



FIRST
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ALLENDALE

FIRST IN FOCUS

Published by First CRC of Allendale
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www.firstallendalecrc.org

MAY 2024

*Eye hath not seen,
nor ear heard...
the things which
GOD
hath prepared
for them
that
love him*



80+ Birthday Club

Arlyn Potgeter, 88 years young on May 7
Marge Vedders, 84 years young on May 8
John Van Wiene, 83 years young on May 11
Nellie Scholma, 81 years young on May 27



Jerry & Joanne VanDyken, 62 years on May 11



THIS MOTHERS DAY, LETS CELEBRATE ALL THOSE WHO MOTHER
 OUR CHILDREN.

the trusted babysitter
 the mom of 1 the mom of 10
 the mentor the compassionate friend
 the adoptive mother
THE FOSTER MOTHER
 the expecting mother
the birthmother
 the grieving mother
THE SISTER
 the aunt
 the one hoping for a child
 the one not sure to do with the child she has

Gratitude For My
 Amazing Mom



Happy Mother's Day

Some have had kings in their lineage, some to whom honor was paid. Not blest of my ancestors-but, I have a mother who prays.

I have a mother who prays for me and pleads with the Lord everyday for me. Oh what a difference it makes for me – I have a mother who prays.

Some have worldly success and trust in riches they've made – This is my surest asset, I have a mother who prays.

My mother's prayers cannot same me, Only mine can avail; But mother introduced me to someone – someone who never could fail.

Oh yes...I have a mother who prays for me and pleads with the Lord everyday for me. O what a difference it makes for me. I have a mother who prays.
 -Author Unknown

Mothers
 hold their child's hand
 for a moment...
 and their heart
 for a
 Lifetime

Welcome to Mike and Diane Wohlford!



Even though Mike and Diane Wohlford have been attending our church for quite a while now, here is a little about them and their family! Mike and Diane (Rotman) both grew up in Jenison, only one street away from each other. They attended the same grade school, and were high school sweethearts. Growing up, Mike attended First Grandville Reformed, and Diane First Jenison CRC. Their family includes Melissa and Austin, Molly and Sam, all from Jenison, and Matt and Tara in Nooksack, Washington. Seven grandkids keep them busy with all their sporting events, concerts, and daily texts to keep in touch.

Mike and Diane raised their family in Jenison, and later moved to Allendale on 56th St. Diane's Dad also grew up on 56th and attended church here back in the 1930. Mike drove truck for 28 years for Eberhard's, Van's and Monsma Marketing. Diane enjoyed cleaning for 3 churches and Spectrum Health. Both of them retired and took on a new adventure, purchasing a Wedding Barn in Hudsonville. God has granted them many opportunities to witness to so many young couples, hearing their stories. Many of these couples have been raised in broken homes and needed someone to listen to them.

And now, eight years later, Mike enjoys clay shooting, taking the grandkids bowling, and riding his electric bike. Diane always finds time to bake and bargain hunt. Together they enjoy lots of family time and various camping trips. And... they always have time for coffee or lunch with old and new friends. Mike and Diane feel so blessed to be part of Allendale First.

They enjoy the worship style, the great messages, and friendly coffee time after the service. This is where here they feel each of You are like a second family to them. Welcome, Mike and Diane, we are blessed that you chose our worship family as yours!

(It's an older picture – But Mike and Diane haven't changed!!)





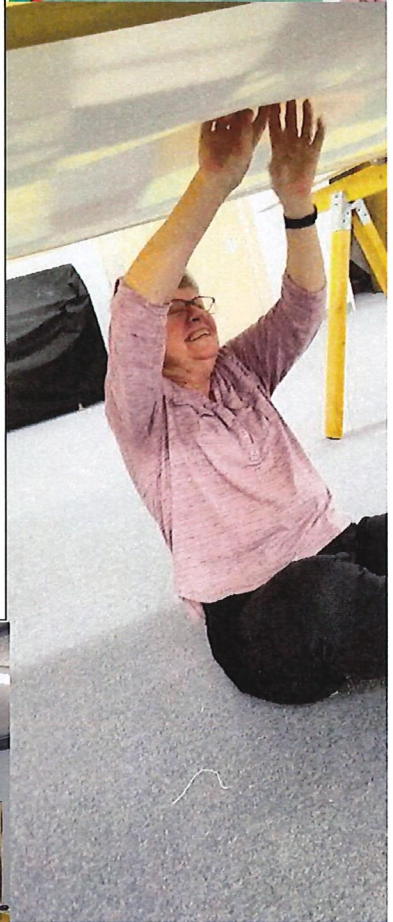
50+ quilts were put together over the past two weeks by some amazing hands!

