



Johnson County Right to Life

is dedicated to protecting the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. We seek to educate

and engage our community to embrace and value the most vulnerable among us: the unborn, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Our ultimate goal is to ensure legal protection of innocent human life.

345 E. College St. Iowa City, IA 52240

JCRTL.org

A Note From Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director



By the time you read this newsletter, our nation will have marked the first anniversary since the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The historic decision on June 24, 2022, which overturned the Court's previous ruling legalizing abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, has opened up a glorious path for preborn life to thrive in our country! According to Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, approximately 60,000 abortions have been prevented since *Dobbs* was overturned, due to the increase in pro-life laws across the nation.

While pro-life legislation continues to be proposed and passed in several states, many of these laws are facing legal challenges in the courts. Tragically, the Iowa Supreme Court issued a divided 3 to 3 decision on June 16 upholding a 2019 district court injunction against the Heartbeat Bill. You can read more in this newsletter about this injustice to preborn Iowans and our path forward to protect life in our laws and in our culture.

Roe v. Wade has ended. Now it's time for abortion to end in Iowa and across the nation.

Your prayers and support are needed now more than ever! Help us share the truth about the *humanity* of the preborn baby, the truth about the *inhumanity* of abortion, and the truth about *humane* choices that are available to those facing unplanned pregnancies.

Your generosity will help us restore a culture where future Iowans and families can thrive!

Blessings for Life,
Sheryl Schwager

Save the Date

40 Days for Life Kick-Off Event

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023

A Former Abortion Proponent Comes to the Truth

Sadie Woodley is an Iowa City wife, mother, and former academic who was a staunch advocate of abortion. But everything in her life changed as she realized that abortion was about a fundamentally dehumanizing worldview that can only deliver suffering and harm to the very people it claims to protect. She shares her story of waking up to the lies of the pro-abortion movement, and journeying into the truth of God's love and the real value of human life.



40 Days for Life Kick-Off Event

Saturday, September 23

5:00-6:30pm

St. Wenceslaus Church Hall, Iowa City

Learn about the upcoming 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil, Sept. 27 - Nov. 5

- Sadie Woodley will share her story of transformation
- Receive life-affirming community resources,
- Meet fellow prayer volunteers
- Enjoy a complimentary taco buffet.

RSVP for dinner at JCRTL.org

Congratulations to the 2023 Pro-Life Essay Contest Winners

Read the winning essays at JCRTL.org

Senior Division: Grades 9-12



First Place
William Seele



Second Place (tie)
Samantha Gumpfer



Second Place (tie)
Andrew Brown



Third Place (tie)
Jeshua Albert Wirth



Third Place (tie)
Madelyn Alexander

Junior Division: Grades 6-8



- First Place -
Lillian Alexander



- Second Place -
John Phillip Kabat



"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

- Declaration of Independence

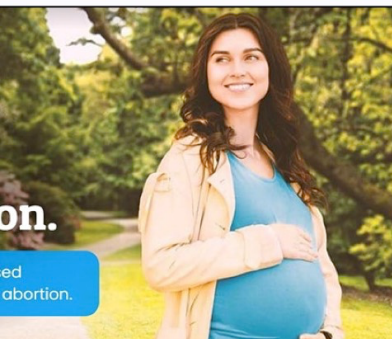


Sidewalk Advocates
FOR LIFE

RSVP: www.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: Saturday, Oct. 14
8:30am-1:30pm St. Wenceslaus Church in Iowa City**

Understanding the Heart of a Woman in Crisis

When a woman faces an unplanned pregnancy, her main question is not, "Is this a baby?" - with the assumed consequence that if she knows it to be so, she will choose life. Women know, though often at the subconscious level, that the fetus is human, and that it will be killed by abortion. But that is the price a woman in that situation is willing to pay in her desperate struggle for what she believes to be her very survival.

Emphasis on babies, whether dismembered fetuses or happy newborns, will tend to deepen the woman's sense of denial, isolation, and despair, the very emotions that will lead her to choose abortion. (Article - Abortion: A Failure to Communicate by Paul Swope)

Attend the **Sidewalk Advocates for Life Training, Saturday, Oct. 14** and learn that the most attractive message to a woman in crisis is one, initially, of a concrete offer of help and empowerment in a calm, supportive environment, resolving for her a multitude of worries and pressures concerning her situation.

