



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

June 2026

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/>

Ready to Grow

Pro-lifers around Iowa have been attending various pro-life events, including the March for Life in Des Moines and various county fairs. Many people on the other side of the issues were very vocal around the 4-year anniversary of the Dobbs ruling that brought an end of the Roe and Casey era of legal interpretations of law as it relates to abortion.

We have a budget for the fiscal year ahead. We have goals, too. Goals include trying to get a Safe Haven Baby Box in the area, having an event with a national speaker or panel of speakers, getting people trained with good pro-life apologetics, and expanding the number of churches who promote our events and have members regularly participating in our events.

**KEEP PRAYING!
DO NOT STOP!**

We want PP to sell their Cedar Rapids site. But until then, we pray outside their gutted building.



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

Jul 16 - 18
3-Day Event

Life Advocate Intensive (DCRTL)

Students and young adults can learn to defend life in public areas.

Where: (See article later in this newsletter)

Grand Rapids, MI

More info: <https://dcrtl.org>

Fri, Jun 17
Open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Family Leadership Summit (15th Annual)

Hear major pro-life and pro-family speakers at this annual event!

Where: Iowa Events Center

730 3rd St, Des Moines, IA 50309

Register/info: <https://thefamilyleader.com/the-family-leadership-summit/>

15th Annual
FAMILY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
The Midwest's Largest Gathering of Christians
Seeking Cultural Transformation

PASTOR LUCAS MILES
TPUSA Faith

SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON
U.S. House of Representatives

DAVID BARTON
WallBuilders

FRIDAY • 17 JULY • 2026
IOWA EVENTS CENTER | DOORS OPEN 8:00 AM | DES MOINES, IOWA

STEVE DEACE
The Steve Deace Show

DR. BILL LILE
Pro Life Doc

BOB VANDER PLAATS
The FAMILY Leader

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS
State of Iowa

CHRIS RUDDY
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AMERICA 250
DON'T MISS THE BIG REVEAL!
Attend the Summit this year and experience a tribute to America's 250th anniversary with the unveiling of an incredible blown-glass American Flag made by Iowa artist Logan Ryser.

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THE FAMILY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT '26



Life Worth Living

The KMMK 88.7 FM fundraising dinner had pro-life speaker Camille Pauley as their keynote speaker. She is a co-founder and president of Healing the Culture. Something she said during her talk reminded me of another aspect of promoting a culture of life. It's one thing for people to argue about what is true and find the pro-life stance to be true and good. But many people don't enjoy life, nowadays. If people don't find life worth living, we can still have challenges.

We focus on the right to life—protecting lives from direct threats, such as abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, infanticide, etc. Yet, depression is a serious issue in our nation. Surveys suggest about 29% of American adults have been diagnosed with depression at some point in their life, with 17.8% having it at any given time. That's more than 1-in-6 people at any time, and nearly 1-in-3 people being personally affected.

Imagine trying to convince someone that the pro-life position on abortion and assisted suicide is true, good, and best, but that person might be suicidal themselves. They may not

see value in their own life and/or may see the world negatively enough to make life not seem worth living.

We've recently seen the internet light up with a couple who aborted their child because of a diagnosis for Down Syndrome. They justified it by pointing out that they had learned all sorts of things that I would think most people would already know. Yes, there are challenges. Yet, the more we do to help others, the more we learn about love, and children with Down Syndrome are often considered the happiest people on earth.

Many people have been conditioned to think of children as a burden, rather than a blessing. Again, there is effort in raising a child. One has continual responsibilities, may lose sleep on random nights, and any number of other things. But the people who ask about regrets when one is near the end of their life have much perspective to add to this. One of the most common regrets is not having children. Another is not having more children.

What people learn from experience is the opposite of what advertisers

and the media push so much in their child-bearing years. Many people also listen to politicians and other people who try to draw distinctions between themselves and an opponent. They may listen to people wanting to see change in the world, who may or may not offer solutions. But what they all tend to do is complain and criticize in very public ways.

Although it is good to want things to be better, we should be careful about how we achieve such results. Too many people worry about things they cannot change. Most things we can affect work best if we make little changes, gradually.

For things where other people make the decisions, such as a woman choosing abortion or life work best one on one. It works best when one respects the other person. Unless you are a lawmaker, the same is true about laws. We can respectfully ask lawmakers to pass pro-life laws. If they oppose such laws, we may want to pick a particular aspect of the issue to address for each time one contacts them.

While we protect life, we consider how to make life worth living! ☺



Government Update

National

Federal funding ban of abortion providers including Planned Parenthood will resume on the 4th of July, and the U.S. Senate is taking a break until several days afterward. So, Planned Parenthood will start getting funding in a matter of days.

The lawsuit involving Louisiana regarding shipping the abortion pill through the mail now has a September hearing in the fifth circuit courts. With Iowa having a similar law about to go into effect, this case is one we will want to watch.

There are serious concerns about whether a pro-life majority can remain in the U.S. House and/or Senate. This election is critical!

There are still many federal candidates pushing the pro-abortion rhetoric. Many of them push for abortion at any stage for any reason with no safeguards. Politics tends to polarize this issue, despite most people being somewhere in the middle. Four years ago, the Dobbs ruling energized the abortion movement, but that's fading.

Iowa

On July 1, Iowa's new law will prohibit the distribution of abortion pills, unless the prescriber has met with the client in person. People question whether this will change anything, since it could be challenging to enforce, but it's at least an attempt to address the issues with shipping abortion pills to clients without having a doctor involved.

This 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. Some pro-life organizations are paying \$20/hour when you get involved with helping the pro-life movement in a political way.

Delaware

Delaware had a law forcing pregnancy resource centers to post disclaimers that weren't necessary true, and it was burdensome, and limited their ability to advertise. A settlement led to a termination of this unconstitutional act.

California

The state of California is in court claiming pro-life claims about Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) being safe and effective are false and misleading.

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. Until the case works through the courts, abortion is allowed up to 18 weeks (most abortions are legal). This case could go on for several more months.

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!



PP Update

A few years ago, Planned Parenthood (PP) permanently closed multiple facilities in Iowa. For sites like Cedar Falls where they leased a property, they had no reason to continue such a lease. But they still own several of the properties they closed, including Sioux City, which they previously permanently closed for a few years before reopening, since they still had the facility, before again closing it a few years ago. This is why we prefer to see PP end their ownership of properties. My sources indicate their former property in Council Bluffs recently sold to a humane society. This gives them some cash, but denies them a property to start up again in the future. We hope this allows them to repeat the process for unused properties in Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, and Ames.

The federal funding for PP and other abortion providers is set to expire on the 4th of July. It appears the funding will resume on that date, until (rather than unless) lawmakers pass a similar funding ban. This could make PP less likely to abort their otherwise unviable sites.

A few months ago, the affiliate covering all of Louisiana and part of Texas merged with an affiliate in Texas, and proceeded to close down both of the Louisiana sites. After those closures, PP no longer had any facilities in the state of Louisiana. It also left the entire state unaffiliated. Anyone could have stepped up to create an affiliate in that state. Unfortunately, PP of the Great Plains, based in the Kansas City area very recently announced their expansion into Louisiana, where they will provide tele-med services yet this summer, and open a site for in-person services in New Orleans.

The PP affiliates west of the Mississippi River in the Midwest are now shaping up to be one in the northern plains, then in the southern plains, two affiliates in Texas, and one in Missouri in the Saint Louis area and a few others not part of the Great Plains affiliate. I sometimes wonder how long the Great River (Saint Louis) affiliate will survive without merging with the Great Plains affiliate. 🍷

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- 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!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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