The squares were all cut previously by other ladies and Jo Terpstra (Betty Broene's sister) blessed us with them. Then they were all sewn together throughout the last 6 months by our own amazing Annette Rosema!

Then they all had to have a filler and back attached and tied together – not an easy task!

Thank you to our deacons for purchasing the filler and to all who came out to get so many completed to give away to those in need.

Our serve team took 10 of them to Kentucky this past week to give out to those who they worked with. They have all been embroidered to say 'Jesus Loves You 2024'



Made with love



Ruby was presented a quilt in Kentucky by the Serve Team from our church this past week.

Quilts will be distributed to:

Serve Team in Kentucky

Kari Wiersma, Young Life Allendale

Be A Ruby
 (An organization founded in honor of our late daughter, and guided by our faith to provide essential needs to homeless in Kent and Ottawa County)

Beautiful Soul Ministries
 (Located in Grand Haven to help Women in transition)

Sleep in Heavenly Peace
 (Provides bunk beds to those in need)

Sermons



MAY 2024

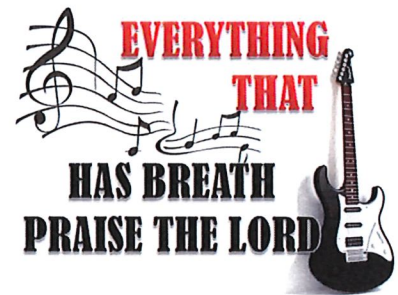


May 5 -

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: "4. Righteous Justice & Mercy"
 ◊ Text: Lord's Day 4; Nahum 1
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: "4. Firstfruits"
 Text:

May 12 - Mother's Day

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: "5. Paying the Price"
 ◊ Text: Lord's Day #5;
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: "5. Pentecost"
 ◊ Text:



May 19 - Pentecost

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: "6. The Satisfying Substitute"
 ◊ Text: Lord's Day #6;
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: Men of Grace Concert and hymn sing
 ◊ Text:

May 26 - Memorial Weekend

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: "7. True Faith"
 ◊ Text: Lord's Day #7;
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: No Evening Service
 ◊ Text:





**Council Meeting
Highlights
MARCH
2024**

Present: Kevin Bosch, Herm Kloosterman, Jon Vander Wal, Scott Berens, John Broene, Duke Busman, Russ Geurink, Keegan Morren, Ron Nykamp, Ken Knoper, Jeremy Brower, Dave Schroedter

Absent: Pastor Ken, Dave Vollink, Karl Kuzee

1. Opening Prayer and Devotions: Kevin Bosch - Kingdom Extensions, Acts 8:1-8, 11:19-26
2. Approval of Council Minutes of February 6, 2024 **MMS&A**
Old Business:
 - a. Returned letters from council nominations.
 - i. 24 letters were sent; 20 responded,
 - ii. Response breakdown: 4-Elder, 2-Deacon, 14 – Not at this time
 - iii. Will follow up with missing responses.
3. Interim Committee
 - a. Noteworthy Items
4. Pastor Ken's Monthly Report - NA
5. Joel's Monthly Report – Feb update
6. Reports – for approval – **MMS&A**
 - a. Elder Report (**Minutes of Feb 6**)
 - b. Deacon report (**Minutes of Feb 6**) Monthly financials for February. In the Info Sheet Judy left out cause for Good Friday as, after looking at the past couple of years, we do not do an offering that night. Budget will be done by April meeting.
 - c. Education Committee (**Minutes of Feb 18**) Next meeting March 24.
 - d. Worship Committee (**Minutes of Feb 22**)
 - i. Motion: Propose that going forward, we plan to have no PM services on Easter, Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend; determine July 4th depending on how the dates fall. MMS&A
 - e. Tech Committee (**Minutes of Feb 21**) Next meeting April 11.
 - f. Building and Grounds (**No Minutes**) The B&G member(s) did install infant change stations in the upstairs restrooms.
 - g. Congregational Care (**NA**)
7. Reports- needing action
 - a. Letter from Dr Garth Cooper regarding parade information. RFI
8. Correspondence
 - a. Minutes from Zeeland Classis 02/01/24, including Committees and Functionaries. RFI
 - b. Updated contact information for pastors. RFI
 - c. CZDC Minutes from 01/30/24. RFI
 - d. Request from Brian/Vicki to use the church for the Bible Bee- Approved by Council.
9. Round Table – Comments, Prayer Requests, Other Matters
 - a. Prayers for Russ & Cheri, Paisly B.
 - b. Update on JR Prah – doing well, praying with roommates while in the hospital.
10. Closing Prayer - Kevin Bosch
11. Next Meeting: April 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm

 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,  not reluctantly or under compulsion,  for **GOD loves a cheerful giver.**"
2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

II Cor. 9:6-8

Offerings for MAY 2024:

May 5 Missions
May 12 Right to Life
May 19 DRS
May 26 Christian Education

Missionary Support:

Direct financial support for our missionaries both in Home Missions and World Missions.

Right to Life/Positive Options


A ministry that provides professional care to the men and women in our community facing an unplanned pregnancy. We offer compassion & resources to those who seek support at our center.

World Renew – Disaster Relief Fund:

CRWRC ministry to show God's love and bring hope to disaster impacted communities in North America by restoring the homes and lives of those that are most vulnerable.

Christian Education Tuition Assistance:

This offering goes to offset tuition costs for families of First CRC of Allendale choosing Christian Education for their children. Assistance is available for K-12th grades.



**When I Am Alone,
God is my comforter.
When I am nothing,
God is my everything. When I
am sad and lonely, God is
my song and joy.
When I am weak and
helpless, God is my
strength.
Amen**

First Allendale CRC
Monthly Financial Report
March 31, 2024

Beginning Checking Balance **\$106,964.30**

Revenue	March	Year-To-Date	Budget	Remaining
General Fund Collections	\$26,167.00	\$249,452.05	\$357,000.00	\$107,547.95
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$1,358.00	\$17,459.49	\$22,000.00	\$4,540.51
Causes	\$4,875.00	\$56,645.91	\$65,000.00	\$8,354.09
Cadets	\$115.00	\$2,924.00	\$2,500.00	-\$424.00
Gems	\$382.00	\$6,208.54	\$6,000.00	-\$208.54
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Interest Income	\$52.31	\$445.94	\$100.00	-\$345.94
Total Revenue	\$32,949.31	\$333,135.93	\$452,600.00	\$119,464.07

Expenses				
Facilities	\$4,061.45	\$48,283.29	\$104,200.00	\$55,916.71
Worship and Music	\$480.00	\$6,781.31	\$10,300.00	\$3,518.69
Education	\$2,159.21	\$11,106.80	\$12,500.00	\$1,393.20
Staff	\$13,490.39	\$143,101.80	\$200,180.00	\$57,078.20
Local Ministries	\$13,270.22	\$70,730.86	\$88,270.00	\$17,539.14
Denominational Ministries	\$13,290.83	\$43,663.14	\$66,720.00	\$23,056.86
Total Expenses	\$46,752.10	\$323,667.20	\$482,170.00	\$158,502.80
Reserved Funds Used	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Net Income/Loss	-\$13,802.79	\$9,468.73	-\$29,570.00	-\$39,038.73

Reserved Fund Balances

Restricted Bequests	\$12,704.36
Building Maintenance	\$17,798.85
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$16,983.70
Causes	\$0.00
Ministry Shares	\$0.00
Total Reserved Funds	\$47,486.91

General Funds Available **\$45,674.60**

Barnabas Accounts

Ministries Fund	\$0.00
General Reserve	\$0.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00
Total Barnabas Funds	\$0.00



First Recipe Corner

SUPER EASY POTATO SOUP

Submitted by Cheri Geurink



- 2 – 32oz chicken broth
- 2 pkg frozen cubed hashbrowns
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 pkg McCormick original Country Gravy Mix – add ½ cup milk and mix till blended
- 12 oz. Velveta Cheese (can add some cheddar)
- 3 – 6 oz. cans Hormel ham (drain and shred with a fork (or you can use leftover ham or crispy bacon)

Put veggies in a large pot. Add enough water to just cover veggies. Add small amount of salt – cover and cook until tender. Add broth & potatoes and cook until potatoes are done. Stir in gravy mixture. Stir until thickened, add cheese and stir until melted. (Add a little flour and milk mixture if it needs to be thicker, or just add milk to thin it down.

