

**Ashtabula County
Friends for Life**

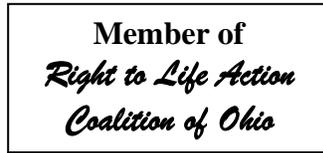


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Spring 2022

Issue 1

President's Note:

After four years of the most pro-life president in U.S. history, the value of life has dramatically spiraled downward (although considerable ground has been made on some state levels). Taxpayers are once again funding abortion, here and all over the world. Read on to get the latest in Pro-Life news. Please get involved – donate, pray, or volunteer. Your FFL Board President,

Crystal Latimer (440) 466-7441

Coming Events

(Reg. meetings are at Gateway Church, Austinburg Rd)

Tuesday, March 15 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM

Wednesday, March 30 – Pro-Life Workshop

Fri. & Sat, April 8 & 9 – Mya Women's Banquets

Tuesday, April 26 – Nat'l Pro-Life T-shirt Day

Sat, May 21 – Breakfast Mtg @ Best Friends 9:30

Tuesday, July 19 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM

August 9-14 – Ashtabula County Fair - visit us

Sunday, Sept. 18 – Candlelight Vigil 2PM

Sat, Sept 24 – Breakfast Mtg @ Best Friends 9:30

Tuesday, Nov 15 – Dinner with Friends

Many Thanks to our Sponsors



Ashtabula County Friends for Life

Annual Membership Drive

Membership Level

Check one **Bronze (\$10)**
 Silver (\$25)
 Gold (\$50)
 Platinum (\$100)

Make check payable to Friends for Life
and mail to PO Box 242, Geneva, 44041

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Check here if would prefer to receive
newsletters electronically (provide email address).

Annual Membership Renewal

To renew your membership, please tear-off the form above, fill it out and send back with your membership fee. Choose your level of membership - bronze, silver, gold or platinum. There were 95 tiny Ashtabula County citizens aborted in 2020. We are striving to make that figure shrink until it is zero. So, we invite you to become a first-time member or renew your membership and make a difference!



Invitation from Mya Women's Center

Mya Women's Center is buzzing with excitement getting ready for the upcoming banquets themed "Birthdays Rescued." This year the events will be held on Friday, April 8th, doors open at 6:00 pm (dinner at 6:30) and Saturday, April 9th doors open at 10:30 am (brunch at 11:00) at The Lodge at Geneva on the Lake. We will be celebrating Mya's 5th birthday as well as over 400 babies safe to celebrate their birthdays and our vision for the rescue of many more birthdays. We will share videos of women who came to Mya, thinking abortion was the answer to their unplanned pregnancy. Women who changed their mind for LIFE! We invited many of these families to a birthday party outside at Mya and it was amazing to see the happiness on their faces. You'll get to see pictures of our birthday party at the banquets. If you have not received a mailed invitation by mid-March please contact the email below & we'll send you one. You can register at: friendsofmya.com If you would like to be a sponsor for the events or if you would like to host a table, please email us at myabanquet@gmail.com or call Stacey at 440-990-9208 for more information. See you there!

***The answer to a crisis pregnancy is
to eliminate the crisis, not the child!***

Pro-Life Workshop & Pizza!

Did you miss the last pro-life training that FFL offered? No worries, there is another scheduled on Wednesday, March 30, at 5:00 pm, at First Baptist Church in Ashtabula (4353 Park Ave). Kaitlyn Donihue from Justice For All will explain to us how to speak to people about pro-life issues while showing respect for others opinions. If you attended the session last summer, feel free to come back and hear it again. There was a lot to absorb! Please RSVP (email – ashcofriendsforlife@yahoo.com or phone – (440) 466-7441 so we have enough pizza. This would be a great opportunity to speak with Kaitlyn about holding a workshop at YOUR church!

National Pro-life T-Shirt Day

National Pro-life T-Shirt Day is April 26, so dig out your pro-life t-shirt and wear it proudly that Tuesday (and any day afterward!). Encourage your children to wear theirs to school. You don't have one? An order form with the new designs is on the last page in this newsletter. Fill out the form indicating the sizes and quantities you would like and mail it in to Friends for Life with your check by March 23. FFL will order some for the fair, but we do run out quickly, so if you are interested it would be best to order now. FFL only charges \$5 per shirt and we pick up the shipping costs.

Ashtabula County Fair

Fair dates this year are August 9-14 (Tuesday through Sunday). Our booth will still be in the Commercial Building. If you usually volunteer at our table, please consider attending the pro-life workshop (detailed on the previous page). Stop by and visit us and pick up a t-shirt or two.

Candlelight Vigil

The 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil will be held on Sunday, September 18, at Zaback-Willaims-Ducro Funeral Home at 500 West Prospect in Ashtabula. We will gather at 2:00 pm the day after *National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children*.

