

INFLUENCER MONTHLY

JANUARY 2024

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.



Praying in the New Year

As we enter a new year, I am encouraged by Psalm 100 and its exhortation to come before Him with joyful song and have a heart of gratitude to the One who made us. I am also encouraged by 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, which exhorts us to “Rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Let’s take time this month, either in our Prayer/ Action Chapters or time with like-minded, Jesus-loving friends, to joyfully and with confidence draw near to the throne of grace on behalf of the following:

Elections

As we enter an election year, let us quiet our hearts before the Lord and seek His favor for our land. Ask Him to stir the hearts of our people to repentance and faith. In Haggai, we read of the call to repentance for the rebuilding of the temple; today, we must rebuild the foundation. Pray that as a people, we might turn from evil and invite God’s blessing upon this great land.

“The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.” Jeremiah 18:7-8

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson

Daniel 2:21 tells us that “He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding ...” During a tumultuous and chaotic October, in what seemed to come out of nowhere, God raised up Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson to be our new Speaker of the House. I encourage you to use these [prayer points](#) to pray for the Speaker of the House faithfully. (Prayer points provided by North Carolina Prayer/Action Chapter Leader Cheryl Pletcher.)

“Shout for *joy* to the Lord,
all the earth.

Worship the Lord with *gladness*;
come before Him
with *joyful* songs.”

Psalm 100:1-2

LET JOY
BE YOUR TRADEMARK.



All Elected Officials (from the President to the School Board)

God calls us to pray for our leaders. Pray that our leaders would submit to the Lord's authority and His Truth in all they do.

"For God is the King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the

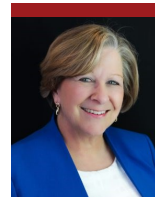
God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted." Psalm 47:7-9

Concerned Women for America Leadership

Pray daily for all your CWA leaders: Staff at the National office, Directors, Steering Committee members, Prayer/ Action Chapter Leaders, and Influencers. Pray that they might daily seek God with all their

hearts, walking in the Spirit, moment by moment, growing in their dependence on Him.

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart!" Psalm 119:1-2



Tanya Ditty,
Vice President of
Field Operations

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HOUSE INSIGHTS

CWALAC Joins Speaker Johnson at the U.S. Capitol Menorah Lighting



Valerie Bynog, Legislative Strategist

Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) was invited to join Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana), alongside other congressional leaders, at the U.S. Capitol's first official Menorah lighting on December 12 to commemorate Hannukah. Although there has been a Menorah on the lawn of the White House since 1979, there has never been an official event that Congress has conducted. Congressional leadership felt it imperative to show solidarity with the Jewish people during this particularly dark Hannukah season.

After the ceremony concluded, I met a cousin of [Ariel and Kfir Bibas](#), the 4-year-old and 11-month-old children, respectively, who were taken as hostages on October 7 and remain in captivity. The children's cousin shared with me that after the attack, officials investigating the Bibas' found a drawing done by 4-year-old Ariel – a picture of buildings



Bibas' cousin shows Valerie the Batman drawing.

with the Batman logo shining in the sky with the caption saying he wants to “fly and save people who are stuck in a pit.” Ariel loves Batman, and before his captivity, he frequently wore his Batman



Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers holds updated picture of Abigail.

pajamas and pretended to be Batman while he played.

Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-Washington), who was also in attendance, has been on the frontlines fighting for the hostages to be

released. CWALAC had the privilege of attending a meeting in October hosted by Rep. Rodgers, where a group of congresswomen heard from the families of American hostages who shared their stories, like little [Abigail's](#). At the Menorah lighting, we gave Rep. Rodgers an updated picture of Abigail – the picture of her reunion with her family after her

release from captivity. We celebrated the return of sweet Abigail together but also mourned the fact that there are still 122 captives, including Ariel and Kfir.

CWALAC continues to fight for each of those still held hostage until they are returned home to Israel, like Bibas' children. This year, we expect to see an Israel aid package come across the desks of Congress. We will work to ensure that Israel has all the aid it needs to bring its hostages home and protect its people.

PRAYER:

- Pray for the Jewish community that the Lord would protect them in this tumultuous time and that many may come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- Pray for Congress as they are crafting a foreign aid bill to support Israel through the war and that they will quickly pass it in the new year.

ACTION:

[Contact](#) your Representative and Senators and tell them to support Israel through public comments and financial aid.

SENATE INSIGHTS

CWALAC Endorses Pro-Child Senate Legislation



Maggie McKneely, Legislative Strategist

In the fall of 2023, Concerned Women for America

Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) endorsed two bills introduced in the Senate that would support children and families.

The first bill centers on the nation's education crisis. Instead of encouraging academics in the classroom, the federal

government wants to expand access to disruptive social media sites to students while in school. To combat the government's destructive efforts, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) introduced the "[Eyes on the Board Act](#)."

The FCC's E-Rate program provides discounts for internet access and telecommunications to eligible schools. However, there is no federal provision

requiring schools to block access to distracting and addictive social media apps or websites on E-Rate subsidized services, devices, or networks. Because so many schools rely on the E-Rate program for internet access, thousands of kids nationwide are able to access distracting and addictive social media during the school day instead of learning how to read and solve math problems.

Now, the FCC would like to expand the E-Rate program beyond classrooms and libraries to the unsupervised environment



of the school bus. With this expansion, kids will have even more free access to sites such as TikTok and Instagram without the oversight of parents or teachers.

Among other things, Sen. Cruz's Eyes on the Board Act would prohibit schools from receiving E-Rate subsidies unless they prohibit access to social media

on subsidized services, devices, networks, and facilities. It's a commonsense bill that all legislators should be able to support.