**If you have a favorite recipe(s) that you would like to share, please turn it in to
First in Focus for the rest of us to enjoy!!**

**God never sends you
into a situation alone.
God goes before you.
He stands beside you.
He walks behind you.
Whatever situation
you have right now,
be confident.**

**God
is with you.
Amen**

Beautiful Life

**Every day
God thinks of you.**

Psalm 68:16

Every hour

God looks after you.

Thessalonians 3:3

Every Minute

God cares for you.

Peter 5:7

Because every second

He loves you.

Jeremiah 31:3




a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!


What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



PUZZLE

UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

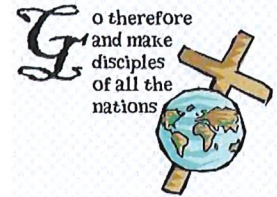
Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf	_ ○ _
pink, red, yellow, blue	_ _ ○ _
mother, sister, brother, aunt	_ _ _ ○ _ _ _
purple, dress, skirt, blouse	_ _ _ _ ○ ○
necklace, ring, bracelet, braid	_ _ _ _ ○ _
diamond, emerald, heart, ruby	_ _ _ ○ _ _ _
orange, cherry, potato, kiwi	_ _ _ ○ _ _ _
my, our, she, your	○ _ _ _
faith, family, love, hope	_ _ _ _ ○ _ _
sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature	_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
cookie, cake, pie, sandwich	_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
silver, white, gold, bronze	_ _ _ _ _ ○ _

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
 the unfading beauty of a g _ _ _ _ _
 and qu _ _ _ _ p _ _ _ _ , which is
 of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV



Writing List for Missionaries



MAY & JUNE

DAVID & BLANCA GIFFORD

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Herm & Pam Kloosterman
Ken & Norene Knoper

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Dale & Kathy Knoper
Bob & Judy Knoper

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E-mail: ricardoyuleuis@yahoo.com

Kris & Jennie Keegstra
Don & Donna Knoper
Carol Koetje

“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”





Fruitful

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Day 1: Genesis 1:11-12 | Day 17: Romans 7:4-6 |
| Day 2: Genesis 1:28 | Day 18: 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 |
| Day 3: Genesis 15:5-6 | Day 19: Galatians 5:16-18 |
| Day 4: Deuteronomy 30:5-6 | Day 20: Galatians 5:19-21 |
| Day 5: Psalm 92:12-15 | Day 21: Galatians 5:22-24 |
| Day 6: Proverbs 11:30-31 | Day 22: Ephesians 2:8-10 |
| Day 7: Proverbs 12:13-14 | Day 23: Ephesians 5:6-9 |
| Day 8: Proverbs 14:14 | Day 24: Philippians 1:9-11 |
| Day 9: Isaiah 32:16-18 | Day 25: 1 Timothy 5:9-10 |
| Day 10: Ezekiel 36:10-11 | Day 26: Colossians 1:9-11 |
| Day 11: Matthew 5:14-16 | Day 27: Titus 1:15-16 |
| Day 12: Matthew 7:15-20 | Day 28: Titus 3:8-9 |
| Day 13: Matthew 13:23 | Day 29: James 3:10-12 |
| Day 14: Luke 3:8-9 | Day 30: James 3:16-18 |
| Day 15: John 15:4-5 | Day 31: Revelation 2:2-3 |
| Day 16: John 15:16-17 | |

This writing plan can be used any month, hence the 31 days. Write each day's scriptures in a notebook or our faith journal.

Feel free to underline important words, read them aloud, or use these scriptures as a springboard for your prayers.

April 2024

Dear supporters, friends, family members, greetings from Mexico City!

What does Titus have to do with a New Lion?

