

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

January 2024

Edition 1, Volume 3

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.

Board of Directors' Message

Prayer was an integral part of Jesus' time on earth. His prayers give us an insight into who He was, His heart, His nature and His mission. More important than where He prayed, when He prayed and in what position He prayed is the fact that He prayed. He prayed in public and private settings, in times of joy and sorrow, for Himself and others, in thanksgiving and need, and to commune with the Father. Each one of His prayers are instructive.

While amongst us, Jesus prayed regularly and "often withdrew to lonely places" (Luke 5:16). If the Son of God found it necessary to be alone with His father, how much more do we need to do so? He faced persecution, heartache, trials, and physical suffering. Would these events be found unbearable without the continual access to the throne of God? Taking a lesson from Jesus, would our daily challenges seem more bearable if we continuously appeal to our Heavenly Father? He set the example of how we should trust God, submit to God, and seek fellowship with God.

To this day, Jesus continues to pray for His own. Scripture says He makes intercession for those who belong to Him (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1). It is significant that at His ascension He was taken away into heaven "while He blessed them (disciples)" (Luke 24:25). The blessing has not ceased.

Executive Director's Message



Arlene Rutuelo

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Welcome to 2024!

As we turn the page into a new year, it always brings us new opportunities to reset and look down the pathway of another year ahead of us, God willing. Some people commit to "New Year's Resolutions," which by mid-January are already a distant memory. Not for all, but for many.

I am glad that the Pregnancy Care Center (PCCofNY) steps into every new year with the *Sanctity of Human Life* month. The PCCofNY will join with churches throughout Staten Island, Brooklyn, and all around the United States to celebrate God's precious gift of life.

On January 22, 1985, President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation designating the third Sunday of January (or close to that date) as National Sanctity of Life Day.

Pastors, churches, and life organizations across the USA use this day to bring awareness to the attacks that are daily waged against
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From His exalted position in heaven at the right hand of the Father, He continues to bless those who come to God through faith in Christ until He returns.

Let us “be unceasing and persistent in prayer.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) in 2024.

Sonia Justiniano

Outreach Coordinator – Jessica Bocaya

Happy New Year!

It has been an incredible year, and I am looking forward to what the Lord will do through the PCCofNY in 2024! As I reflect back on 2023, I am reminded of God’s faithfulness.

As we gathered with our prayer team week after week, we petitioned to the Lord for a home for the PCC. We were specific with our requests and to God be the Glory, we are watching as our prayers are being answered. We can’t wait to reveal the center in due time and open the doors to our church families and clients. We ended last year with a victory! We had a fifteen-year-old young lady contact us looking to escape her family situation because she was being asked to have an abortion against her will by her mom. Ultimately, after working with our partners we were able to help her keep the baby and she had decided to go to the boyfriend’s home whose family was willing to take her in.

Weeks later, we received an anonymous call from the mother of this young teenage girl. The mom was requesting information to help her daughter find a shelter, not realizing that we had already been in communication with her daughter. The Lord gave me the opportunity to speak to the mom. As I began ministering to her, she admitted to attending church regularly and even said her Pastor once told her that her fifteen-year-old daughter had a “calling” on her life. But the mom said, “is this it? An unexpected pregnancy?”

As we continued along the conversation, she gave me the opportunity to pray with her and I was so honored to be able to do so. After a long talk, I encouraged her to stand by her daughter and not abandon her. I reminded her how we all fall short of the glory of God but we must believe God’s word is the truth in every situation and to have faith, standing on his promises. I was happy to connect her with a Pastor to speak with and the resources she needed to be able to help her daughter and seek reconciliation. We praise God that the baby was not aborted. We look forward to the day when this mom and daughter reach out to us and tell us how the baby has blessed their lives. God is able!

human life through abortion.

One of the best ways we can protect unborn lives is by bringing into light the darkness of abortion, and by supporting us, the PCCofNY, as we reach women and families with messages of hope and Life.

Some prayer requests...

- Pray that those we serve will have an openness to receive the love and hope of Christ.
- That the PCCofNY will be the 1st choice for anyone facing a pregnancy decision in our community.
- That the PCCofNY will be a light in our community giving all Glory to God.
- For protection for the Center and our Board, staff, and volunteers.
- That each of us would continually search our own hearts in order to be vessels for His use.