Knowing abortion doesn't end unless we aptly reach her heart, the training encourages us to think from her perspective, taking into serious consideration how to best reach our true audience, the mother.

THE COMPASS: MOM-BABY-GOD

Sidewalk Advocates for Life Training - Oct. 14, 2023

Lunch will be provided - freewill offering for materials.

RSVP: JCRTL.org

NO SINGLE MOM WALKS alone!




Get Support. Find Hope. Experience Joy.

**Call or Text for more information
about current meeting schedule in Iowa City.**
(319) 535-2321 - embracegrace.ic@gmail.com
EMBRACEGRACE.com



ST. PATRICK CHURCH
4330 ST. PATRICKS DRIVE
IOWA CITY, IA 52240



ONE DAY - TWO TALKS \$25

FREE RESOURCES FOR EVERY ATTENDEE!

PURIFIED

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT FOR FAMILIES (AGES 13+)

THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY

(AGES 13+)

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

4:30 - 6:00 PM

The innocence of the family is under attack like never before. Come and discover how to protect and heal yours. This chastity presentation is for teens, parents, and adults.

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 PM

What's the meaning of sex and the human body? Discover how your body reveals your calling. Learn how Christians can navigate today's culture with charity and clarity.



EARLY- BIRD SPECIAL: \$20 ticket price through July 9. Contact Sheryl at director@JCRTL.org or purchase tickets at St. Patrick Church parish office.

Ticket Also Includes Dinner: 6:00-7:00 PM

Pro-Life Educational Booth Johnson County Fair July 23-26

Volunteers Needed!

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 JCRTL.org



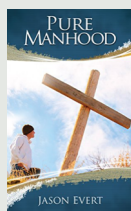
Jason Evert has traveled to six continents to bring the message of purity to millions of people for more than 20 years, including World Youth Days in Australia, Spain, Poland, and Panama. He has lectured at dozens of universities, including Harvard, Princeton, and the United States Naval and Air Force Academies. Jason earned a master's degree in Theology, and undergraduate degree in Counseling and Theology, with a minor in Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is a best-selling author of more than 15 books, including "Theology of the Body for Teens," and "How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul." He and his wife Crystalina are frequent guests on radio programs throughout the country, and their television appearances include MSNBC, Fox News, the BBC, and EWTN. Together they run Chastity Project and its website, chastity.com, the podcast "Lust is Boring," and lead an international alliance of young people who promote purity in more than 40 countries.

Free Resources Available - Contact Sheryl director@JCRTL.org



Pure Womanhood - by Crystalina Evert

If you've ever tried to talk to a young girl about purity and chastity, especially one who's just entering high school, you know how difficult it can be. Finding the right words to let her know about all of the temptations and pressures she'll be facing as she grows up can prove quite a task. What if you could give her something to read that she'd enjoy — and believe? Whether the young women you know have yet to discover the ways of the world or if they've already made mistakes and are heading down a destructive path, "Pure Womanhood" gives them the reasons — and the assurance — that chastity is the right choice and that it's never too late to start over.



Pure Manhood - by Jason Evert

Young men deserve straight answers to tough questions about women, dating, sexuality, and authentic masculinity, including...What do girls want? How far is too far? What's wrong with just thinking about it? What's wrong with porn? You're not hurting anyone. What if it's just a swimsuit magazine? If she's willing to do it, why is it wrong? What about safe sex? Shouldn't I be free to do whatever I want? How do I stay pure? Pure Manhood answers these questions and more, while offering practical strategies to help young men to grow in the virtue of chastity.



Guiding Star Cycle Show

PARENT PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 | 7 PM - 8:30 PM
LOCATION: ST. WENCESLAUS PARISH HALL, - IOWA CITY

CYCLE SHOW WORKSHOP FOR 9-13-YEAR-OLD GIRLS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | 9 AM - 2 PM
LOCATION: ST. WENCESLAUS PARISH HALL, - IOWA CITY

HOSTED BY: AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

WWW.GUIDINGSTARPROJECT.COM/CYCLE-SHOW



I CAN ONLY PROTECT WHAT I VALUE AND RESPECT





Iowa Supreme Court Deadlocks on 6-week Heartbeat Law

Dear Pro-Life Friends,

On June 16, the Iowa Supreme Court dealt a blow to the Pro-Life movement. With one of the seven Justices not participating in the vote due to her former law firm's representation of Emma Goldman Clinic, the remaining six Justices deadlocked 3 to 3 on whether to unblock Iowa's protective 6-week heartbeat abortion law passed in 2018. Because the vote was a 3 to 3 tie, the ruling of the District Court in Polk County, Iowa which blocked the law was affirmed.

