

## Ashtabula County Friends for Life

P.O. Box 242, Geneva OH  
44041 (440) 466-7441

E-Mail: [ashcofriendsforlife@yahoo.com](mailto:ashcofriendsforlife@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.ashcofriendsforlife.org](http://www.ashcofriendsforlife.org)



16 – Dinner with Friends 5:30

Member of  
*Right to Life Action  
Coalition of Ohio*

Spring 2023

Issue 1

### President's Note:

We as pro-life believers are reeling under this administration which does everything possible to advance their culture of death. Prayer warriors are being drug out of their homes and arrested. Abortion pills are becoming easily available at drug stores. The very worst thing for Ohioians may become a reality this fall depending on who shows up at the polls. 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)

**Monday, April 3 – Nat'l Pro-Life T-shirt Day**

**Tuesday, May 30 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM**

**Tuesday, July 18 – Regular FFL meeting 7PM**

**Monday, Aug. 7 - Pro-Life Training, Jefferson**

**August 8-13 – Ashtabula County Fair - visit us**

**Sunday, Sept. 17 – Candlelight Vigil 2PM**

**Sat, Sept 23 –Breakfast Mtg @ Kardohely's 9:30**

## Many Thanks to our Sponsors





Ashtabula County Friends for Life

**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

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“Let it not be said that I was silent when they needed me.” – William Wilberforce  
Annual Membership Drive

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you 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 return it with your membership fee. Choose your level of membership - bronze, silver, gold or platinum. There were 123 tiny Ashtabula County citizens aborted in 2021. 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!

**National Pro-life T-Shirt Day**

National Pro-life T-Shirt Day is April 3, so dig out your pro-life t-shirt and wear it proudly that Monday (and any day afterward!). Encourage your children to wear theirs to school. You don't have one? Visit the Friends for Life booth at the fair this summer and pick up one or two shirts for just \$5.00 each.

**Ashtabula County Fair**

Fair dates this year are August 8-13 (Tuesday through Sunday). Our booth will be in the 4H (Expo) Building, the same as last year.. Stop by and visit us. Pro-life training by Kaitlyn for booth workers will be on Monday, Aug. 7 at the Henderson Memorial Library in Jefferson at 6:00 PM. All volunteers are encouraged to attend.



**Centers for Baby Supplies Consolidate**

H.I.P. center at G.O. Community Development Corporation in Ashtabula has welcomed Fresh Start and Birthcare whose previous sites are closed. Baby formula, new & lightly used clothes, diapers/wipes, and other items are no cost. To find other providers in your own area, check with local churches, clothing banks, Goodwill or Salvation Army stores. G.O. is

located at 3703 Station Ave., Ashtabula, 44004 in the old Thurgood Marshall School building. For hours or to arrange to donate items or financial support, call 440 997 0040.



# Deeper Still®

*North East Ohio — a Ministry of Mya Women's Center*

## Deeper Still

Have you or a loved one lost a child to abortion? Would you like to talk to someone who understands your pain and who really cares? The Deeper Still team is here for you. We would love to be a listening ear and a support to you in your healing journey. Both testimonies below were shared with permission.

At the end of our most recent retreat, one participant shared, "To be able to acknowledge my children, their life and such great value was so healing." She also shared that before the retreat, she experienced deep pain whenever she heard or said the word abortion but that she found tremendous freedom at the retreat and the pain is gone!

One other participant shared, "I definitely feel lighter, freer, and like a weight has been lifted. Like I'm more positioned to go deeper." She told us that before coming she felt that something was hindering her relationship with the Lord but after the retreat that hindrance is gone!

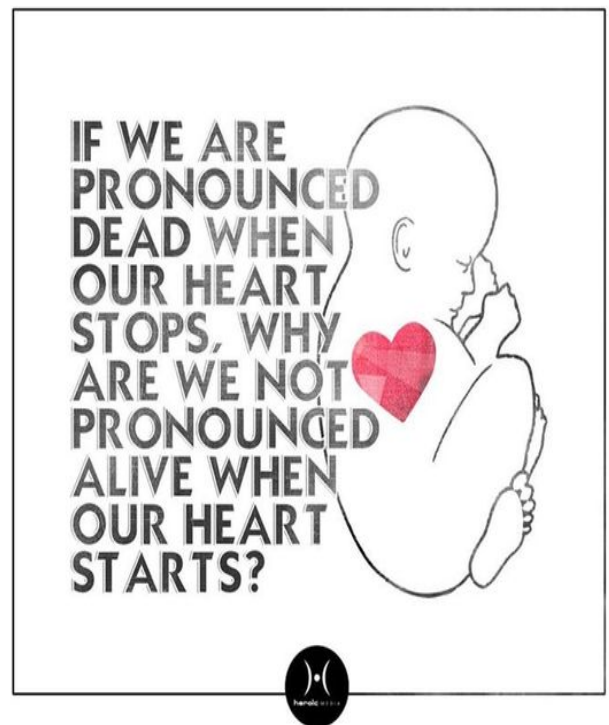
Deeper Still offers free retreats here in Ashtabula County for men and women who have lost children to abortion. We are committed to supporting you and helping you move forward in your healing journey. We are also committed to your confidentiality. Please reach out to us. We want you to walk forward in healing and freedom. Email us at [deeperstillnortheastohio@gmail.com](mailto:deeperstillnortheastohio@gmail.com) or call us at 517-435-8812.