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



Jeremy Stephens
Pastor- Bethel Evangelical
Free Church, Staten Island

For most pastors, Easter weekend is our Superbowl weekend. It's full of highly planned and prayed for services. We're making sure our guest services volunteers are excited and on-mission. Our worship teams have had extra practices. There's that one video or skit that we hope will connect. We must explain once again what the word Maundy means, even if our church tradition doesn't have a Thursday evening service. We've sat through planning and preparation meetings for months, and we still must write multiple sermons. As you can imagine, there's a lot of enthusiasm and stress.

Yet, if you were to ask me about a single Easter weekend that stands out in my memory as a pastor, it would be Easter weekend of 2017. I can still picture it and feel the crisp air. It's early in the morning on Good Friday, and I'm walking in the front door of one of Boston's most prestigious hospitals to sit with a family I dearly love, who had just delivered and said goodbye to their precious son.

Several weeks before, they had heard the devastating news that their son was likely unable to develop any more in the womb, and that he would likely pass away shortly after birth. The family was advised to terminate the pregnancy. Yet, this couple trusted that the Lord in His infinite goodness and power could work a miracle. On that morning, the miracle wasn't quite what we prayed for. Yet, they were able to hold their son, take in his beauty, and grieve over his loss together.

As we cried together in that small hospital room overlooking a cold city emerging from winter, we read from 2 Corinthians 1:3-5:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

If you were to ask this couple about their son today, the first thing they'd point to is that they feel more connected to the death of our Savior and the devastation that must have come with it on that day, having shared in their own loss of a son on Good Friday. And, more so, they share a deep hope in an Easter for all who believe in Christ. That there is a resurrection and a hope. That there is a life eternal. That there is a Good Father who is acquainted with our grief.

A great privilege of being a pastor, and a great privilege you can have by volunteering with an organization like the PCC of NY, is that you can sit with those who are in times of fear and grief, and you can bring them to the seat of the God of Comfort. To the seat of the God who understands our pain, or sorrow, our anxiety, and our loss. In the brokenness of a world plagued by sin, we can point together toward a God who makes Easter Sundays possible.

Volunteers of the Month

This month we are excited to honor Ozzy & Anthony Lamboy as our volunteers kicking off the New Year! This couple has been present to assist us at outreaches from unloading vehicles, folding baby clothes at ICC to evangelizing in the playgrounds to families in need at the “Fatherhood Matters” event. They truly have a heart for the unborn and it comes as no surprise that their own family is expanding! We would like to take this opportunity to also welcome their newest addition to their family, Anthony Jr, born on January 10th, weighing 7lbs 15oz. Join us in celebrating life with baby number one for the Pregnancy Care Center this year!



Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

- Underage clients - please pray that the Lord will help us secure additional options for our clients that are facing unplanned pregnancies and are forced to leave their homes. Our partners are unable to take in underage clients (under 16 years old). Pray that the Lord will open doors to resources that can be readily available to these teenagers that are in need of housing. Pregnant moms are getting younger and younger and we want to be ready!
- New location- pray that the renovations of our center will be on pace to be completed by the early spring.

Praise

- The new center location is undergoing renovations and so far, the interior decorations and renovation plans are beautiful and we are excited to see the plans come to life!
- Stacey and Jason are thankful to have had their first Christmas and New Year's celebration together at home!
- The Pregnancy Center was invited to be guest speakers at a Soroptomist International event. Following the event, they offered to purchase items such as strollers and baby carriers to help furnish inventory in the baby boutique at our new center!



News Alert from Albany Update

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms www.albanyupdate.com

The [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 \(NDAA\)](#) (H. R. 2670) was the focus of a months-long political struggle over the military's divisive policies on abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and other matters. That struggle is over. On most issues, the liberal side has prevailed.

The Republican-led House of Representatives passed its version of the NDAA on July 14, 2023. The House-passed version of the bill contained a variety of provisions that were designed to stop the leftward drift of the U.S. Armed Forces. However, the Democrat-led Senate passed a different version of the NDAA on July 27, 2023 that omitted many of these provisions. As a result, a conference committee was formed to allow the House and the Senate to negotiate the final bill.

The final version of NDAA contains some policies that conservative New Yorkers will appreciate. Among them are provisions imposing a freeze on the hiring of so-called "diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)" staff in the Armed Forces and capping the pay of the military's existing DEI staffers. The NDAA also bans the display of LGBT pride flags at military bases. Other provisions within the NDAA are more controversial, including the temporary extension of a program (known as Section 702) that allows the government to spy on the communications of foreigners.

