

focus on life

2023 Annual Benefit Event

May 11, 2023

Kalamazoo First Assembly
of God Ministry Center



May 11, 2023

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Event Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Ministry Center

5550 Oakland Dr.
Portage, MI 49024

Mailing Address

Kalamazoo Right to Life
P.O. Box 2366
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

For More Information

Rob Karrer
(269) 599-4954
rckarrer@sbcglobal.net

Home Grown Celebration

Featuring the following guest speakers:

Pastor Lee Cummings
Pastor, Radiant Church, Richland MI

Tracy St. Clair

Please Reserve My Place

Please return the completed form with payment by **May 5** or make a secure on-line payment at www.kazoortl.org.

Reservations

_____ \$10 Student/disabled

_____ \$30 Individual

_____ \$240 Table of 8

Donation

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is
my contribution of \$ _____ .

Information

Name _____

Address _____

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Table Captain (if applicable)



**Kalamazoo
Right to Life**

Future of abortion drug on line at March 15 hearing

Both pro-life and pro-abortion activists await a major ruling on the future of mifepristone, one of the two drugs used in half of all abortions in the nation. If federal judge Matthew Kacsmaryk revokes the Food & Drug Administration's approval of the drug, it could throw the legal status of medication abortion into question.

Near the end of Bill Clinton's second term (2000), the FDA approved the drug mifepristone for use in the two-pill regimen to terminate a pregnancy in the first trimester. The chemical procedure became a popular alternative to the more common surgical abortion methods. By the 2020s chemical abortion accounted for half of all abortions. Conservative and pro-life groups questioned whether the FDA's approval of mifepristone twenty years earlier was made without proper testing and consideration for possible complications. Since the FDA's decision, mifepristone has been the cause of at least 28 deaths in the United States. Due to these deaths and the 4,000 other complications that women have experienced using mifepristone, the Alliance Defending Freedom (representing the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine) filed a lawsuit in November, 2022 to revoke the FDA's approval and take the drug off the market. On March 15 all interested parties met in the Amarillo, Texas courtroom of Judge Kacsmaryk in a highly-charged and consequential hearing. Said National Public Radio, "If the lawsuit succeeds, it could have sweeping repercussions—for abortion providers and patients across the nation, as well as for the FDA's drug-approval process. At least 25 states have filed amicus briefs in the case."

During the hearing, the FDA contended that mifepristone went through a "comprehensive review" in the 1990s. Justice Department attorney Julie Harris stated that the drug had been used for decades and taking it off the market would cause harm to patients who rely on it. The judge asked her what she made of the fact that 25 attorneys general (in the same states that have tried or succeeded to enact new pro-life laws since the *Dobbs* decision) filed a brief saying that the wide availability of abortion pills undermines those state restrictions. She replied that that was immaterial. The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine is "trying to dictate national policy," she protested.

Judge Kacsmaryk has a few options. He could leave the drug on the market with no change in policy. He could change the new rules on mifepristone that the Biden administration implemented that permits the drug to be mailed and administered through web-cam visits with a doctor, or dispensed by retail pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens. He could also reimpose the former seven-week limit on the drug. In 2016 the FDA approved mifepristone for use during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. Or he could agree with Alliance Defending Freedom, take mifepristone off the market, and prohibit its use in medication abortions. Any decision would be appealed to the conservative Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, and possibly to the Supreme Court.

Judge Kacsmaryk was nominated by President Trump and confirmed in 2019. He was on the president's list of potential judges supplied by the Federalist Society in 2016. He is a very conservative judge. He had been an outspoken critic of *Roe v. Wade* prior to *Dobbs*, a fact used by pro-abortion activists and liberal Democrats in Congress to malign and besmirch his character and judicial independence. Many pro-abortionists contend that the Alliance Defending Freedom "judge shopped" to locate the perfect jurist to rule against the FDA and effectively shut down medication abortion across America. The "judge shopping" may be a valid complaint, but given that pro-abortion folk have done the very same thing for decades weakens their argument. A decision from Judge Kacsmaryk may come at any time. Continue to pray for him that he makes the right decision...to save babies from certain death.

Pro-Life Round-Up

Wyoming passes law to ban sales of chemical abortion drugs

The State of Wyoming is actively pursuing a strong pro-life agenda. Immediately after the *Dobbs* ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the legislature passed a bill that banned abortion from conception with exceptions for rape, incest, and the mother's life. A judge has blocked that bill from taking effect. Meanwhile, the legislature passed another bill that blocked the abortion pills from being sold in the state, the first such ban in the nation!