March for Life, Geneva, 2022

Area pro-life supporters came out on a cold but sunny winter day, Jan. 22nd for the 3rd Annual March for Life sponsored by area Knights of Columbus councils and hosted by the Geneva Assumption Church. Changed from a walk, due to high snow levels on the impassable sidewalks, we instead stood with our signs along Route 20 in front of the church. We prayed, sang, and waved at passing supportive beeping vehicles. Returning inside the church, we warmed up with the hot beverages and cookies graciously supplied. Speaker Christy Ballor shared her testimony of the shame and grief that followed her for years after a teenage abortion. Through the grace of God, she received forgiveness and now shares with others as a member of the national groups, Silent No More, Project Rachel and consultant with a post-abortion helpline. We had a surprise treat, we met and heard

from the producer of the movie Unplanned, Joe Knopp, who is running for Lt.Gov. in the May primary with Gov.-Elect Jim Renacci. FFL had four members in attendance. We invite you to take this public stand next year, and with us enjoy the fellowship with other Christian brothers and sisters in Christ.



Dinner with Friends

FFL's annual Dinner with Friends meeting was held Nov. 18th at Kardohley's in Ashtabula. Ohio State Senator Sandy O'Brien spoke in her usual energetic and positive way about the latest exciting pro-life news from Columbus. Crystal gave an update of FFL business and coming events. Christy Blassly graciously sang a few songs for us at a spur of the moment request. She had been invited to display handmade Christian scarves to sell - she is part of Dawn Slike's knitter group who support Christian ministries such as Mya. Thanks to all, including some new Friends, who attended.

Camp Koinonia Carnival

On Saturday, October 9, Camp Koinonia (Christian Camp in Harpersfield) held their annual Carnival. Our first time at this event, Friends for Life set up an info table with brochures, fetal models, t-shirts plus our kids' ring toss. A big thank you to our 5 workers, including newcomer Diane Bruening.

Bringing America Back to Life, 2022

As this newsletter is going to print, this year's BABL, sponsored by Cleveland Right to Life is being held in Independence, OH, on March 11 & 12. We will report about it in the FFL fall edition newsletter. We are excited four young women from FFL will be attending for their first time.



ESL Festival

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the very first ESL Festival (English Second Language) was held at Lakeside Junior High School. Friends for Life set up a table and spoke to attendees, handing out literature and candy, and offering our ring toss game to children for entertainment. We were able to explain abortion to a young lady (with her mom) who was interested in becoming a doctor.

Abortion Clinics in Ohio with Expired Licenses

The State of Ohio has six surgical abortion facilities. Last fall, through a series of events, Ashtabula County Friends for Life discovered that ALL SIX surgical abortion mills in OHIO are operating on expired licenses and have been for YEARS! With help from Dave Yost's office, we were directed to an on-line form to submit a formal complaint to the Ohio Department of Health. Friends for Life sent out mass emails, one for each abortion mill with instructions on how to file a complaint. Here are the offending businesses –

Preterm, Cleveland – license expired 3/31/19

Planned Parenthood Bedford Heights Regional Medical Surgery Center – license expired 12/31/18

Northeast Ohio Women's Center, Cuyahoga Falls – license expired 3/31/19

Planned Parenthood East Health Center, Columbus – license expired 12/31/18

Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region, Cincinnati – license expired 5/31/19

Women's Med Dayton – license expired 11/30/20

This is despicable that these surgical operations are permitted to operate without a license. The emails were sent to our entire email list. I know that at least a dozen FFL members submitted complaints. We were informed that the health dept. is required to respond to these formal complaints. We sent ours in mid-November of last year. We have yet to be contacted with the results. If you wish to send your own complaints, please call 466-7441 for instructions on how to do so,

Born Alive Protection Act

Senate Bill 157, the Born Alive Protection Act was signed into law on Dec. 22, 2021. It will be effective on March 23, 2022. This bill creates protections for children who are born alive after a failed abortion attempt.

Senate Bill 157 expands abortion manslaughter to include failing to take measures to preserve the health of a child born alive after an abortion and creates a right of action for the affected mother to sue a person guilty of abortion manslaughter. The bill also bans abortion clinics from working with doctors who teach at state-funded hospitals and medical schools.

Planned Parenthood advocates said the legislation could shut down all abortion providers in Southwest Ohio. "At this moment, we're at a crisis point for abortion access in Ohio and across the country. Anti-abortion politicians have made it their job to bury abortion providers under so many TRAP laws that providing and accessing essential health care to Ohioans has become an obstacle course. Stripping abortion care from Southwest Ohio will cause havoc that disproportionately impacts our communities. Abortion is still legal in Ohio. This isn't the end, and we will continue to fight," Kersha Deibel, CEO of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region, said.