**Ohio March for Life 2023**

The Ohio March for Life Rally will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023 in Columbus, OH from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It will take place at the Ohio Capitol Statehouse at 1 Capitol Square. Call 440-466-7441 if you are interested in carpooling.

## **March for Life, Geneva, 2023**

The Geneva-Madison Knights of Columbus sponsored a March for Life in Geneva on January 21. Held in front of Assumption Church, it was a sidewalk witness on both sides of Route 20 with signs and prayers. Friends for Life members attending included Phil and Cathie Schmidt and Knight Nick Spano. Opening and closing prayers were offered by Father David Finnerty, with the church's women supplying cookies and hot beverages. Grand Knight David Zundel announced an exciting new initiative of the Supreme Council of the Knights called ASAP-Aid and Support After Pregnancy. Pregnancy Resource Centers will receive new funding, \$100 for every \$500 the local councils raise in financial or material assistance to the centers. There will be boxes placed in area parishes for baby items and baby bottles for cash donations so church members can participate.



**Candlelight Vigil**

The 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil was held on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at Zaback-Willaims-Ducro Funeral Home in Ashtabula. Pastor Curtis Cecil was the speaker and Sherry Cornell blessed us in song. Be sure to mark your calendar for this year's vigil on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2:00PM.



### **Dinner with Friends**

We had a great meal at Brighter Horizons last November 15th. Kate Makra, Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life updated us about the latest pro-life news. Crystal reported on FFL business and coming events. Thanks to all, including some new Friends who attended. FFL's annual Dinner with Friends 2023 meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 16th at Brighter Horizons Restaurant on West Avenue in Ashtabula.



### **Getting to Know BABL**

Bringing America Back to Life - Do you know that one of the largest and most comprehensive pro-life conventions in the U.S. is right in our back yard – in Independence, Ohio? People come from across the nation to hear cutting-edge speakers covering a wide range of issues that threaten God-given life, often before they're widely known. In previous years attendees learned about trans issues when most people had never heard of it; of the plight of females in China, of Artificial Intelligence (AI), to name just a few...as well as learning how to confront the on-going assaults on life via abortion, euthanasia, radical feminism, secular indoctrination in the schools, etc.

Sponsored by Cleveland Right to Life the Convention is Catholic in its orientation, ensuring a deep reverence for God and life, yet it is not exclusively Catholic. Christian historian David Barton (in 2022) presented on the right to life as the basis for our U.S. Constitution; Seth Dillon of the Babylon Bee (this year) illustrated ways comedy can cause people to think (while laughing hysterically) and challenged us all to be bold in our faith: Protestants both.

As events unfold so rapidly today, it seems more true than ever that 'life' is the central, defining issue. To be 'squishy', or indifferent, is to be on the side of death. We believe that one day we will be held to account for what we do, or do not, do. Conferences like BABL can help us find answers to the question, "But what can I do?"

Because FFL is a member of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, we are given a certain dollar amount each year to use for registration and meals as FFL sees fit. You can choose to go one day or two, with your registration and at least one meal paid for by CRTL. The Conference is always the second weekend of March on Friday and Saturday. It's not too early to start thinking about next year and making plans to attend. You will be challenged, inspired, entertainingly educated by the speakers and other attendees. Are you already looking forward to next year's conference? ME Blake

### **Changing the Ohio Constitution to Pro-Death?**

Did you know that the Ohio Constitution is under threat? On March 13, the Ohio ballot board approved the amendment language for Protect Choice Ohio. In a few days they will begin gathering the 412,500+ signatures needed by July 5, to put their disastrous amendment on the ballot for the November 2023 election. Whatever you do, PLEASE do not sign any petitions before July 5, without thoroughly reading it to make sure you are not supporting this amendment.

From the National Review - *If this amendment passes and makes it to the ballot, it will take away parental consent, 24 hour waiting period, protections for children with down syndrome, protections for minors, no age restriction on abortion, contraception or sex-change surgery. It will allow anyone to assist a person at any age of making decisions about their fertility, contraception, reproductive decisions, and sex-change surgeries.*

*The proposed amendment would outlaw virtually **any** restrictions on abortion and all other procedures, including sex-change surgeries, that touch on reproduction, for both adults and minors. It would cancel out not only parental-consent laws but also mere parental notification for a minor's abortion or sex-change surgery; strike down health protections for people of all ages who undergo these procedures, including requirements that a qualified physician perform them; and erase any meaningful limits on late-term abortions.*

Since the fall of Roe, the pro-life movement has failed to stem the expansion of abortion. Pro-life advocates have **lost all** six votes on constitutional

amendments (California, Vermont, Kentucky, Kansas, Montana, and Michigan).

