

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

April 2023

Edition 6, Volume 2

Pregnancy Care Center Mission:

Acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection, the mission of the PCC of NY is to offer servant-hearted love, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion by presenting them with realistic alternatives and Christ-centered support through our life affirming network of counselors, churches, and individuals. Referrals for abortion will not be offered.

Please register ASAP!



You are invited to
The Pregnancy Care Center of New York's
22nd Annual Spring Gala

"Precious in His Sight"

Thursday May 11, 2023
7-10pm

Li Greci's Staaten
697 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

Guest Speaker
Seth Gruber

Recognition of Honorees
Louise Phillips
Arne & Laurie Syversten

\$100 per ticket will cover expenses for the evening
A Love Offering will be taken
RSVP by Thursday April 27, 2023



RSVP
by Thursday April 27, 2023

By scanning this QR code on your phone:



Or by using this link:
<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e-24491>

We hope that you are able to join us!
For more information, please email us at
info@pccofny.org or call 718-525-9669

Our Guest Speaker



Seth Gruber is the Founder and President of The White Rose Resistance, and host of the podcast "UnAborted." A nationally renowned human rights activist and sought after speaker, Seth is fighting for a world where every person has the right to be born.



Executive Director's Message



Arlene Rutuelo

Who remembers **Easter Sunday** as a child? The entire family would look forward to this day at church. New dresses, new hats, new suits, children church plays, choir music and we would gather the family for a special Easter Sunday dinner! Such wonderful memories!

As an adult follower of Jesus Christ, Easter **is** Christianity!

He has Risen! He has Risen, indeed!

Countdown begins — get your seats to **The 22nd Annual Spring Gala** on May 11, 2023. Look for the invitation or QR code in this newsletter. Pastor Dave Watson reminds me that this Gala is the largest Christian gathering on Staten Island. It is an evening of unity, acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection. Seth Gruber is our guest speaker this year — a nationally renowned human rights activist and sought-after speaker. We hope that you are able to join us!

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Board of Directors' Message

We, the Board of Directors, look forward to celebrating new life as Spring is upon us! The flowers are in bloom, the grass is coming back and let's not forget all the allergies that can also come along with the beauty. As believers, we live in a constant tension of rejoicing in God's goodness and acknowledging the brokenness of ourselves and the world around us. As a board we desire to walk in the abundant life that Jesus speaks of in John 10, while being keenly aware of the enemy's plan to steal, kill and destroy.

One specific way we desire to see that abundant life is as we pray and plan for the upcoming Gala in May. We are grateful to be part of this unique gathering that connects many churches in Staten Island to focus on God's gift of life. It is a lovely picture of Ps. 133, "Oh how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity." Thanks to all who have participated in the past and we look forward to seeing you again in a new location, the Staaten!

Outreach Coordinator — Jessica Bocaya

This month we have worked with some amazing people! Today I want to talk about a young fifteen-year old girl, Miss K. She has special needs, is a beautiful young lady with autism and oppositional defiant disorder. Her mother is a believer and has prayed for many years since the birth of Miss K, for the Lord to help her raise her daughter. Her mother reached out to us in desperation hoping we could provide support for her daughter, who is about 31 weeks pregnant. Mom says that during her last doctor visit, the doctor had a private conversation with her daughter without her knowledge and informed Miss K that she can get rid of the baby at any time.

Saddened by this advice, the mom called us hoping we can bring light into her situation. Once I heard this story, I prayed with the mom over the phone and offered to meet with her at a church service. On Easter Sunday, Miss K told her mom she would agree to meet me in person. Shocked that she would agree to this, her mom called me early in the morning and asked to join me at church service at ICC. Arlene offered for the PCC to cover the cost of car service round trip so that they would make it there. Miss K had a fear of traveling on a bus because she had been publicly and physically attacked in the past. We covered the car fare and both mom and daughter showed up for service.

Spring and Summer Outreaches are gearing up! Pray for us as we step into our community and speak Life!