Pro-Life Round-Up

Wyoming judge blocks pre-life law

In March, the Wyoming legislature passed a bill that prohibited abortion from conception. The governor allowed the bill to become law without a signature. The bill's chief sponsor said, "All members of the human race are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, the foremost of which is the right to life." Pro-abortion advocates shopped for a sympathetic judge who placed an injunction on the bill, thus preventing it from taking effect. Judge Melissa Owens stated that the state constitution permits adults the right to make their own health care decisions. "The state can not legislate away a constitutional right," she said. "It's not clear whether abortion is health care. The court has yet to decide that." It is assumed that she expects the state's Supreme Court to make the final decision.

Bill introduced to increase punishments for pro-abortion attacks

On March 23, GOP Congresswoman Claudia Tenney of New York introduced a bill in the House that would increase penalties and fines for individuals or groups convicted of vandalizing or damaging pregnancy care centers or churches. Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri introduced a similar bill in the Senate. If convicted, criminal penalties would increase from a misdemeanor to a felony for first-time offenses and fines would grow from \$10,000 to \$25,000. While the proposed bill is a common-sense measure to protect pro-life organizations and churches from harassment and violence, and will probably pass in the House, the bill's success in the Senate is far less certain. Pro-abortion Democrats seem determined to close their eyes when it comes to violent acts directed toward pro-life properties. If Lady Justice is blindfolded, punishments and penalties should be meted out equally. However, we face a Justice Department that ignores left-wing crimes but punishes pro-lifers

Oratory Contest Winner Announced

The Kalamazoo RTL High School Oratory Contest was held on March 18 at Christian Assembly of God Church in Portage. This year's winner was Natalie Shank, a home-schooled student. Runner-up was last year's winner, Rachael Joseph, also a home-schooled student. Both students gave thought-provoking speeches. Our judges (Mona Ruse, Brian Kincaid, and Jack Bley) admitted that the scoring was extremely close and that Natalie won by just a handful of points. You will be able to hear her speech at our May 11 Focus on Life Dinner. Thanks to our Treasurer Candy Courtney for coordinating the event and being our contest moderator.



Natalie Shank



Natalie with our three judges: Mona Ruse, Brian Kincaid, and Jack Bley.



Natalie and Rachael Joseph

Kalamazoo Right to Life, Inc.
PO Box 2366
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

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Veep Corner *Rob Karrer, Vice-president, KRTL*

Have you ever awakened in the morning and caught up on the latest news? Or sat in front of your TV to watch the evening news? Have you wondered aloud the sad state of affairs in the USA? Is this our country? Have we collectively fallen off the cliff? Over 40 years ago Christian theologian Francis Schaeffer wrote about our declining culture and immorality where the “unthinkable becomes the thinkable.” But here we are in 2023 arguing over whether we could kill a baby in the final trimester, or demanding that pharmacies stock pills that will expel a growing baby, or that we must deny the reality that boys cannot become girls or vice versa and that we must call them by certain “pronouns.” Schools try to teach our kids that if you are white you are somehow guilty of being racist. And in San Francisco, city officials have recommended that qualified black adults will receive \$5 million per person in reparations for slavery, a guaranteed \$97,000 income for 250 years, and housing for one dollar. Even if I was to hypothetically agree that reparations, for the past crime of slavery was appropriate, the proposed money that would be transferred to people who were never slaves in a state that never permitted slavery is outrageous, indefensible, and insane.

Here in our post-*Dobbs* environment, rouge judges are still trying to wield the upper hand. The Wyoming legislature just passed a bill that bans abortion from conception. It was in effect only a few days before a local county judge stepped in to block it. Judge Melissa Owens claimed that the state constitution protects the right of a woman to terminate a pregnancy under the guise of “health care.” The pro-life movement cannot close its eyes to what the other side intends to do. The pro-abortion people will challenge every bill, cherry-pick to find the right judge to block legislation, and use the media to paint us as right-wing fascists. Even though *Dobbs* was not the perfect decision (it did not affirm that the unborn child was a person according to the Fourteenth Amendment), we have to live with its ruling and deal with the consequences. We need to redouble our efforts to convince more people that the baby in the womb is a genetically-unique, living member of the human family who deserves our love and protection.