps veterans with post-traumatic stress.

Steph pointed out how the opposition to pro-lifers really grew over the years. Soon after Roe v. Wade, most people were still pro-life, and didn't angrily shout or make crude gestures at pro-lifers. That has clearly changed.

She noted that when Andi is with her, people don't act as badly as they do, otherwise. People still have a sense of what is right and wrong. When they see someone in a wheelchair, they behave themselves much more. Granted, last year, someone pulled up at our closing rally and said bad things to a fellow pro-lifer who was clearly blind (he was holding his white cane).

Steph plays the guitar, although she knows the people going by won't hear more than a few notes, if even

that much is heard. But it does lead to more people interacting with her. She has many conversations with people walking by on the sidewalk. Sometimes, it just takes an instrument or a prop, or something that makes one different than nearly everyone else they see on the sidewalk to break them from their normal routine and choose to connect with one of us.

The kick-off went really well. The room was perfectly sized and had everything we needed. Vanessa was even able to demonstrate how people can sign up for vigil time slots online, since there was a TV of decent size available to show the step-by-step demonstration using an attached laptop. Thank you to the Lutheran office for the use of the space.

Please remember to get out on the sidewalk this Spring. It's an easy way to get some time outside while the weather gets warmer. It also allows us to continue our prayerful presence until that site is gone for good. And remember, it can help to be different than everyone else! 🍷



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 should have drawn attention, providing another chance to defund abortion providers for up to 10 years, but a partial shutdown occurred. No action was taken regarding abortion funding.

Illinois

Illinois passed a bill to legalize assisted suicide. Their governor signed it into law. Aside from protecting life in its earliest stages, assisted suicide is a serious threat to the dignity of human life in later stages. Many states have denied the dignity of human life by allowing the destruction of human life through assisted suicide. Now, Iowans will have a neighboring state that allows this. Although we want to bring an end to abortion, we also want to protect all human lives, recognizing this growing threat.

Iowa

The Iowa legislature scheduled a subcommittee meeting to discuss the life at conception bill, but then it was cancelled the day before the meeting. The reasoning that was provided was that they wouldn't have the votes in the combination of the House and Senate, even though it would pass the subcommittee. It was considered unwise to pass it partway, just to have it fail. They also pointed out the priority is to address abortion pills. They think that could be accomplished in this session. That just put a greater expectation on an abortion pill bill, since they would fail to make any progress if such a bill also fails to pass this year.

This is an election year when we will elect a new governor and U.S. senator. State and national races can swing votes. We encourage people to become active in the political process. It also draws extra attention on bills as each stage is passed, whether passing a subcommittee, committee, a chamber, and the governor signing a bill into law.

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.

California

California passed a bill to give Planned Parenthood \$90 million with no strings attached. They could just deposit the funds and do nothing to provide healthcare (or even abortions) and they would still get to keep all of those funds. It's a government handout to strengthen a very political organization.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout all stages in all states. Pray for an end of the culture of death and for the protection of life to prevail in governments everywhere. Pro-life lawmakers help, but don't always result in achieving good things. We need to pray and to contact lawmakers to let our voices be heard. 🙏

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 had a wonderful March for Life. I was happy to see some pro-lifers from Cedar Rapids at the event. It was a very cold day, but not as bad as weather predictions expected.

We gathered at a church, marched to the Emma Goldman abortion site. We prayed. With the bad weather, only three pro-abortion counter-protesters stood in front of the abortion provider, when they would usually have a couple dozen people. If you chose to pray at home or wherever you were at that time, perhaps you helped create such an imbalance. One of them even held about three signs at one time, seemingly in desperation to make up for the lack of turnout on their side of the road.

As usual, pro-lifers made sure to have a police presence. A police car was actually parked on our side of the block to ensure safety. The counter-protesters shouted out that we should check our tires. They made such statements enough times that we would have had reason to have them detained while we checked our tires, a few blocks away. But our tires were

fine. They were making idle threats. But they also foolishly took on liability. We've seen the news reporting all sorts of protests in our country that are done horribly. We involve police. We have events like 40 Days for Life that require participants to sign a Statement of Peace that pledges lawful behavior. We don't threaten people. I wish more protesters for other issues would approach their protests the way pro-lifers handle our events.

The reception afterward was done very well. Some of our event organizers even took note of some things we could improve at our events.

I hope we see even more pro-lifers join them next January! It's a great event, and it's important to combat evil where it happens. It's also good to see people on the other side.

Thanks for joining in solidarity with Johnson County Right to Life this year! We need to stand united with our neighboring pro-life organizations, especially where abortions still occur! 🙏

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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