

The Key to Creating A Culture of Life in Shenandoah County "Unproductive" Time with Jesus

Lisa Schroeder, Executive Director

If you have spent any amount of time with me, you have heard me say, "Jesus was never in a hurry." Yet I often find myself rushing ahead of Him. Thankfully, Jesus is a patient teacher. He has shown me that fellowship with Him and mirroring His slow, steady pace is the way of abundance and fruitfulness. As we celebrate the sanctity of life, I invite you to slow down a bit and consider two stories.

The first is from the book of Revelation. Jesus commended the believers in Ephesus for their hard work and steadfastness, their perseverance through trials, and their commitment to right belief and right worship. "Yet there is one thing wrong; you don't love me as at first!" The Christians at Ephesus left Jesus behind.

The second story is about Jesus and His family leaving Jerusalem after the annual Passover celebration. Mary and Joseph believed that Jesus was with them and the other travelers. Realizing that Jesus was missing, they returned to the city and found Him teaching in the temple. Mary and Joseph left Jesus behind.

I wonder if the Ephesians, like Mary and Joseph, assumed that Jesus was with them. Activity robbed the Ephesians of intimacy with Jesus and their love of Kingdom work left them with misdirected lives. Productivity doesn't equal fruitfulness.

These two stories are a reminder to me to look up, look around. Is Jesus beside me? Or am I so busy with the activity of life-affirming Kingdom work that I have left the King behind?

"Unproductive" time of intimacy with Jesus–silence and solitude, as an example–is the key to faithful fruit bearing. As we grow in fellowship with Jesus, He remakes our inner lives so that we grow in His love and begin to live lives of self-sacrifice. Only then can we overcome the wrong we see in the world. Abortion is wrong. Followers of Jesus can only begin to stand against a culture of death and cultivate life as we ground ourselves in the love of God coming from our vital union with Jesus.

So my dear sisters and brothers who desire to see Christ's Kingdom come to Shenandoah County, abide in Jesus. Dear fellow sojourners who are committed to creating a culture where life is sacred and all of God's image bearers are honored, valued, and protected—seek the face of Jesus. Stand firm and commit to life-affirming Kingdom work but, most importantly, stay passionate about the King.

Sharing

Hope

Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center Celebrating the Sanctity of Life - Sunday, January 21, 2024

Together With You - In Joyful Partnership

Offering life support to women and men making pregnancy and parenting decisions and those walking out those decisions.



Grasshopper Green Preschool students prepared Thanksgiving shelf stable food bags for our clients.

Monthly and One-Time Donors

Prayer Team

Volunteers-Client Advocates, Material Services, Special Projects/Events, Board of Directors



Culinary Art students from Charterhouse School make yummy soups for our clients!



First Bank, churches, and individuals provide Christmas gifts for clients' children.

Save the Dates

1/21/24: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

2/17/24: Spring Celebration Table
Host brunch (snow date, 2/24/24)
4/5/24: Spring Celebration at the
Yellow Barn at Shenandoah Caverns
4/27/24: Material Service Building
Open House

Thank you to ALL of our partners!

Churches and businesses host baby bottle campaigns and participate in the Spring Celebration and the Walk for Life.

Our local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation donated turkeys to our clients for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Quilters from Strasburg Mennonite and Wakemans Grove and knitters and crocheters in our community make blankets for our clients.



St John Bosco youth, Wakemans Grove, and other churches collect diapers and other baby items.

Edinburg Lions Club donated childrens' socks from their recent Socktober drive.

Want to be a part of supporting life in our community?

- Join the prayer team–To join text your name to 540.346.8060.
- Take a tour of the Center.
- Take the new volunteer training.
- Volunteer your time and talents.
- Become a monthly donor.
- Join the Board of Directors–We are looking for folks with a heart for life-affirming ministry and skills in leadership, finance, human resource management, law, real estate and fundraising.
- Invite someone from the Center to speak at your church, small group, or Sunday School class.
 - Donate items listed on our Center Needs list at www.supportscpc.org.

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