

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

June 2024

Edition 6, 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

Did you know that June is celebrated as Fidelity Month in the United States of America? It is a month of observance that emphasizes the importance of loyalty, commitment, and dedication in various aspects of life, including relationships, work, and personal goals. Our Heavenly Father established this through His covenant relationship with His people, "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty, with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations."* For true believers, loyalty is shown in our commitment to Jesus and the gospel. We demonstrate our loyalty and self-sacrificing allegiance to Him by following His command, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."** But even when we fail to be completely loyal and steadfast to Him, we have His assurance that He will be loyal to us, "And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."***

For almost 40 years the evangelical Christian community of Staten Island has been faithful to the cause of saving the unborn and will soon open a new office. In partnership with Compass Care, we will be able to provide medical as well as much needed resources for vulnerable women. We continue to move forward because of God's faithfulness and that of the saints.

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Executive Director's Message



Pictured with newest Granddaughter, Chloe

Arlene Rutuelo

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I absolutely love the month of June. The month of June comes straight out of a solemn and restful weekend surrounding Memorial Day. This weekend we rightly remember those who died in active military service.

June has holidays such as Father's Day, Flag Day, and Juneteenth, June is also where summer officially begins.

James 4:6 says "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.""

In light of God's Word, let's start a new trend this June and celebrate humility!

Happy Humility Month!

As the Executive Director of the PCCofNY, I get an "above the trees" view of what the Lord is doing here on Staten Island, at times, it's really overwhelming.

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However, the need is still great, and we ask your prayerful consideration in partnering with us to take this project to completion. If interested, please contact Arlene Rutuelo, Executive Director, for more information at 718-614-4724.

Thank you in advance.
Sonia Justiniano

*Deuteronomy 7:9

**Mark 8:34

***Matthew 28:20

Outreach Coordinator- Jessica Bocaya

Where do I begin? This has been the month of divine intervention to protect life. As I was headed home after a long day of outdoor fun with the family, my husband spotted a young lady sitting on the curbside weeping. He immediately said, “go and pray for her”. I asked him to drive around once more and if she is still there then that will be confirmation that the Lord is leading us. Sure enough, she was just getting up and wiping her tears as we pulled over beside her. I stepped out of the car and said, “are you okay, do you need help?” And as I’m typing this out, I am still in awe as I reflect on that very moment. The young lady replied back saying, “I just found out that I was pregnant”. WHOAaa! I looked back at my husband and we both exchanged that look of awe and wonder. At that moment, I knew God was at work. The young lady shared her journey with me about the rough life she had lived and how her boyfriend had been through so much trauma and he didn’t want her to have the baby. He advised her to take the first chemical abortion pill and then he took off. She didn’t know what to do.

I praise God for giving me the opportunity to show up at that very moment to bring the good news to her and let her know that this blessing that is growing in her belly is a gift from God. As I began ministering to her, she was in such shock. She couldn’t believe that I was from the Pregnancy Care Center and that I showed up the way that I did.

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Not overwhelming in a negative way, but overwhelming to get to join God in the work that He has started and is doing using the PCCofNY, CompassCare and the Body of Christ.

As most are aware, PCCofNY is partnering with CompassCare (NY’s first medicalized pregnancy center in New York State). As we soon complete the renovations on our new office space, 235 Dongan Hills Avenue, and we will be able to offer professional medical services, with CompassCare sharing space in our center to enhance services of the PCCofNY.

In our center, CompassCare will offer ultrasounds, STD testing and treatment, pregnancy confirmation and Abortion Pill Reversal.

At the first appointment of the abortion minded women, they will meet with a nurse who will:

- Review the Reproductive Health Screening that you will be receiving, including pregnancy testing, ultrasound, and STD testing.
- Review your health history and answer your medical questions.
- Perform a clinical pregnancy test. If positive,
 - Perform an ultrasound exam to confirm pregnancy and determine how far along you are.
 - Review all of your pregnancy options, including abortion procedures, risks and side effects.
- Review your customized Personal Resource List and provide any necessary medical, insurance, and community support referrals available from the PCCofNY’s extensive community partners.