The answer: my conference in Nuevo León (new lion in Spanish) on the book of Titus for the COMPA Bible study leaders there on March 23-26. The 17 participants and 4 leaders survived my dad jokes, my sentence diagrams, and my list of Greek virtues and vices in Titus. They were a boisterous bunch, but in a good way, participating with many questions and comments. This group is rebuilding after a time of shrinkage during and after the pandemic. So this was an important event for them, and the Lord provided the right group, the right location, and apparently the conference speaker (ahem) worked out okay, too. 😊



Dave and Blanca Gifford
In Mexico City with

Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

Email: dgifford@crcna.org
Website <https://giffmex.org>

New project: Logos Bible software for Mexican Christian leaders

Please pray for our new project. We are raising funds to provide Logos Bible Software packages of about \$700 each to Christian leaders. Abe Lee will distribute them to All Nations Seminary

graduates serving in ministry, while James Lee and I will distribute them to leaders in the COMPA university ministry. The project will initially be for \$12,000. If you feel led to donate, either cut out the clip and send on the back page of this letter, or open <https://giffmex.org>, and go to the “Logos Project” tab for instructions on how to give online.

Giffmex Spanish materials

Praise the Lord for time and energy! I updated and published my materials on Titus from the camp mentioned above; I produced commentary notes on Jesus’ commands to love God and love neighbors; and am currently working on projects on productivity, and honor and shame.

Honduras

Thank you for your prayers for our trip to Honduras in February. We were happy to see our fellow missionaries at the regional retreat in Roatán. And after many years we finally made it to see Blanca’s family. Blanca’s mother and I celebrated our birthdays together, and Blanca and her brothers re-created an old photo (see other side) taken almost 20

years ago. Edwin Jr had to fill in for his dad who is in the US.

Prayer requests

Please pray for my trip to Miami in May. I will meet with other Resonate personnel as we look at long-term leadership and strategy for our region.

Please pray for the Kids' Club to come together. Busyness and lack of volunteers have held things back.

Please pray for a new job for our son Daniel. His contract ended a couple of weeks ago, so he is searching again. Pray for good health, relationships and spiritual vitality for both of our kids.

Thank you all for your prayers, financial support, and words of encouragement. God bless you all in Christ Jesus!

Dave, Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra Gifford



CLIP & SEND RESPONSE CARD

I (we) would like to support

Resonate: Mexico Logos Bible Software for Ministry Leaders

Fund Code 806390

- by becoming their prayer partner
- with a special gift of \$ _____
- with a monthly pledge of \$ _____
- with an annual pledge of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include the 806390 on the memo line

Gifts are received with the understanding that Resonate Global Mission has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Unless it is noted, no goods or services were provided to the donor. Every effort will be made to use your gift for the designated ministry. Gifts to ministries that are oversubscribed, or cannot be completed, will be directed to those that have a similar intent or ministry location.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESONATEGLOBALMISSION.ORG/DONATE

Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

 A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church



The 2024 Election is Coming!

Are you prepared?

Only 55% of Michigan voters cast their ballot in 2022. Every election hundreds of thousands of PROLIFE Michiganders DO NOT vote!

YOUR VOTE COULD SAVE A LIFE!!

3 MI Senate seats and 5 MI House seats were decided by 1,000 votes each in 2022.

Make your plan to vote, today!

1. Get Registered
2. Sign up for your permanent absentee ballot or
3. Find your polling place

ALL this can be done at MI.GOV/VOTE

Where do I find prolife candidates?

Go to RLT.ORG/ENDORSEMENTS before every election to find a list of prolife candidates in your area!



Volunteers Needed!!

We need volunteers to help us with setup every morning and closing down every evening at our booth at the Hudsonville Fair—August 2024!

As well as volunteers to work at the booth during the week of the fair!

Setup in the mornings consists of making sure there is ice and water bottles in the cooler as well as the booth is neat, supplies are out, tv/computer turned on and change container is ready!

Closing down consists of: making sure the booth is covered (extra table cloth), TV and computer is turned off and money container is put in hiding.

Volunteering to sit at the booth is being available for 2-3 hrs. (depending on your shift) and answering questions, concerns, listening to comments with respect, handing out flyers and other prizes to children.

If Interested please contact our office ASAP, written instructions will be provide.

If you are able to help out 616.396.1037 or awilson.rtl@gmail.com



Legislative Day 2024

- ◆ Next Church Rep. Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7:30pm here at our office. Guest speaker will Jolynn Patmos.
- ◆ 5k Walk/Run - Saturday, May 18th at the Lawrence Street Park . We will NOT be giving out t-shirts this year, please wear one from a previous year!
- ◆ Hudsonville Fair Week - August 19-24, 2024
- ◆ Mark your calendars: Tuesday, October 22nd— Annual Dinner at The Pinnacle. Guest speaker is George Dennehy!