The biggest problem with the final NDAA is not the language that it includes, but the language that is missing from it. Important conservative provisions contained in the House version of the bill were left out of the final NDAA. One such provision would have forbidden the Armed Forces from providing insurance coverage for cross-sex hormones and so-called "gender reassignment surgeries" for military personnel, and another would have made it unlawful for military bases to host drag shows. Most importantly, a proposed ban on the Biden administration's policy of providing paid leave and travel reimbursement to servicemembers who visit other states to obtain abortions was removed from the final version of the bill. The omission of this language is deeply disturbing to pro-life Americans.

The NDAA passed the U.S. Senate, 87-13, on December 13, 2023. The following day, the House passed the bill, 310-118. There was bipartisan support and bipartisan opposition to the bill in both houses. New York's two U.S. senators, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), both voted in favor of the bill. Of New York's 25 members of the House of Representatives, seventeen—including all 10 of New York's House Republicans—voted for the NDAA; eight House Democrats voted against it. (To be clear, none of the New York members of the House who voted against the NDAA did so because they were concerned about taxpayer funding of abortion travel; each one is pro-abortion.) President Joe Biden is expected to sign the NDAA into law.

It is disappointing that pro-life members of Congress did not insist upon a ban on travel reimbursement for servicemembers who cross state lines to obtain abortions. The simple fact is this: Some House Republicans—including some New York Republicans—are pro-choice. Furthermore, there is a troubling perception in Washington that being pro-life is a political liability. Republicans who decline, for whatever reason, to take a clear stand for life are likely to disillusion and alienate many of the very voters who voted them into office.



ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 17, 2024
9 AM- 3 PM
Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church
233 Westcott Blvd.
Staten Island, NY 10314

We welcome
donations of gently
used clothing,
housewares & toys

DROPOFF: Friday, February 16, 2024
10 AM- 5 PM



23rd Annual Spring Gala

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 18TH, 2024



End of Year

2023-2024

This year, the Pregnancy Care Center is seeking \$30,000 to help renovate our new location.

Thank you to our donors for already giving \$5,600 towards this goal during Giving Tuesday!

Swipe through to see how you can help!



Be The First to Sponsor a Room

We are excited to announce the opportunity to sponsor one or more rooms in our new home. You can help us create an environment that reflects the PCC of NY mission to come alongside men and women throughout their pre-natal journey and beyond!

Sponsorship* can provide you with several rewards for your faithful donation. Anyone of the following rooms is available for your consideration:

- Baby Boutique
- Private Counseling Room
- Waiting Room with Children's Play Area
- Reception Area
- Office

Join us in our journey to love and care for those in our community today!

*Sponsorship levels outlined on Reward Tiers Page



Reward Tiers

Tier I- Donations of \$5000 or over

- * Your name prominently displayed on a plaque in the room(s) of your choice and on our website
- * An invitation to our grand opening
- * Your name published in our newsletter
- * Up-to-date progress on your room renovation(s) until completion

Tier II- Donations of \$2500-\$4999

- * Your name prominently displayed on a plaque
- * An invitation to our grand opening
- * Your name published in our newsletter
- * Up-to-date progress on your room renovation(s) until completion

Tier III- Donations up to \$2499

- * An invitation to our grand opening
- * Your name published in our newsletter
- * Up-to-date progress on your room renovation(s) until completion



How To Give

1. Start by scanning the QR code or following the link down below to access our Fundeas Campaign.



<https://secure.fundeas.com/ministrysync/event/?e=26539>

Checks may also be made payable to the Pregnancy Care Center of New York and mailed to:

The Pregnancy Care Center of NY
PO Box 141128, Staten Island, NY 10314

Please include a note with your email address

2. After donating, you will receive an email directing you to a Google Form, where you can select a room(s) to sponsor.

3. Submit the form, and you're all done!



Food for thought:

1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Quote: "Here is the thing, you can't be a little bit holy. You will not find any marginally holy people in the Bible. One is either positionally holy in Christ or entirely unholy outside of him. There are no slightly holy people. Holiness is a state of being; you either are or you are not. How is this possible? It all stems from our Union with Christ. Our holiness is not a matter of doing, but a state of being. We are either perfectly holy in Christ or we remain outside of him and unholy altogether. There are no margins of holiness."

~ Stephen Kneale

2024 Donations are Welcome

An 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.

Please follow us on:



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