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It was with such joy that I was able to confidently tell her all about what we do and how we can help support her. The boyfriend arrived shortly after and joined in the conversation, he began sharing his story, and then, my husband joined the conversation as well. After nearly five hours of sharing the love of Jesus and praying together with them, this couple decided they will choose life! It was such a blessing to have a divine opportunity to be able to introduce the one who quiets the storm – JESUS!

- Schedule another appointment for you to receive your test results in one week.

All of these pregnancy services are completely free.

Did I mention it's overwhelming?

I invite you to join us, as we join God- to erase the need for abortion.

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer:

- Please keep both families in prayer that have chosen life for their babies. Each family has challenging times ahead of them but nothing is impossible for our God. We pray that these families' hearts will be softened and that they would be willing to receive Jesus and commit to a local church
- We ask that you continue to keep the new center in prayer as we host the dedication and soft opening. We want to honor the Lord and present every cubic square foot, every person expected to walk in, every contractor that has had a hand in the renovation project, every staff member, at the feet of Jesus.
- Cover our finances in prayer. We want to be good stewards of all that the Lord has entrusted to us. We pray that the Lord will continue to provide for all of the needs of the center according to His riches and glory.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser is almost ending. We are thankful for all of the churches that continue to support us and we want to pray that the Lord will provide the increase and bless these churches for their generosity.

Praise:

- This month, a mom pregnant with twins chose life! Another couple (mentioned in the outreach report of this newsletter), also chose life! Three babies were saved this month alone! Hallelujah!
- The Prayer Dedication for the center is scheduled this month and the official grand opening in partnership with Compass Care will be in September!
- We cast a net seeking nurses that would like to volunteer from our supporting churches and for the first meeting we had at least seven nurses in attendance!
- Compass Care has hired two of our nurses! They are officially on staff and are being onboarded!
- The Baby Bottle fundraiser has launched and is coming to an end on Father's Day!



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



Life is a miracle! The phenomenal creation of man is the greatest, to the highest degree, of all of God's creative work. Life is the power to live, and to exist. The purpose of life is to glorify God. Isaiah 43:7

In December 2021, I became ill and by the end of the month I was hospitalized for 74 days. As 2022 arrived I was in a fight for life. Covid pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, kidney failure and sepsis were in control of my body, breathing difficult and I was intubated for nine days. At the worst of my condition, I was medically unable to sustain life. But God said, "I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord." Psalm 118:17

I am a miracle! Without God, I would not be living today. I am keenly aware that God creates and sustains life and I live to glorify Him. Since, I have life then, I must live life for God and His glory.



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Genesis 2:7 says, "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being." This verse is saying God formed and God breathed into man the breath of life. Making breath necessary for life. Making God the Source and Sustainer of life.

Jeremiah 1:5 says, Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. This one sentence displays the sovereignty of God and His foreknowledge over the life of every person. "I formed you" tells us that God has direct involvement in the shaping of our bodies. "I knew you" implies not only a relationship between God and me, but intimacy. Jeremiah 1:5 also says, Before, you were born I set you apart as holy. I chose you... Jeremiah 1:5 is saying, God knew us before we were born. He is directly involved with our creation, and has a life picked out for us that only we can live.

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Psalm 139 The Passion Translation tells us what God knows about us and will do for us:

Knows everything
Perceives every movement
Understands every thought
Intimately aware
Reads our heart
Knows every word we are about to speak
Knows every step
Goes into our future to prepare the way
Follows behind us
Lays His hand upon us
Knows wherever we go
Guides us
Strengthens and empowers us
Formed our innermost being
Shapes our delicate inside and our intricate outside
Made us mysteriously complex
Knows us thoroughly
Formed every bone
Carefully and skillfully shapes us into something
Planned every one of our days and recorded them before we were born
Thinks of us every moment that those thoughts outnumber the grains of sand
Cherishes us constantly

God is the Giver of Life, God's knowledge of us is beyond our comprehension, it is God's breath in our lungs. Therefore, I will always praise the Lord. God restored my life. He gave back breath. He allowed me to walk again. Through paralyzed vocal chords and swallowing difficulties, stomach bleeds, blood transfusions, through Stage 3b Kidney disease to Stage 3a now God continues to heal. I am overwhelmed by His greatness! God alone is life!

