



April 2023

Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on April 27th, 2023 at 7:00PM, at Preferred Insurance Center, 809 W. Main St., Suite 2 (basement), across from Mercer Health Hospital in Coldwater. Please park in the back of the building. We would love to see you at our next meeting!

Upcoming Events:

Brunch for Priests, Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and their Wives.....April 13th, 10:00AM
Pro-Life T-Shirt Day.....April 18th
MCRTL hosts speaker Margie Christie—Public Invited.....April 18th 7:00PM
Reagan Day Dinner.....May 19th
Mother’s Day Rose Sale.....May 14th
Ohio March for Life.....October 6th

Defeating Ohio’s Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative Requires an “All-Hands-on-Deck” Effort, Starting with our Shepherds

By Mike Spencer of Project LifeVoice and Together for Life Ohio

The fall of Roe v. Wade was a tremendous victory but the battle for life is far from over. The pro-abortion lobby has adopted a new tactic: passing state constitutional amendments to enshrine abortion into law. These have proven a highly effective strategy. Since the Dobbs v. Jackson ruling, 3 states have passed amendments guaranteeing the so-called “right” to abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy. Emboldened by this success, activists recently launched a campaign to do the same here in Ohio.

Two pro-abortion groups, *Protect Choice Ohio & Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom* are working on a ballot initiative to amend our state constitution. They have pledged over 30 million dollars on advertising which will undoubtedly be designed to confuse voters. So, from now until July 5th proponents will canvas our state collecting the 413,000 signatures needed to place this on the November 2023 ballot. This means that on November 7th –*less than 8 months from now*—every Christian will answer the question, “Should mothers have the right to kill their unborn children?” All that is needed for this amendment to pass is 50% of the vote, plus 1 vote.

Our state constitution is the supreme law of Ohio. All other laws are upheld or struck down based on their constitutionality. It’s nearly impossible to overstate the damage that will be caused if this amendment passes. A portion of the proposed amendment states:

“Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion.”

According to this language, any attempt by our legislature to protect the unborn and their young mothers will be characterized as a restriction of this “right” and thus unconstitutional. If passed, this amendment will nullify all of Ohio’s existing laws protecting the unborn. Because the amendment

language states that “every individual” has a right to abortion rather than “every adult,” this will effectively overturn Ohio’s parental notification laws, further endangering minors by allowing predatory adults to cover up the consequences of their abuse.

But the amendment language isn’t constrained to abortion alone. The term “one’s own reproductive decisions” is incredibly broad and not limited to the enumerated issues within the text. This means that if passed our state would recognize a legal right for each individual—*regardless of age*—to make medical decisions having to do with their reproductive organs. The logical and legal outcome is clear: this will have direct implications for gender-dysphoric minors obtaining irreversible sex-altering therapies, medications, & surgeries, – *and without parental knowledge or consent!*

If there was ever a need for the prophetic voice of our pastors and priests, this is it. The wolf is at the door of our churches, and we are calling on every shepherd in Mercer County and throughout Ohio to fortify their flock with the truth and to expose this insidious ballot initiative from their pulpits for the evil that it is.

We want to help you do just that. Over the next 8 months we will be traveling to as many of Ohio’s 88 counties as possible to encourage and support pastors, elders, and church leaders to faithfully respond to this current crisis. We have developed a unique training session, “Together for Life,” designed to equip and support church leaders as they proclaim the dignity of human life and the hope of the gospel to an abortion infatuated culture. Participants will be briefed on the legal ramifications of a pro-abortion constitutional amendment and given the tools necessary to prepare their flocks to stand against this threat. These events may be hosted in churches or homes at no cost to the host.

To find out more about how we can help, or to schedule us to speak to your pastors’ group or church, contact us at www.togetherforlife.org

May God grant each of us courage as we stand for life in these perilous times.

Brunch for Priests, Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and their Wives: Mercer

County Right to Life and Together for Life Ohio is sponsoring an informative brunch on Thursday, April 13th, at 10:00 AM at the Richardson Bretz building in Celina. This is open to all priests, pastors, deacons, elders, and their wives. An amendment to our Ohio Constitution may be on every Ohioan’s ballot in November. Signatures are being gathered now. If this amendment is passed it will affect every family! This is an “all hands-on deck” issue. Please ask your priest, pastor, and church leaders to attend. You can RSVP by texting Connie at 216-815-0430. This will equip your leaders to give information to their congregations about this amendment to our constitution.



Pro-Life T-Shirt Day: Please remember to wear your pro-life t-shirts on Tuesday, April 18th for Pro-Life T-Shirt Day! Even if you did not buy a t-shirt, please wear one from the previous years. Let’s flood our schools and workplaces with the message, “We stand for life at all ages!” If you have any questions concerning your t-shirt order, please contact Dee Grieshop at 419-979-2828.