Why we Vote!

1. Elections have consequences. The results of EVERY election have outcomes that span multiple generations. The cause of Life is being attacked on all sides and we need an overwhelming turnout to correct it.
2. **Your Vote DOES MATTER! A single vote can sway election outcomes. Imagine if 1 person in every township declines to vote, there are 1240 townships in MI that is a difference of 1240 votes and some of these races only lost by 1,000 votes or less. YES, YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**
3. It's the right thing to do. Even though recent elections results have been disappointing and controversial, the duty of every consciences U.S. Citizen to vote is more important than ever. **To deny this duty is to surrender innocent lives to those who them harm.**

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lansing. Hear from our exceptional keynote speaker, **Wesley Smith**, a national leader in efforts to protect against the threat of physician-assisted suicide. Mr. Smith is a sought-after speaker, lawyer, author, and bioethicist. He has authored 14 books, including *Forced Exit: Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and the New Duty to Die*, published hundreds of articles and appeared on thousands of TV and radio programs across the U.S. and internationally. **Legislative Day will also include the opportunity to meet with your legislators!**

Event Schedule

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:45 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. First session

\$55 per individual

\$30 per student

Location

DoubleTree Hotel Lansing

2nd Floor Ballroom

111 N. Grand Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

Self-parking is available for \$15 in the ramp.

Special Guest Speaker Bio:

Wesley J. Smith

Lawyer, Author, and Bioethicist

Lawyer and award-winning author, Wesley J. Smith, is the host of the *Humanize* podcast and Chair of the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism. In 2004, he was named one of the nation's premier experts in bioengineering by the National Journal. In 2008, the Human Life Foundation named him a Great Defender of Life for his work against assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Call (616.396.1037) or email (awilson.rtl@gmail.com) to sign up. We will work on ride-sharing if you choose not to drive yourself!

LIFE | SUPPORT TEAM

100%

Dear Mr and Mrs Gulker,

I'll be honest with you...I've been struggling.

No, not because this is my first letter to you as your new President. I've been struggling to find just the right words to describe to you a major setback in our life-saving mission.

Let me begin with a definition. The abortion industry calls it the "dreaded complication."

The dreaded complication is when an unborn child survives a **late-term abortion** and is born alive. Then the abortionist is forced to find a way to destroy the child **outside** the womb.

Back in the early 1990s, Martin Haskell, a notorious veteran in the abortion industry from Dayton, Ohio, came up with a remedy for the dreaded complication.

Below, before a live audience, Haskell enthusiastically describes his new late-term abortion procedure. Today, Haskell's new approach is commonly known as **partial-birth abortion (PBA)**.

Please, brace yourself...

"...I most typically go for the knee joint, but lately I've been very successful in identifying the foot on the sonogram machine and get a direct foot grab, it makes the procedure even easier...the surgeon is able to open and close the jaws firmly to reliably grasp the lower extremity. The surgeon then applies firm traction... and pulls the extremity into the vagina...the surgeon then uses his fingers to deliver the opposite lower extremity, then the torso, the shoulders, and the upper extremity. The fetus is oriented spine up. At this point, the right-handed surgeon slides the fingers of the left hand along the back of the fetus and hooks the shoulders of the fetus with the index and right fingers. Next, he slides the tip of the middle finger along the spine towards the skull while applying traction to the shoulders and the lower extremities. The middle finger lifts and pushes the cervix out of the way. While maintaining this tension, the surgeon then takes a pair of blunt-curved scissors in the right hand. He carefully advances the tip, curve down, along the spine, and under the middle finger until he feels it contact the base of the skull...Reassessing the proper placement of the closed scissors' tip, and safe elevation of the cervix, the surgeon then forces the scissors into the base of the skull. Spreads the scissors to enlarge the opening. The surgeon then introduces a suction catheter into this hole and evacuates the skull content. With the catheter still in place, he applies traction to the fetus, removing it completely from the patient." (Edited for length.)

I know this is a difficult subject, but I have also included pencil drawings that were used to describe this unthinkable atrocity in U.S. Congressional Hearings.

Now you know one of the reasons why I've been struggling. But there's more...