Volunteer of the Month



This month, we would like to recognize our volunteer, Janiah McNair. She is a member of the Transforming Word Christian Center and has quickly become family to the PCC. She first learned about the Pregnancy Care Center when we partnered with her church and hosted our annual Christmas outreach there. Since then, we learned that Janiah was competing for The National American Miss Pageant as a State Finalist and was in need of a community service opportunity. Thankfully, Janiah was able to join us at the UAU Community Center for an outreach event this month. She is a natural leader. She understands the importance of loving the community and giving to those in need. She is not afraid to interact with people, lend a hand and share the love of Jesus. She is gentle, kind and always willing to help. We are proud of this next generation as God is raising up youth like Janiah to reach the city for Jesus!

Highlights



May Meeting at Z2 with two of our Nurses for the PCCofNY Center.

Thankful for Godly women who are serving the Lord!

Pictured: Arlene, Delma, Ruth, and Joyceann



Bethel Evangelical Free Church of Staten Island. Celebrate MISSION SUNDAY. Roseann did a wonderful job representing the PCCoFNY! Thank you For all your prayer and financial help!



The Annual Ladies Brunch at Bethel Evangelical Free Church. Executive Director shared the mission of the PCCoFNY with all the ladies. The men of this church were the cooks! Awesome time of fellowship!



In The Media



May 20, 2024

Legislative Update

On May 20, the New York State Senate passed two bills of significance. New York Families Action supports one of these bills and opposes the other.

Bill S.1965-A-Addabbo/A.3865-A-Gunther passed the Senate by a 59-0 vote. This bill would require health insurance companies to cover prenatal vitamins for pregnant mothers if prescribed by their respective medical providers. New York Families encourages the Assembly to pass this pro-family bill as well and urges Gov. Kathy Hochul to sign it into law.

By a 46-13 vote, the Senate passed Bill S.1110-A-Comrie/A.9898-Simone. This misguided bill would allow the use of an "X" gender marker upon request in documents created by state agencies, public authorities, and municipalities. Due to the passage of the Gender Recognition Act in 2022, New Yorkers confused about their gender identities can already have their driver licenses marked "X" rather than "M" or "F"; this bill would allow more legal documents to contain gender-related falsehoods.

Sadly, the State Senate passed this bill with a bipartisan majority; 40 Democrats and six Republicans supported it, while 13 Republicans voted against it. This bill should be rejected by the Assembly.

May 21, 2024

New York Court of Appeals Goes Wrong on Abortion Insurance Mandate

The twin causes of life and religious liberty suffered a loss in New York's highest court today.

In *Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany v. Vullo*, the New York Court of Appeals upheld the state's requirement that employer-provided health insurance policies include coverage for abortion. This requirement was implemented by executive action in 2017 and was codified into law in 2022. It was



challenged in court because its religious exemption was too narrow and did not adequately protect faith-based charities. The plaintiffs intend to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

To add insult to injury (literally), Gov. Kathy Hochul made these remarks following the court's decision: "'While right-wing extremists attempt to undermine our fundamental freedoms, New York will continue standing strong to protect women's health care and safeguard abortion rights... As Governor, I'm committed to ensuring New York continues to be a safe harbor for anyone who needs abortion care.'"

Jason J. McGuire, executive director of New York Families Action, responded: "It is bad enough that the state has imposed an abortion insurance mandate on employers. It is even worse that the state has required faith-based charities to violate their sincerely-held religious beliefs by paying for abortion-related insurance. Sadly, both Gov. Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James are determined to use government power to impose their pro-abortion fanaticism on the entire state of New York. New Yorkers who value life and freedom are left to hope that the Supreme Court will uphold religious liberty by striking down this mandate."