MCRTL Rose Sale 2023: Mercer County Right to Life’s Rose Sale is scheduled for Mother’s Day weekend, May 14th, 2023. We have 21 churches participating in selling roses this year, and 224 bundles of roses have been ordered from Coldwater Flowers on the Corner. They will be sold for \$2.00 per rose, or \$5.00 for three roses. We appreciate all of the contact persons from each participating church and also

appreciate the many helping hands selling the roses the weekend of Mother's Day. If your church does not participate in this fundraiser for MCRTL and you would like to do so in the future please contact one of the MCRTL officers. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms! May your day be full of lots of joy!

Reagan Day Dinner 2023: The Mercer County Republican Party is having a Reagan Dinner on Friday, May 19th beginning at 6:30PM. This will be held at Romer's Catering in St. Henry. U.S. Representative Thomas Massie will be the Keynote Speaker for the evening. Important information about the current effort by pro-abortion lobbyists to enshrine abortion into the Ohio Constitution will be presented. Tickets to attend this event can be purchased at: <https://politics.raisethemoney.com/en/mercergop>. For more information you can contact Stephanie Kremer at 419-305-2680.

MCRTL Oratory Contest: The 2023 Mercer County Oratory Contest was held on March 12th, 2023, at 1PM, where the top six finalists out of the twelve submissions presented their pro-life speeches on abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia. Adam Schroyer did a great job as emcee for the event, and speeches were judged by Representative Angie King, John Fullenkamp, and Judge Matt Fox. The event was well attended by family and friends. The scores were close. Kaylie Dameron was the first-place contestant with a prize of \$1000. Allison Dirksen was the second-place contestant with a prize of \$750. Julia Siefring was the third-place contestant with a prize of \$500. The finalists were Elizabeth Alig and Marina Muhlenkamp with prizes of \$250. Kylie Niekamp was unable to attend. MCRTL is grateful for every participant in this contest. The time and effort you put into preparing your speech will help you in conversations you have with others about life issues. Congratulations to all the winners!



Julie Link and Sam Schmitmeyer led this project and did a super-duper job. Your hard work did not go unnoticed! We also appreciate Adam, Angie, John and Matt for taking the time to help us with this contest and "Standing up for life at all ages!"

Ohio March for Life: Remember to mark your calendars for Friday, October 6th as we are once again sending a bus to Columbus for the second Ohio March for Life. Please consider joining us for this event! As the date gets closer, more details will be enclosed.

Fair Booth Helper: Audrey Subler, who is in charge of our MCRTL fair booth, is in need of a helper for this year's booth. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Audrey at 567-644-5622.

Protect Women of Ohio: Protect Women of Ohio (PWO) is a new pro-woman, pro-parent coalition that recently launched a multi-million dollar television and digital ad campaign aimed at defeating an amendment to the Ohio Constitution. PWO is a group of concerned family and life leaders, medical experts, parents, and leaders in Ohio focused on ensuring that out-of-state radical organizations aren't able to rewrite our constitution to give Ohio one of the most extreme abortion laws in the country. For more information you can visit their page at protectwomenohio.com

MCRTL Hosts Speaker Margie Christie: On April 18th, Margie Christie, President of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, is coming to speak at the K of C Hall in Celina. She will be sharing information on a proposed amendment to our Ohio Constitution. Below is a flyer of information for this event.

TOGETHER FOR



Happening right now in Ohio two pro-abortion groups (Protect Choice Ohio and Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom) are working together on a ballot initiative to amend our state constitution to effectively legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

In March, both the Attorney General's office and the Ohio Ballot Board formally approved the language of the proposed amendment. From now until July 5th, proponents will canvas the state collecting the 413,488 signatures needed to place this amendment on the ballot in November 2023.

This means on election day, November 7th, every Ohioan, will answer the question: are God's image-bearers in the womb disposable or not? If passed, this amendment to our Ohio Constitution would be hard to overturn.

Mercer County Right to Life invites you to listen to **Margie Christie, President of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio** tell us how this will affect Ohioans in many different ways and what we can do to stop this atrocity from happening.

**Tuesday, April 18th, 2023
7:00pm**

**K of C Hall
129 North Vine Street
Celina, OH 45822**

Thank you to the K of C for donating the hall for this event!

You can email Kaylie Dameron at cc2023kd@gmail.com to send any information you would like to be put in upcoming newsletters.

Visit our web page at <https://www.mercerlife.org> or our Facebook page to get updates between the newsletters.

Respect Life at All Stages

Mercer County Right to Life officers and other positions:

President: Connie Randall, 216-815-0430

Vice President: Kari Dameron, 419-790-8596

Secretary: Vanessa Roediger, 567-644-9009

Treasurer: Phyllis Wenning, 419-678-8123

Mercer Co. RTL, Phone/FAX: 419-678-1348

Facebook Administrator: Cami Stoner, 419-341-9379

Newsletter Editor: Kaylie Dameron, 419-953-4185

E-mail Coordinator: Sharon Hibner, 419-305-6467

Address Change: Ann Schroyer, 567-279-4226

Sorting/Mailing: Karen Timmerman & Crew

Choosing Life Pregnancy Center: 419-733-4847