Together for Life,
Arlene





Although Miss K would not speak, she watched and listened to the word of God. Her mom was so happy and felt so blessed to have her daughter sit in on the entire service without opposition. Following the service, I had a van filled with beautiful gifts for her baby boy who would arrive soon! Stroller, car seat, diaper bags, clothing, play pen, and many more items. Miss K, for the first time that day, finally had a smile on her face when she saw all that we had brought for her special baby boy. I asked her if we can take a photo together and she smiled and agreed. She didn't stand too close to me but her willingness to take the photo had consumed her mom with happiness. Since that day, we have remained in communication as we agreed this would not be our last interaction together. We look forward to a long-term partnership with this family as we continue to pray and ask God to uncover resources to help vulnerable young ladies like Miss K.

Volunteer Spotlight

Dr. Joyceann Fileccia, PhD, RN, LCPC, LCCC
Volunteer Pregnancy Education, Staff Trainer and Counselor



Most of you know me as the first Director of the CPCNY, INC, now known as the PCCNY. After two years on the Board of Directors, I was entrusted to lead the pregnancy center in all aspects of operation beginning in 1986. Prior to this, little did I realize that MY name was inscribed in the palms of the hands of my Lord and Savior (Isaiah 49:16). He had been preparing me all along for such a time as this — to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life rather than death for their unborn child.

My pathway to ministry at the PCCNY began as a new nurse, assigned to work at a local hospital in Labor & Delivery. As a federally funded hospital, this medical facility was mandated to perform abortions using two popular procedures at the time: D+C (dilation and curettage) for first trimester pregnancy termination, and Saline Induction for women past the first trimester and up to the 24th week of gestation.

The patients scheduled for pregnancy terminations were admitted to the L&D unit where I saw firsthand as a 21-year-old new nurse, the pain and suffering these women who chose to end their pregnancy by abortion endured. As I worked with these women, I realized how my heart was attuned to the value of life, both for the woman and for her unborn child.

Little did I know, the Lord had me on the potter's wheel — He was about to mold me and shape me into a new creature in Christ. He was about to change my life forever!

In 1982, 8 years after the birth of my first child, a son, I found myself pregnant with my second child — an unplanned crisis pregnancy. The timing of this pregnancy was not advantageous and I was pressure into considering abortion as the only viable option.

Little did I know that the Lord was actively pursuing me. He alone knew what it would take to get my attention to not only say "yes" to Him but to also say "yes" to life.

It was then I remembered a beating heart, eyes, ears, fingers, toes — a tiny living pre-born human being intricately fashioned by God and fitting in the palm of one hand — THIS, accompanied by maternal tears,



sadness and remorseful faces after pregnancy loss made me realize that two lives were forever changed by abortion.

Today, I not only have a wonderful son, but also a beautiful daughter where a crisis pregnancy could have led to a much different outcome. Jesus Christ literally became my Savior, and because He actively pursued me, calling me unto Himself, I by His grace was able to choose life over death; blessings over a curse (Deuteronomy 30:19). I now strive to help other women choose this Godly direction and decision.

As a result of God's miraculous hand in my life, I feel called to pursue a ministry in saving the lives of women experiencing a crisis pregnancy and their unborn precious babies — the Lord's heritage.

Today I proudly serve in the PCCNY as a volunteer pregnancy educator, staff trainer and counselor. In His service, I realize as I look back, that God has had a special plan of prosperity for my life. As I look to the future, and in His name, I seek to serve others in this ministry.

A favorite scriptural reference that has relevance to my service in ministry at the PCCNY comes from Isaiah 6:8, where the prophet Isaiah's response of "Here I am, Lord" clearly revealed his understanding that God had called him for a special life purpose. And so, it is with me. I am blessed to have been called to serve at the PCCNY and like Isaiah, I answer this call to serve with "Here I am, Lord, send me."

