

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

April 2024

Edition 4, 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.

You Are Invited To
The Pregnancy Care Center of New York
Annual Fundraising Gala

"...The Breath of the Almighty Gives Me Life."
~Job 33:4

Thursday April 18, 2024
Doors Open 6:45pm
Li Greci's Staaten
697 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

RSVP

by April 4, 2024

\$100 per ticket will cover expenses for the evening.
A Love Offering will be taken.

Scan the QR code below or visit the link
provided to register.



<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=27083>

We hope that you are able to join us!
For more information, please call us at
718-667-4357 or email info@pccofny.org

Voices for the Unborn
Sponsorship Opportunities

\$5,000- Defender of Life
\$2,500- Pro Life Champion
\$1,500- Supporter
\$1,000- Guardian Angel
\$500- Friend

All sponsors will have the opportunity to
distribute promotional material at the event,
and will be included on website, social
media, and email promotions.

Contact Arlene Rutuelo at 718-614-4724
or email arlene@pccofny.org

Executive Director's Message



Arlene Rutuelo



"The Breath of the Almighty gives me Life..." Job 33:4

Reminder if you have not registered for the Pregnancy Care Center's Gala on April 18th, please do so! We have an extraordinary night planned for you and we want to share all the Lord has done this past year! Join us!

Allow me to share a story this month that has given me *new eyes* to see a tiny glimpse into the unseen realm.

A young woman was driving around the South Shore of Staten Island, having recently found out she was six weeks pregnant. Single and living with her mom, she really didn't know what to do.

Growing up in a Christian family herself, she knew of God that her family spoke about, but that didn't take away the questions/fears she had regarding having this baby alone.

(continued on page 2)



Board of Directors' Message

Happy April to you!

Three PCC board members were able to attend this year's Legislative Day in Albany hosted by New Yorker's Family Research Foundation on March 12. We heard speakers who talked about IVF, assisted suicide, and how to talk to your school board about books that should not be in our school libraries. We also heard from Pastor Mike Servello Jr. of Redeemer Church (located in Albany, Rome, Utica, Syracuse) who shared about the Biblical defense of the sanctity of life. He said these words:

"Everybody is created equal. Why? Because they are created in the image of God. And, by the way, this is a distinctly Christian value."

This was a simple yet profound reminder of why the PCC exists. All people have. Dignity, honor, and value for no other reason than they were made in the image of God. But this is not universally known or believed. It is our calling at the PCC to both proclaim this truth and share with women who find themselves pregnant that the life they are carrying is priceless.

We are excited about our new location. We are excited about lives who are being touched and even saved. We are grateful for your partnership with us. We are excited for the Gala on April 18, to share stories and focus our eyes and finances on the mission of saving the unborn. Let's continue to tell the world that unborn life is created in the image of God and do good for those in need of it.

Outreach Coordinator- Jessica Bocaya

Hello friends! This month I want to highlight our gratitude for the donors that have heard our requests to help a family in need and have responded with acts of generosity and kindness. Our client reached out to us in desperation. Although she enjoys attending church services at Salem Church, she has been struggling with her commute. She just had her baby, and with seven children total, it's been a challenge to commute. So she asked for a double stroller. (Continued on page 3)

This young woman drove towards Gateway Church, and she literally said that she was "drawn" to drive into the Gateway Church campus. She shared she had never been at Gateway Church before, but she "knew" she had to come inside and ask to speak with the Pastor.

She parked her car and went inside the building, there she met the long-time Gateway receptionist. The young woman shared with the receptionist that she needed to speak to the Pastor. The problem was the Pastors had already gone for the day, but Gateway's Director of Counselor, "JAF" was still in the building.

The receptionist, not knowing any of the details, was discerning enough to call the counselor to ask if she had space for a "walk-in."

Yes, of course, being a servant of the Lord, JAF was available to meet with this young woman. The young woman sat in the counselor's office and poured out her heart and her story.

(The Lord knew the Pregnancy Care Center administrative office is housed inside Gateway Church, and the Lord knew a PCCofNY counselor would be onsite this day)

After some extensive conversation, the counselor led this young woman to the Lord, and she repented of her sins, and received Christ as Savior, and this woman will be KEEPING this child!

Two lives saved in one day!



We are so thankful that with a post on social media, we were met with not one but two amazing families willing to give and help this mom and her family. I am blessed to have been able to hand deliver a brand new stroller and witness the expressions on mommy's face as she is finally able to return to church and enjoy Sunday morning services with the family. It's these acts of love and kindness that help remind people that God sees them, loves them and will provide for them. We are honored to be ambassadors of Christ in the community.



