

Johnson County Right to Life

Engage Educate Embrace



Summer 2021

345 E. College St. Iowa City, IA 52240 www.JCRTL.org

A Note from Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director



The onslaught of anti-life and anti-family policies coming from the Biden administration can leave pro-life advocates feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. It can appear as if the forces of evil are gaining strength and winning the day. What is our response? **Well, after turning off the news and lifting up our hearts in prayer, we can be joyful in knowing that by God's grace, life is winning in America!**

Despite the extreme abortion agenda of the Biden administration and Congress, the pro-life movement has made historic legislative gains so far this year. Since January, 536 pro-life bills have been introduced with 83 passed across 16 states, including 10 bans. And while unelected, activist judges often succeed in overturning these laws, great strides are being made at the grassroots level. **An excellent example of this is the Protect Life Amendment in Iowa which you can read more about in the "Breaking News" section of our newsletter.**

The abortion industry is taking notice and sounding the alarm. The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research group and former research arm of Planned Parenthood, reported, "the number of abortion restrictions—and specifically bans on abortion designed to directly challenge *Roe v. Wade* and the U.S. constitutional right to abortion—that have swiftly been enacted over the past four months is unprecedented. If this trend continues, 2021 will end up as the most damaging anti-abortion state legislative session in a decade - and perhaps ever."

Your prayers and sacrifices for life are making an impact! While the spiritual battle rages around us, we are thankful that the light of Christ shines brightly in our supporters who pray and give of their time and treasure to assist us in our mission to restore a culture of life in our community.

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jn 1:4-5

On behalf of all of us at Johnson County Right to Life, thank you for supporting our mission to make abortion illegal in law and unthinkable in hearts.

Pro-Life Educational Booth at the Johnson County Fair July 25-28

Volunteers Needed!

Share the pro-life message and advocate for LIFE at the Johnson County Fair July 25-28.

Our popular booth provides an opportunity to educate members of our community on the sanctity of life, engage them in dialogue, and invite them to become Advocates for Life.

Volunteers assist adults and children experience our interactive displays:

- listen to heartbeat of 7-week baby in the womb
- view ultrasound of 13-week baby in the womb
- view video of human development in the womb

We will be handing out 12-week fetal models, educational pencils, magnets, stickers, brochures, newsletters, and more!

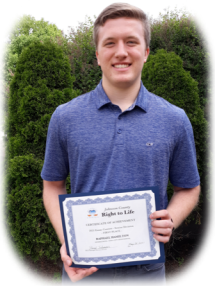
We are looking for volunteers who are interested in covering a 2-hour shift at our booth during the fair.

Sign-up to volunteer at www.JCRTL.org



Congratulations to the 2021 Pro-Life Essay Contest Winners!

Senior Division: Grades 9-12



- First Place -
Raphael Hamilton



- Second Place -
Cailyn Bentler



- Third Place (tie) -
Madeline Santos



- Third Place (tie) -
Madelyn Hellwig

Junior Division: Grades 6-8



- First Place -
Michael Bentler



- Second Place -
Madelyn Alexander



- Third Place -
Andrew Brown

Read the
winning essays
at
www.JCRTL.org

The 2022
Pro-Life Essay
Contest will be
announced
soon!

Mark Your Calendar!



Help save lives by praying for an
end to abortion in our community
September 22 - October 31.



Prayer and Fasting: Join together with
other believers for 40 days of prayer and
fasting to end abortion.



Community Outreach: Bring a positive
pro-life message to every corner of our
state through media efforts, advocacy,
and public visibility.



Peaceful Vigil: Stand for life during a
40-day peaceful public witness in the
public right-of-way outside the Emma
Goldman facility- Iowa City.

Learn more at
www.JCRTL.org

Cycle Show - Sunday, August 1st, 7:00 - 8:30pm (parent presentation) / Monday, August 2nd 9:00am - 2:00pm



GUIDING STAR
Cycle Show

Guiding Star Project presents

CYCLE SHOW

Supporting parents and their daughters; to navigate and
understand the gift of puberty and fertility

"I CAN ONLY PROTECT WHAT I VALUE AND RESPECT"

PARENT PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021 • 7 PM

CYCLE SHOW WORKSHOP FOR GIRLS 9-13 YEARS OLD

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 • 9 AM TO 2 PM

Sponsored by: St. Mary Culture of Life

Location: St Mary's Church of Solon, IA

Register at www.guidingstarproject.com/cycle-show or scan here

SCAN ME



St. Mary Culture of Life is hosting **Cycle Show**: an educational, interactive, multi-media, fertility awareness workshop for young girls, ages 9-13 years. It is a desirable addition to the standard sex education given in schools; its aim is to equip young girls with knowledge of what is going on inside their bodies in relation to puberty. **This knowledge then supports and prepares them in a positive way for the wonderful changes they will experience within their bodies over the coming years.**