Featured Pastor's Corner (We will be highlighting a different pastor every month)



Dr. John Welborn
Senior Pastor
Salem Church

I am so grateful for our Pregnancy Care Center of New York precisely because of the work they are doing to help our neighbors flourish. **Flourish** ... This is not a word we use often, so let's understand how the Bible employs it. Flourish occurs mostly in the Old Testament and is translated from the Hebrew word "*parach*" which means "*to bud, sprout, or blossom.*" The closest New Testament word is the Greek "*plethuno*" which translates "*to multiply, increase, flourish.*" It is apparent that God's desire for human beings is that we live a life of human flourishing that is rooted in a personal relationship with His Son. Consider the words of Jesus, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*" **John 10:10.**

Did you notice that Jesus references a serious barrier to human flourishing? Anytime the Lord gives a gift to people, the enemy will produce a perversion of that gift; for example, God gives us food to nourish our physical bodies, yet the enemy has perverted this gift of food in tempting us to gluttony. Do you see? The same is true for so many other good gifts from God, including this gift of human flourishing. The enemy is working double-time to convince the world that flourishing requires material wealth, physical health, and no difficulty whatsoever. Sadly, I believe this perversion of God's intention for flourishing is at the root of many decisions to terminate pregnancies. How tragic! Because, it is simply not true that human flourishing wholly depends upon the unhindered pursuit of material wealth, physical health, and the absence of difficulty in our lives.



Consider that Jesus did not live a life marked by abundant material wealth, or perfect physical health, and He certainly faced significant difficulty in His life on earth. Yet there is no human who has ever flourished like our Lord and Savior. A flourishing life is the Christ-Life! Thomas a Kempis once wrote, *"We must imitate Christ's life and His ways if we are to be truly enlightened and set free from the darkness of our own hearts. Let it be the most important thing we do, then, to reflect on the life of Jesus Christ."*

If we want to truly experience human flourishing, it will be in imitating Christ Jesus. If we want others to flourish, let us say with the Apostle Paul, *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."* **1 Corinthians 11:1**. I am praying, and I encourage you to pray, for our friends at the Pregnancy Care Center of New York as they flourish and help others experience flourishing as well.

Volunteers taking the lead!



Our volunteer this month is Louise Phillips. Louise served faithfully on the Board of Directors and is being honored at The Pregnancy Care Center of NY's Annual Spring Gala on May 11, 2023. *Get your ticket now!*

Louise Phillips was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She has been married to her husband, Bill Phillips for 40 years. The Lord has blessed them with two wonderful sons, Brian and Daniel, and two grandchildren, Michael and Natalie.

In 1983, Louise and Bill moved to Staten Island where they attended an evangelical church for the first time. Since then, God has blessed her with many ministry opportunities, including the PCC.

The Pregnancy Care Center of NY has been a refuge for many families and their unborn babies. Louise feels that the PCC has also been a refuge to her because she has been given the opportunity to love Jesus through the community with donations and prayer. Thank you for your years of service to the PCC. We love you, Louise.

Prayer Corner

Prayer requests:

- ♦ Please pray for a new client, I will call her Miss K. She is 15 years old, a young woman with autism, she is over 31 weeks pregnant, lives with her mom. See the Outreach Message from Jessica.
- ♦ Please pray for our Board: Sonia, Gladys, Marilyn, Jim, Cecilia, Andrea, Paul, Catie, and Lynore.
- ♦ Pray for our hotline counselors: We pray the Lord would direct more women and families to call us and visit our website.
- ♦ Please pray for Jessica and her new baby girl Holiday Beth, who was born on April 21.
- ♦ Pray for our upcoming Annual Gala on May 11, 2023. Speaker: Seth Gruber.
- ♦ Pray for upcoming PCC Outreaches.



- ◆ Please pray for Staff: Arlene Rutuelo, Executive Director; Jessica Bocaya, Outreach Coordinator, and Annabelle Szepietowski, Social Media Specialist.

Praise reports:

- ◆ Baby Jason is doing well, getting ready for discharge. Please pray for his mom, Stacey. She is looking for a larger apartment and new employment.

Food for thought:

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”
 1 Cor. 15:58

The best and wisest thing in the world is to work as if it all depended upon you, and then trust in God, knowing that it all depends upon Him.”

Charles H. Spurgeon



2023 Donations are Welcome

Another easy way to increase your donation is by asking if your employer offers matching contributions to charities. Your donation of \$100 can become \$200 at no cost to you.



You can donate by going to our website: <https://www.pccofny.org> or our App and go to DONATE. All donations are tax deductible. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular monthly support on our secure site. If you prefer send a check, please send to: PO Box 141128, SINY 10314.

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