Both Women's Med in Dayton and Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio in suburban Cincinnati operate under state variances that include partnerships with several doctors. Women's Med's doctors are known to have ties to Wright State University's medical school and Planned Parenthood's statements suggest its doctors may have such ties, as well. WSYX, Dec. 22, 2021

Hamilton County Elected Ohio Judge Blocks Fetal Remains Bill for Second Time

SB 27 was passed in both Ohio's House and Senate and then was signed into law by Governor DeWine in December 2020. The Bill requires proper treatment of aborted fetal remains in Ohio. Right now, the bodies of these tiny children are discarded as infectious waste.

Judge Hathaway (D) an elected Common Pleas judge in Hamilton County issued an injunction that will continue to permit the mistreatment of the tiniest of bodies. Cincinnati RTL, Feb. 4, 2022

The Deception of Early Genetic Screening

I'll never forget the smell of the office or those green leather chairs we sat in, nervously fidgeting as we awaited some news.

I sat on the table with my stomach exposed and covered with a cold gel. My first early ultrasound with baby number three was complete. Unlike any of my previous ultrasounds, this tech remained silent the entire time. As she wiped some of the goo off me, she said the doctor would talk to us about the results. I'd had a miscarriage just six months earlier. I knew something had to be wrong.

The results? Everything looked good.

But wait? Why all the drama if the baby is fine? What followed confused me. With a very serious tone, the doctor attempted to persuade us to have genetic testing. Since I was now thirty-five (and classified as "advanced maternal age") there was a "much higher chance" that something would be wrong with the baby. He strongly advised me to get the tests so we could, "know and make the best decisions for our future . . ."

Anger flooded my pregnant body. The hormones took over and I may have surprised the doctor with my 3-minute deliberate diatribe on how, no matter what, we were having this baby. But, he got an earful. Annoyed, I left that day vowing to never again have a conversation about prenatal genetic testing. Next time, I'd stop them before the pitch. But the truth is, I continued to have regular conversations about the results of these tests. As friends from all over the country were starting and growing their families, many were talked into taking them. And, most were getting reports that terrified them.

One close friend spent three weeks believing her baby would have a rare syndrome that causes heart

defects. This was twenty-one days of feeling frightened, nervous, and stressed out—emotions that aren't assets to the health of a pregnant mom. After the baby grew a bit more, an ultrasound revealed that the baby's development looked normal. Months later she delivered a beautiful, healthy, little boy. But immediately after that genetic test, her doctor offered a choice. She could have "terminated her pregnancy" early, so as not to "risk" it. And, tragically, that test she based her decision on would have been absolutely wrong.

A new report from the New York Times found that certain prenatal tests used to identify rare genetic disorders are inaccurate up to 85 percent of the time. Read that number again if you didn't catch it the first time. That means that, on average, their accuracy rate is 15 percent. Back when I was in school, we called this a failing grade.

Though these tests may be somewhat reliable at predicting Down syndrome, the New York Times study shows that in the case of one specific test there was a 93 percent chance of getting a false positive. And, I wonder, why would anyone take a test that, according to probability alone, you're going to fail? And yet, the results of these tests are impacting parents and pushing some towards early abortions.

According to a report on the Daily Wire, a 2014 study shows that 6 percent of women who received a positive test result got an abortion without getting an additional test to prove there was an actual abnormality or development problem. I don't know what the numbers are to match this percentage, but **I do know that all life has value. With or without a genetic abnormality—each of these losses is a tragedy. But, any loss attributed to a false result on an unreliable test is egregious.**

The FDA does not regulate the tests nor their marketing. This means **there's also no oversight on their direct-to-consumer marketing materials—which include brochures that barely mention the chance of a false positive.** The Times also talks about how the creation of these tests has become an industry all its own with profit potential in the billions. The article reports that the number of women taking these tests may double by 2025. So what can we do? **As those committed to the cause of life, we can make sure to share this information with our friends and family members, especially those who may be looking to start a family soon.**

Heather Creekmore, Jan 13, 2021 via CareNet



Get the t-shirt and take part in 2022 National Pro-Life T-shirt Month (April)

Shirts Come in Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, and 2XL at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Unisex T-shirts are a soft ringspun cotton/poly blend. Friends for Life will be printed on the back

This is a subsidized price – Friends for Life will pay part of the cost, plus shipping.

Mail orders with payment to Friends for Life, P.O. Box 242, Geneva, OH 44041

Orders must be received no later than **March 23!**

Size	Quantity	Subtotal	Color (gray or black)
<u>S</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>M</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>L</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>XL</u>	_____	_____	_____
<u>2XL</u>	_____	_____	_____

Total qty _____ Total cost _____

Wear your shirt to school or work on April 26 & beyond.

Designs –

1. Gray – Save Babies, Support Women, End Abortion

2. Black - Be a Voice for the Voiceless, Choose Life

Name

City_____

Address

Phone_____