Today it is more important than ever for young girls to have high self-esteem regarding their bodies, not just when they are in the middle of puberty, but before the onset. The beginning of sexual maturation is the ideal time for girls to learn about and appreciate all the amazing changes that are taking place within their bodies. **Participation in the Cycle Show gives girls a healthy respect for their bodies and helps to protect them as they move into their teenage years.**

There is a Parent Presentation the evening before which helps parents address their daughters' concerns by learning new vocabulary and context they can easily use at home. **Talking about this topic won't be that difficult anymore!** More information and registration available at: www.guidingstarproject.com/cycle-show

Cost: \$50 (St. Mary Church does not want cost to be an impediment to anyone who wishes to attend the Cycle Show presentation. Scholarships are available. To find out more, please email colsolonstmary@gmail.com).



Online Baby Shower Registry for Maddy

Help us support Maddy as she anxiously awaits the arrival of her precious baby, Harvey!

We are sharing Maddy's story and Amazon baby shower registry with our generous supporters to encourage you to help Maddy and Harvey experience the love and support of our pro-life community.

You can read more and access Maddy's baby registry at www.JCRTL.org

"Though my emotions were running high when first discovering the news, I am now so very grateful for the blessing of this baby in my life." Maddy



The Protect Life Amendment to the Iowa Constitution was passed by both chambers of the Iowa Legislature. However, it must pass the next General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature (in 2023 or 2024) and then be ratified by a vote of the people of Iowa. In 2018, the Iowa Supreme Court declared a fundamental right to abortion in the state Constitution. The Protect Life Amendment is needed to clarify that our state Constitution does not contain a fundamental "right to an abortion." New polling of Iowa voters on the Protect Life

Amendment proposal revealed support and opposition are in a virtual tie - 45 to 47 percent. When respondents had the opportunity to hear arguments in favor of the amendment, a significant number moved to support, resulting in a net 50-40 percent of voters favoring passage of the amendment.

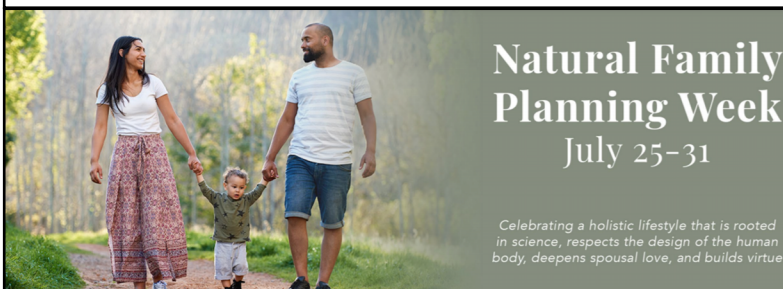
An Iowa district court has stopped the "24-hour waiting period" abortion law passed last year from going into effect. This law required abortion facilities to give women time to reflect and consider information about their unborn babies before going through with an abortion. The governor plans to appeal to the state Supreme Court. This decision is an example of why the Protect Life Amendment is needed.

The U.S. House of Representatives rejected an opportunity to vote on the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" (H.R. 18) by a vote of 209 to 218. H.R. 18 would have applied the Hyde Amendment government-wide and permanently prohibited taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage. The Hyde Amendment has saved at least 2.4 million lives by preventing taxpayer-funded abortion. Up until 2019, Pres. Biden supported the Hyde Amendment. It was shortly after he announced his bid for the presidency that he denounced the longstanding, bipartisan amendment. Please contact members of Congress in support of retaining the Hyde Amendment and similar policies that prevent taxpayer dollars from being spent on elective abortions.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments in a major abortion case that is the most significant challenge in decades to the "right to abortion" created by the Supreme Court in its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. The case concerns Mississippi's appeal in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a law that bans abortions after 15 weeks except "in a medical emergency or in case of a severe fetal abnormality." Under existing Supreme Court precedent, states may not ban abortions that occur prior to fetal viability, generally around 22 weeks or later. Mississippi's law highlights a conflict between the Supreme Court's viability standard in *Roe v. Wade* and the court's repeated affirmation in subsequent cases that states have a legitimate interest in protecting vulnerable life in the womb. The court will hear the case in the fall and a decision is likely to be announced by June of 2022.