The Fetal Heartbeat Law passed by the Iowa Legislature in 2018 protected unborn children after their heartbeat could be detected – typically around 6 weeks of pregnancy. The law was challenged in Court and was blocked by an injunction in Polk County which prevented its enforcement. The issue before the Supreme Court of Iowa was whether that injunction should be lifted, thus unblocking the law and letting it go into effect all throughout Iowa. The law did include exceptions for rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother. Last summer the Iowa Supreme Court found that the Iowa Constitution does not contain a fundamental right to abortion, so it was hoped that the Decision made on June 16th would logically follow suit and allow the 2018 heartbeat law to finally go into effect. That did not happen. This means the particular Pro-Life Heartbeat law passed in 2018 will never go into effect in Iowa. So for now, abortion remains legal in Iowa during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy. All of you know that a heartbeat is detectable at 6 weeks, and the human body is completely formed at 10 weeks.

Currently no federal law governs when and if abortion should be legal during pregnancy, and because the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in the Dobbs case last summer, individual states like Iowa have a right to regulate abortion, protect women, and save babies. To correct the Iowa Supreme Court's latest pro-abortion ruling, the Iowa Legislature now needs to pass a new Heartbeat Bill and the Governor needs to sign it.

If there be any good news in this ruling by the Iowa Supreme Court, it does appear there are three pro-life Justices ready to uphold a new Heartbeat Bill or similar legislation. These Justices are Matthew McDermott, Christopher McDonald, and David May. Justices Thomas Waterman, Edward Mansfield, and Chief Justice Susan Christensen voted to kill the 2018 heartbeat law.

So what happens now? Governor Reynolds could call a special session of the Legislature to consider a new Heartbeat Bill and/or other Pro-Life Legislation to protect women and the preborn or the Legislature could wait until the 2024 Legislative session to act. If the Governor calls for a special session this summer to consider a new Heartbeat Bill, it is important for all readers to stay informed and voice your opinion to the Governor's office and to your State Representatives and Legislators.

As always, the health, lives and safety of pregnant women and their babies is critical.

Arthur F. Gilloon, Attorney at Law

Art Gilloon serves on the Board of Directors for Dubuque County Right to Life. He and other pro-lifers from Dubuque have been faithfully traveling to Iowa City to join us in prayer and advocacy on the sidewalk on Thursdays, abortion day at Emma Goldman Clinic. Please contact Sheryl Schwager (319) 855-8475 / director@JCRTL.org if God is calling you to join us in praying for abortion-minded mothers and their babies.

On April 21, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 7-2 to, at least temporarily, preserve access to abortion-inducing pill mifepristone as a lawsuit against the drug works its way through the federal court system.

Despite widespread accessibility, evidence shows that abortion pills carry specific risks for the mothers who take them (on top of being lethal to their preborn children), especially when the standards for taking them continue to be relaxed.

On June 20, the Biden Administration declined to appeal a federal court ruling that stops the government from forcing doctors and hospitals to perform abortions and controversial gender-transition procedures that are against their professional medical judgment and violate their religious beliefs.

A new national poll from the Tarrance Group reveals that Americans overwhelmingly agree with pro-life protections for unborn babies and mothers and reject abortion extremism.

- 76% of all voters are opposed to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.
- 70% support parental notification, requiring that a parent be notified when a minor child seeks to have an abortion. This includes a majority of "pro-choice" voters.
- 76% support pregnancy resource centers that do not perform abortions but instead offer support to mothers during their pregnancy and after a baby is born.
- 59% of voters say they would support Congressional legislation that would prohibit abortions after a baby can feel pain at fifteen weeks of pregnancy.
- 64% of voters would oppose Congressional legislation that would mandate allowing abortion on-demand, up to the moment of birth and without any limits across all fifty states.