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

George Ippolito

Pastor of Tottenville Free Church

People are inundated with messaging on the subject of abortion. It is a seemingly ever present political topic. A step in the direction of protecting life, as in the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, mobilized the media outlets of the political left to "warn" their listeners that this meant that it was only a matter of time until they couldn't choose to end the lives of the children conceived in their wombs. The Democratic Party has wholeheartedly embraced child murder as a "fundamental right." This isn't new. Their party's political platform in 2020 unambiguously declared allegiance to that and a slew of other positions that are diametrically opposed to the God of the universe.

Recently, Bill Maher even said out loud what many believe but wouldn't want to openly admit: "They [those who believe in an 'absolutist' pro-life position] think it's murder and it kind of is. I'm just OK with that. I am. I mean, there's 8 billion people in the world. I'm sorry, we won't miss you. That's my position on it." Maher said this after chiding former President Trump for his recent statements on abortion.

And to be sure, the Christian ought not to learn apologetics from politicians who equivocate on the matter of life, regardless of how much better their policies are than the alternative. Doubtless, many Christians will be tempted to parrot statements from the former President, or Senate candidate, Kari Lake, that a recent ruling by the Supreme Court of Arizona to uphold a law that nearly bans all abortions goes "too far" and needs to be more "reasonable." If the church starts speaking like that, or if the discussion becomes at what point in a pregnancy is abortion okay, the salt has lost its saltiness.

(Continued on page 4)



Therefore, it seems appropriate to provide an abbreviated reminder of what God has stated in His word. His revelation, and not human opinion, nor the ever changing political crosswinds, is what matters.

The Bible clearly calls murder wrong (Gen. 9:6, Mt. 15:19) and the Bible clearly identifies unborn children as persons. For example, Elizabeth said that John the Baptist leapt for joy in the womb (Lk. 1:44), witnessing to John experiencing emotion while within his mother. Furthermore, in that verse, as well as a few verses earlier (1:41), the Greek word, *brephos*, was used to identify John as a baby while he was in the womb. That same word is used twice in the following chapter to describe Jesus when He was outside of the womb (Lk. 2:12,16)! This is where a little bit of New Testament Greek can go a long way. According to the Bible, a *brephos* is a *brephos*, a baby is a baby, both inside and outside of the womb.

Then there are Old Testament texts, like Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:1. And Psalm 139:13-16, that show that God is the one who forms a child in the womb and calls individuals from the womb. Does any man or woman have a right to set his or her hand against God's, to stop the knitting together that He is doing, or to snuff out the life that He has formed, in the womb?

Then there's the Mosaic Law. If men fought and as a result of their fighting a woman with child gave birth prematurely, resulting in the loss of life, either the mother's life or the life of the child within the womb, the death penalty was the punishment for the offending party (Ex. 21:22-23).

All that to say, the Scriptures, in numerous ways, regarded those within the womb as persons, as babies, as infants capable of emotion, and as individuals deserving of legal protection. So, despite the cacophony of voices advocating for the "fundamental right" to take the lives of the unborn, or to embrace a more measured position of such life-taking, the Word of God has spoken clearly. And with God's help, so must His people.

Volunteers of the Month

Two dedicated PCCofNY volunteers, Paul & Theresa Weberg out at a recent Casting Crowns concert!





Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer:

- Please pray for the upcoming gala. We have people in attendance that do not know Jesus but they are pro-life and want to support our mission. May Jesus get all the glory for the wonderful things He has done through the PCC.
- New Location! Please pray for the finances of the PCC- May the Lord continue to provide for all of the needs of the PCC according to His riches and glory!
- Please pray for the families represented for all staff and board members of the PCC. As we go into the busy season of the year with outreaches and face to face interactions in the community, we ask the Lord for His protection and guidance.

Praise:

- We have secured a General Contractor and have finally launched the renovation project! The start date is as early as next week and we are excited to project an opening date by the summer time! Hallelujah!
- The Gala is this week! We have secured at least one sponsor and we have at least four new secular organizations represented that have registered as first time visitors!

In The Media



Alabama Court Correctly Rules That Frozen Embryos Are Children **By Stephen P. Hayford**

Pro-life advocates in New York and across the United States should be heartened by a landmark court decision issued on February 16, 2024. In [LePage v. Center for Reproductive Medicine](#), the Supreme Court of Alabama ruled that frozen embryos are recognized as children for purposes of Alabama's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

The LePage court confronted a tragic situation that arose at a fertility clinic in December 2020. According to the court, a hospital patient walked into the fertility clinic and removed several embryos from a freezer. The patient accidentally dropped the embryos on the floor, and they died.