To defeat the extreme amendment proposal, Protect Women Ohio - a new pro-woman, pro-parent coalition - announced the first phase of a statewide television and digital ad campaign. Protect Women Ohio is a coalition of concerned family and life leaders, parents, health and medical experts, and faith leaders in Ohio. More news to come about Town Halls that will be held throughout the state to inform voters about the amendment. Friends for Life will do what we can to see that Ashtabula County is not left out. We hope everyone will support us by attending the town hall and spreading the word. <https://protectwomenohio.com/media/>

### **Abortion and Politics**

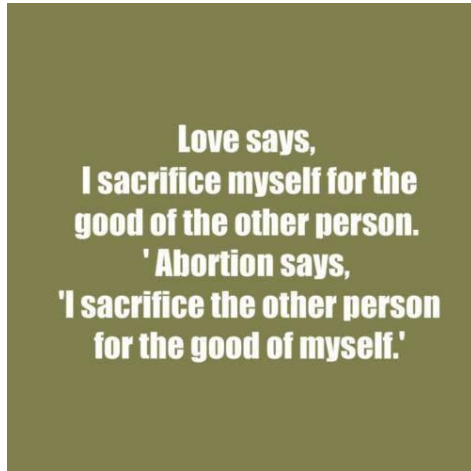
Abortion shouldn't be a political issue....but it is. In the years since Roe v. Wade was decided, pro-abortion people have found their home in the Democrat Party, a party that at one time accepted people of all points of view. But no more. Today a strong pro-death stance is their litmus test of purity. No others need apply. Correspondingly, the Republican Party has become increasingly the party of life. Most candidates, on all levels, find that a pro-life position will attract voters, even though, at times, they may not be as committed as you or I. But some are!

Our Ashtabula County Republican Party has been revising its statement of core principles. High on the list is 'Respect for life'. They have demonstrated that belief by nominating Crystal Latimer, President of Friends for Life, as 'Patriot of the Year' for her work on behalf of life.

Some good, staunch pro-lifers have given up on politics. They consider it a dirty game with candidates that don't meet their expectations. Friends, this ought not to be. Like it or not, politics is how things get done. We don't have to agree with everything a candidate does or says. Our job is to 'hold their feet to the fire' if necessary. If we withdraw and refuse to vote for life, evil will triumph.

No political party is perfect or ideal and never will be. If we put our trust in a political party we are bound to be disappointed. Only God can change hearts to bring them from death to life. And he uses us, his servants, to get the word out: to speak the truth about life in a loving way, to love when we're reviled and to extend grace to those who have been

deceived by the lies about abortion and now want to change. Mary Ellen Blake 3/10/23



### **Welcome to the Back Alley 2.0**

“We won’t go back! We won’t go back!” That’s been the anthem cry of the pro-abortion movement as they wave hangers and cheering (dis)empowerment.

Today, we’re told the “patriarchy” is trying to deprive women of their “equality.” Men are excoriated by the rabidly pro-abortion Left if they dare to speak out against abortion. “No uterus! No say!” Boy, that mantra didn’t age well. Anyone can be a “uterus-haver” these days. Abortion is toxic masculinity. Abolition is compassionate masculinity. It was a joy to march, recently, with massive numbers of pro-life Americans at the March for Life and celebrate the overturning of Roe. Men and women, boys and girls, old and young, marched by the tens of thousands (reportedly 100,000) to be a witness to the world that we know that this fight will never truly be over. As long as humankind exists, abortion profiteers will figure out how to keep the revenue rolling in. They’re literally rolling around the country, now, in RVs to bring abortion to the borders of states that

have rightfully criminalized the violent act. Planned Parenthood’s new RVs apparently stand for Roving Violence. Funny. They’ve never sent out mobile units to provide prenatal care or bring financial or material assistance to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Life doesn’t fatten their bottom line. Death does. For years we’ve been sold the lie that Roe empowered women. It didn’t. It empowered men to have sex and run. It empowered abortionists. Men who want(ed) to protect the child they’ve helped to procreate were rendered powerless. In the majority of states across the country, where abortion is still legal and lethal, a man has no recourse to protect his unborn child. Abortion isn’t empowerment. It’s exploitation on a tragically grand commercial scale. The back alley never left. It just opened its storefront doors in 1973. And now, Walgreens (in some states, not Ohio) and CVS have signaled that their doors are open for abortion business too. Your local pharmacy will now become your local abortion drug dealer. Nothing says real healthcare like a dangerous DIY abortion. I thought the back alley pro-abortion activists mythologized for so long – women being left to themselves and acting in desperation to end their pregnancies – was an evil to avoid. The national wound of abortion — 64 million lives deep — can never be healed by hucksters offering their latest pink bandages of fake feminism. It can only be healed by a renewing of our hearts and minds. That takes time, and every moment is worth the sacrifice. We won’t go back to a nation shackled by the injustice of abortion. We must move forward into a new era where every human being has the God-given right to life.

Ryan Bomberger, Radiance Foundation, 1/ 31/23

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