BACKGROUND

To fully understand the urgency of the days and weeks just ahead, I need to give you some background information on partial-birth abortion as it relates to our efforts here in Michigan:

- In 1996, Michigan was the first state in the nation to pass a ban on partial-birth abortion.
- Our law was signed by Governor John Engler but was deemed unconstitutional in federal court.
- Two later versions of the same law also failed to ban this gruesome procedure due to court rulings.
- Finally, in April of 2007 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a federal ban on PBA.
- We followed suit in Michigan with our new law taking effect on January 1, 2012.

Partial-birth abortion, which breaches every boundary of human decency, was thankfully prohibited in Michigan for 12 years. **But not anymore!** On November 21, 2023, our abortion-obsessed Governor signed Senate Bill 474 (S.B. 474) into law, repealing the ban on partial-birth abortion in our state.

This new law, once again legalizing partial-birth abortion, is scheduled to go into effect **this month!**

100%

When we finally passed the PBA ban back in late 2011, we were able to secure a **SUPERMAJORITY** in both the Michigan State Senate and the State House. This time around, S.B. 474 was sent to the Governor's desk legalizing partial-birth abortion, with **100%** support from every Democrat in both chambers!

I wish I could tell you otherwise...but that's the truth! And it's another reason why I am struggling.

I know there are proliferators out there, some reading this letter, who consider themselves to be a Democrat. I'm sorry. I'm sorry that the Democratic party has left you...and the unborn child...in the dust. I'm sorry that the Democratic party has strayed so far from the values that they once held...even when it comes to partial-birth abortion.

But I assure you of this: we will never give up in terms of persuading **EVERYONE** to join us in this fight. That includes Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

TELLING THE TRUTH

But as we head into this critical election cycle, we must do so with our eyes wide open!

Every time the issue of "late-term abortion" is brought up, we hear the same old tired lie... *"No one supports late-term abortion. No one performs late-term abortions. This is a fake pro-life talking point."*

Oh really? Then why did our pro-abortion Governor, and 100% of her pro-abortion Democrat colleagues in both chambers, just legalize partial-birth abortion in Michigan?

In the days ahead, we must be prepared to cut through the smoke and mirrors, the blatant deception, and the outright lies. We must alert our fellow citizens to the truth of what is happening—not only in Lansing—but in Washington D.C. As always, education is the key to success.

Thank you for reading this letter and for your support. Now you know why I've been struggling.

With deepest appreciation,



Amber Roseboom, President
Right to Life of Michigan



THE
TAX-FUNDED
NON-PROFIT
POLITICAL
ABORTION
PROVIDER AND PROMOTER:

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) calls itself a trusted name in affordable reproductive health care with about 600 centers operating across the United States. But many do not know that this non-profit receives \$670.4 million in taxpayer funds and turned a profit of \$204.7 million¹ — making it the largest provider and promoter of abortion in the country as well as a lobbying and political powerhouse.

A PROFITABLE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

For years, people have been frustrated by the fact that their tax dollars go to abortion-promoting organizations. The hundreds of millions of tax dollars for family planning programs Planned Parenthood receives are used to subsidize staff salaries and operational costs, allowing them to carry out their abortion advocacy.

Planned Parenthood operates as a non-profit organization, but consistently takes in more revenues than it spends. Nationally, PPFA's 2021-2022 Annual Report showed a profit (income in excess of expenditures) of \$204.7 million. While raking in this profit, the abortion chain also received \$670.4 million in taxpayer dollars, a third of their more than \$1.9 billion dollar revenue.

Despite this massive taxpayer support, Planned Parenthood is a highly political organization. During the 2020 election, Planned Parenthood pledged to spend \$45 million on advertising and get-out-the-vote activities.

PPFA and its affiliates lobby at both the state and federal level to block any legislative proposals regulating abortion. PPFA spent \$38.6 million lobbying elected officials in 2021-2022, opposing legislation to put in place simple commonsense safeguards, including laws that would inform parents before their underage daughters obtain abortions, safety standards in abortion facilities, and for greater taxpayer funding of abortions and their organization.

Their actions and policies would indicate women's health and safety are the least of their concerns. In 2012, a botched abortion at a Chicago-area Planned Parenthood clinic resulted in the death of Tonya Reaves. In 2013, abortionist Timothy Liveright surrendered his medical license after charges of sexual harassment and allowing "meat-market" conditions at his Delaware Planned Parenthood clinic.