The three sets of parents of the deceased embryos sued both the clinic and the nearby hospital whose patient had caused the deaths of the embryos. A trial court dismissed the plaintiffs' cases, ruling that the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act did not allow for claims based on the deaths of frozen embryos and that frozen embryos should be accorded the legal status of property. The plaintiffs appealed.

The Supreme Court of Alabama [reversed](#) the trial court's decision. The court noted that prior decisions established that the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act applied to unborn children. The court held that the law did not exclude "extrauterine children—that is, unborn children who are located outside of a biological uterus at the time they are killed"—from its protections. The court rejected the argument that frozen embryos should be considered to be property.

In a [concurring opinion](#), Chief Justice Tom Parker [argued](#) that "the theologically based view of the sanctity of life adopted by the People of Alabama encompasses the following: (1) God made every person in His image; (2) each person therefore has a value that far exceeds the ability of human beings to calculate; and (3) human life cannot be wrongfully destroyed without incurring the wrath of a holy God, who views the destruction of His image as an affront to himself."

Some pro-life voices have praised the LePage decision. "Each person, from the tiniest embryo to an elder nearing the end of his life, has incalculable value that deserves and is guaranteed legal protection," Lila Rose of Live Action [said](#). Rose [added](#), "The Alabama Supreme Court decision should be applauded and used as a model of honest and prudential jurisprudence nationwide." Josh Craddock, an affiliated scholar with the James Wilson Institute, [commented](#) that the decision "recognizes a basic moral truth that's written on our hearts and backed up by basic science found in any basic science textbook."

However, many political figures who consider themselves to be pro-life have reacted negatively to the LePage decision. The reason? It has major implications for the fertility industry (which [enjoys widespread popularity](#)), and, specifically, for the practice of in vitro fertilization. Since the decision was released, [at least three](#) Alabama fertility clinics have "suspended" their services due to concerns that the decision would create liability for them. The Hill [explains](#): "During IVF, a patient self-administers hormone injections over about two to three weeks. An egg, or several eggs, is surgically removed from the ovary and fertilized within a laboratory environment. The fertilized egg, now considered an embryo, is then implanted into the uterus or frozen for later use." Betsy Campbell of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association asserted that the LePage decision "could make it impossible to perform IVF to the standard that has been honed over the last 40 years." Campbell added, "The goal of IVF is to have a healthy pregnancy with a single baby, and that requires creating enough embryos [to] give the best chance of pregnancy." Often, infertility specialists engineer multiple embryos, evaluate which embryos appear healthiest, implant those embryos into a woman's womb, and cause unused embryos to be frozen for later use or (sadly) discarded. As New Yorker's Family Research Foundation has said for many years, these practices are deeply problematic from a pro-life perspective. While the hearts of Christians should go out to the millions of American couples who struggle with infertility, we must not be so eager to pursue biological parenthood that we compromise our Biblical principles.

In recent days, former President [Donald Trump](#), [several Republican governors](#), and the [Senate Republican Campaign Committee](#) have all spoken out against the LePage decision or expressed support for legislation to protect the fertility industry. The mainstream media has already [pounced on the inconsistency between these comments and the professed pro-life convictions of many of the persons who made them](#). These Republicans are understandably concerned that Democrats will use the decision against them in the November elections. However, Republican candidates and officeholders should be mindful that there are things more important than the next election. If in vitro fertilization is to be conducted, it should be conducted in a manner that respects human life. If in vitro fertilization cannot be conducted in a manner that is respectful of human life, it should not be conducted at all.

Asserting that frozen embryos are human beings with legal rights may be deeply unpopular in certain circles. However, there is one major upside to that assertion: It's truthful.

Upcoming Events



BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG FUNDRAISER

May 12, 2024 - June 16, 2024

Please pick up your empty baby bottle in your church lobby on Mother's Day and return filled with coins, check, and dollars on Father's Day.



What a fantastic way to celebrate Moms and Dads who choose life for their children!

YOU MAY ALSO GIVE ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.





Food for thought:

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Quote:

“If we try to prove God’s love by pointing to our circumstances in a fallen world, we will fail. But, if we point to his characters revealed at the Cross, then we need never doubt his eternal love. When God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, he proved for all time and circumstances his love for us.

~ Bryan Chapell

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.

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