The Iowa Supreme Court upheld a 2019 law that excludes abortion providers in Iowa from receiving federal sex education funds.

The FDA loosened restrictions on the chemical abortion pills that studies have shown to carry significant risks for women. Providers will be permitted to administer the drugs through telemedicine, as well as deliver in the mail. Read more about chemical abortion in this newsletter.



Natural Family Planning Week July 25-31

Celebrating a holistic lifestyle that is rooted in science, respects the design of the human body, deepens spousal love, and builds virtue

Discover the truth about your reproductive health through the Creighton Model System and NaProTechnology. We offer effective and natural solutions for Achieving Pregnancy - Avoiding Pregnancy - Irregular Cycles - PMS - Infertility

Contact Sheryl Schwager, FCP
AgapeFertility@gmail.com 319.855.8475



The Truth About Chemical Abortions

The radical move to expand access to Chemical Abortion Pills is the biggest battleground we face right now in the pro-life movement. Chemical Abortion now makes up 50% or more of all abortions, and the abortion lobby is pushing to remove safety protocols (called REMs– Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) to make it easier to sell the deadly pills by cutting out health and safety standards. This puts women at risk of injury, infection, lost fertility, and even death.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Planned Parenthood and their allies in statehouses across America worked non-stop to open the doors to sell dangerous Chemical Abortion drugs through the mail or at a pharmacy without pregnancy confirmation tests or ultrasounds – and they are facing little opposition. They are targeting vulnerable young women to trick them into believing getting a Chemical Abortion is as easy as taking an aspirin for a headache. Nothing could be further from the truth.

WATCH the five short videos (about 10 minutes each) and share! **ThisIsChemicalAbortion.com**

In this docuseries, you will learn more about the dangerous new frontier for the abortion industry:

- What is the abortion pill?
- Chemical abortion risks
- Abortion pill reversal
- What the abortion industry tells women
- The dangerous future of chemical abortion pills



The abortion industry is pushing abortion drugs because they are cheaper and require less time and involvement. Across the U.S., there has been a steady increase in the use of abortion drugs, and pro-lifers fear that may increase even more. The Biden administration stopped enforcing safety restrictions on the drugs and began allowing them to be administered through telemedicine and delivered in the mail.

Abortion Pill Reversal

For the women who have taken the first abortion pill and immediately regret their abortion choice, we can point them to **AbortionPillReversal.com** or call **1-877-558-0333**. They will be connected to a healthcare provider who can help them try and reverse the effects of the abortion pill, giving them a second chance to choose life.

Statistics show that more than 2,000 lives have been saved thanks to the Abortion Pill Rescue Network. Abortion pill reversal is time-tested. The FDA approved treatment that's been used for decades to treat women at risk for early pregnancy loss and preterm delivery. APR involves emergency, ongoing dosages of progesterone to counteract the effects of the first drug given in a chemical abortion– mifepristone. It's effective and is saving lives every single day!

RSVP: director@jcrtl.org

On Location. Saving Lives. Ending Abortion.

Join the movement that has witnessed
13,001 mothers & babies saved from abortion.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE TRAINING

Sidewalk Advocates for Life offers a comprehensive training course in peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding sidewalk advocacy methods that seek to reach the woman's heart and supply her needs so she can confidently choose life.

**Saturday, September 11
9:00am - 1:00pm**

St. Wenceslaus Church
630 E. Davenport St. Iowa City

Lunch will be provided, and a
freewill offering will be taken
to cover the cost of materials.

Please RSVP to Sheryl at director@jcrtl.org by Wed., Sept. 1

ROE V. WADE MOVIE

The Real Story You've Never Been Told

Susan B. Anthony List president Marjorie Dannenfelser praised the film for shedding light on the radical pro-abortion ruling. "Almost half a century later, Roe remains so shrouded in misunderstanding and misinformation, many Americans are unaware that it rendered the United States one of only seven nations to allow unlimited abortion through birth," she said.



Dannenfelser said she was pleased to see how the film accurately portrayed the important events and figures surrounding the 1973 ruling, including "Jane Roe," Norma McCorvey, who was exploited by activist attorneys looking to legalize abortion.

"At a time when abortion extremists are pushing to codify and expand Roe, this film is especially needed, she said. "we hope it will be widely viewed, spark new conversations, and change hearts and minds."

The Roe v. Wade DVD is available at the JCRTL office for check-out. Contact Sheryl at director@JCRTL.org