Legislative Update

Today, the Assembly Economic Development Committee missed an opportunity to approve a common-sense bill that would mitigate one of the many negative consequences of recreational marijuana legalization. Bill S.7604-Borrello/A.7612-Novakhov, which would have banned public marijuana use except in spaces designated for marijuana use by a local government, was defeated by a vote of 16-8. The vote was a party-line vote, with 16 Democrats opposing the bill and eight Republicans supporting it.

May 22, 2024

New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide Demonstrates at Capitol Again

Today, participants in the New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide (NYAAAS) visited the New York State Capitol. The NYAAAS held productive discussions about the assisted suicide issue with multiple legislators and attended the week's Assembly Health Committee meeting.

For their part, persons affiliated with Compassion and Choices—one of the organizations that has pushed for assisted suicide in New York for nearly a decade—protested the Legislature's inaction on the issue by chanting outside the Assembly Health Committee meeting and later causing a disruption in the Assembly chamber before being escorted out.

The pro-suicide group's actions appear to have backfired. At least one legislator, Asm. Joe Angelino, took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to voice his displeasure with the approach, while others who



had been leaning in support of state-sanctioned suicide indicated that they may be reconsidering their votes following the disruption in the Assembly chamber.

The legislative session is scheduled to end on June 6. As the end of session approaches, the NYAAAS intends to continue making our presence felt in Albany. The NYAAAS is scheduled to hold Albany demonstrations Wednesday, May 29 and Tuesday, June 4. For more information, or to sign up to join the demonstration, please contact [Stephen Hayford](#).

Legislative Update

In 2010, the New York State Legislature passed the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). Under the guise of nondiscrimination, this anti-bullying law mandated that public schools accommodate their students' sexual orientations and gender identities. Now, pro-LGBT lawmakers want to impose these same mandates upon Christian schools and other nonpublic schools.

On May 17, 2024, a completely revised version of the Assembly's DASA for Nonpublic Schools Bill was released. Today, Bill A.1829-A-Jean-Pierre—now named the Nonpublic School Students Act—was approved by the Assembly Education Committee by a party-line vote of 21-8. New York Families Action released a revised memorandum of opposition in advance of the committee vote. The bill will now move to the Assembly Codes Committee for further consideration. New York Families strongly opposes this legislation, which is an existential threat to Christian schools.

Also, the Senate passed Bill S.9276-Gianaris/A.4992-A-Paulin today by a 55-4 vote. The bill, which relates to evidence of prior sex offenses in sex crimes cases, was passed in response to the New York Court of Appeals' recent decision to overturn the rape conviction of disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. According to the Associated Press, "the bill would make clear that evidence of previous sexual offenses can be heard in sex crimes cases, even if those prior allegations are not directly part of the underlying criminal charges. The proposal would also give judges discretion to not allow such testimony if it would create 'undue prejudice' against a defendant." Supporters of the bill assert that its language protects the rights of victims and is similar to other states' laws, while opponents contend that it is too broad and could lead to unjust convictions. The bill's fate in the Assembly is uncertain.



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.





PATROL BOROUGH STATEN ISLAND HARMONY DAY PICNIC

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lunch & Refreshments

CLOVE LAKES PARK
1150 CLOVE ROAD
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10301

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Food for thought:

James 1:2-4 ESV

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Quote:

"Remembers God's agenda for us. He is making us like Christ. He is always at work to refine us through our trials, whether they are trials of our own making or foisted on us by others or circumstances of life. You are never at a place where your work has been in vain. You are on a journey, and God is a faithful Heavenly Father. "Giving up" is a sign that you are hoping in your own efforts rather than the work of God's Spirit." ~Marty Tripp

2024 Donations are Welcome



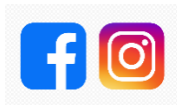
An easy way to increase your donation is by asking if your employer offers matching contributions to charities. Your donation of \$100 can become \$200 at no cost to you.

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, Staten Island, NY 10314.

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