THE REAL PLAN BEHIND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

PPFA's Vision for 2025 includes a number of goals, including access to reproductive and sexual health care for all. One of the ways Planned Parenthood worked to fulfill that goal was to require every one of their affiliates to operate an abortion clinic by 2013.

They talk about "choice," but one choice that isn't addressed is the option of adoption. PPFA does not provide any true assistance regarding adoption. In 1997, PPFA referred 9,381 women to other agencies for adoption assistance. By 2021, that number dropped to 1,803 women. While adoption referrals at PPFA centers have declined, their taxpayer funding and the number of abortions they have performed has increased. During 1997, 165,174 abortions were performed; however, by 2021 their abortion business had performed 374,155.

THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD POLITICAL MACHINE

2020 Election Cycle²

- Contributions directly to candidates: \$1,329,271
- Lobbying: \$887,439
- Revolving door: 7 out of 10 Planned Parenthood lobbyists have previously held government jobs

Bill most frequently lobbied on in the 117th Congress³:

- H.R.1319: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

It is time to redirect our tax dollars to health providers that serve women without a political agenda.

Find out more at [RTL.org](https://www.rtl.org).

References:

¹ PPFA 2021-2022 Annual Report

² [opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org)

³ *ibid.*



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SCHEDULES FOR MAY 2024

TLC:

May 5 – Melissa Bosma, Nellie Scholma, Aiden Geurink
May 12 – Marlene Dyke, Ellie Scholma, Isabella Geurink
May 19 – Kay Schout, Nancy Pleune, Nora Vander Wal

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

May 5 – Mallory Kuzee, Malena Witte, Braidyn Nienhouse
May 12 – Kristie Morren, Danni Kraker, Grady Kuzee
May 19 – Madison Schrotenboer, Cheri Geurink, Peter Keegstra



NURSERY:

May 5 – Peggy Vredevoogd, Brittany Vander Wal, Kirsten Keegstra
May 12 – Nancy Knoper, Sue Kraker, Clara Kruihoff
May 19 – Nancy Pleune, Ardy Berens, Malena Witte
May 26 – Vicki Kraker, Marlene Dyke, Danni Kraker



LIBRARY:

May 5 – Jean Christensen
May 12 – Elaine Chrstrup
May 19 – Julie DeVries
May 26 – Nellie Scholma



VALET PARKING/GREETERS:

May 5 – Bob & Judy Knoper
May 12 – Lee & Jean Scholma
May 19 – Bern & Nellie Scholma
May 26 – Dale & Judy DeVries



OPEN/CLOSE

May 5 – Judy Knoper
May 12 – Bob Knoper
May 19 – Jon Vander Wal
May 26 – Bern Scholma







Dora Busman	3	
	4	Ed & Robin Goen
Kirt Schrotenboer	5	
Arlyn Potgeter	7	
Marge Vedders	8	
Mary Broene	10	
Logan Vander Wal	10	
John Van Wienen	11	Jerry & Joanne Van Dyken
	12	Dale & Kathy Knoper
Kane Vandersloot	14	
Kris Berens	15	
	16	Gary & Marlene Dyke
	18	Darrell & Kristie Morren
John Broene	20	
Nancy Nykamp	21	
Nellie Scholma	27	Kurt & Laura Schurman
	28	Ken & Kristi Kruithoff
Dave Kraker	29	Ed & Dar Diemer
	30	Dave & Conni Vollink

FAMILY
WE MAY NOT
have it all
TOGETHER,
but
together
we
have it all





2024 MEETINGS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 † Jr. JAM/JAM Year End Celebration † SNL Bible Study	6 † Young Life	7 † Council	8 † Tech Comm.	9 † Wylldlife ★ NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER ★	10	11 † Unity Chr. Graduation
12  Mother's Day	13 † Young Life	14 † Zeeland Classis Deacons Beaverdam CRC	15	16 † Zeeland Classis Beaverdam CRC † Wylldlife	17	18
19 † Men of Grace at PM Service	20 † Young Life	21 † Congregational Meeting	22	23 † Allendale Public Graduation	24	25
26	27  memorial DAY	28 † ACS 8th Grade Graduation	29	30 † ACS Kindergarten Graduation	31	
			1	2 † Wylldlife	3	4 † Church Work Bee † Kristi's Baby Shower