The second bill is Sen. Tim Scott's (R-South Carolina) [Child Welfare Inclusion Act](#). For thousands of children trapped in the foster care system, faith-based child adoption and foster care agencies are a ray of hope. These

organizations provide an invaluable service, placing parentless children into loving homes. But in recent years, these organizations have been under attack. Because they choose to operate in line with their sincerely held religious beliefs, government entities are trying to shut them down.

Scott's bill would prohibit the federal government and any state that receives certain federal funding from attacking any child welfare service provider because the provider declines to provide or facilitate any services that conflict with the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions.

GAVEL WATCH Praying for Our Country Requires Praying for Donald Trump



Mario Diaz, Esq.,
COO and General
Counsel

The decision of the
Colorado State

Supreme Court to disqualify Donald Trump in the 2024 election is appalling legally, historically, and morally. It is unconstitutional and anti-democratic. It represents a dangerous development that threatens the very fabric of our republic.

A divided court (4-3) took the unprecedented step, with the three dissenting justices being all Democrats. That tells you something. Everything is based on the fake assertion that January 6, 2021, was an "insurrection," a true and real rebellion against the United States under the command of "General Trump."

PRAYER:

- Pray specifically that the **Eyes on the Board Act** will move through the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee without delay. Pray for Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), that she would be willing to give the bill a hearing.
- Pray also for the protection of the hearts and minds of students as they are constantly bombarded by online websites that seek to destroy the innocence of children and young people.

"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Matthew 18:6

ACTION:

Please contact your Senators and urge them to support both bills using our Action Center links: [Eyes on the Board Act \(S. 3074\)](#) and the [Child Welfare Inclusion Act \(S. 3344\)](#).

Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution reads:

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Look, I feel no need to play down anyone who broke the law that day by breaking windows or pushing and shoving police officers. But, that was no insurrection. The tapes of that day's events, which have been released, paint a totally different picture. That is a fact.

More important than that is the fact that Donald Trump had nothing to do with it—aside from calling on people to remain peaceful!

The unhinged and irrational desire to “get Trump” by some radical (even if sincere) actors in our country has done more damage to the rule of law and the constitutional underpinnings of our nation than anything that happened on January 6.

The good news is that this farcical opinion will be thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court. For the sake of our country, let's hope that it is a unanimous renunciation, as it should be. That is a matter for prayer. To permit a rouge court to disallow Americans from voting for whomever they want is the sort of thing that happens in places like Cuba or Venezuela. It would be devastating to the idea of America. Rejecting Trump, if needed, should be the people's choice.

***Editor's note:* The decision has now been appealed, and a stay of the ruling is in place (meaning the former President is technically on the ballot) until January 4, pending the appeal.



PRAYER:

That is why, whatever your view of Trump, we must pray for him and everything surrounding his campaign for the good of our nation. Pray that the passions religiously working against him will not destroy the country in their quest to stand against him ever taking office again. Pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

GENDER IDEOLOGY

2024 Watch: Women's Sports on the Court and in the Courts



Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor

As we turn the page to a new year, we're ringing out 2023 with crucial news in and on the court for protecting women's sports. Here are some of the latest developments for your radar and prayer list:

Ohio lawmakers deliver a win but face setback— Ohio's state legislature landed a bill on Gov. Mike DeWine's (R) desk before Christmas coupling protections for children from harmful gender transition

procedures and protecting the integrity of women's sports. Ohio's law would cover all levels of athletics in public schools and private colleges. Despite its majority support, Gov. DeWine vetoed the bill on December 29, denying a crucial win to become the 24th state to enact a law protecting women athletes.

● **PRAY** for courage to overcome Gov. DeWine's veto and new wins in a new session.

***Soule v. Connecticut Association of Schools* clears a major hurdle** – The Second Circuit ruled unanimously to reinstate the lawsuit of Connecticut female track stars Selina Soule, Chelsea Mitchell, and Alana Smith, who were denied a fair playing field and deprived of achievements by two high school males identifying as girls in state competition. A full panel of 15 appellate judges sent the case back to the district court to proceed, indicating the athletes have “plausibly cited

injury,” including “alleged denial of equal athletic opportunity” and “loss of publicly recognized titles and placements.”

Concerned Women for America (CWA)'s [amicus brief](#) played a role in the Court's deliberations leading to this significant stride in the case. It joins several others currently in court defending state fairness in women's sports laws.

● **PRAY** for progress and victories in the courts upholding sex-based protections for women and girls.

First Division I NCAA scholarship promised to a male athlete in women's sport sparks outrage – As NCAA college volleyball crowned a national champion in Tampa, Florida, CWA and Young Women for America (YWA) joined our allies to take a stand outside Amalie Arena and educate fans about what was happening in their sport. Leading into the tournament, news of the

[first NCAA Division I scholarship being offered to a rising trans identifying male](#) to participate in women's college sports had just hit the street. Adding injury to insult, another high school volleyball player was sidelined after a male competing on the girls' court spiked the ball. YWA's Macy Petty brought light [in print](#) and [broadcast media](#) about the injustice and injury risk facing current and future female athletes. CWA will continue to be front and center in the battle to protect female athletes and preserve the integrity and purpose of Title IX. ● **PRAY** for a breakthrough at the NCAA as we partner with allies in January for the NCAA annual convention in Phoenix to challenge sex discrimination against female athletes. ● **PRAY** that President Biden's determination to upend over 50 years of Title IX gains for women athletes will fail.

CWA IN THE NEWS

Peace on Earth & Goodwill to All

Concerned Women for America (CWA) media hits are a good resource for your Chapter meetings (listen to the podcasts, watch the videos, print off articles, and discuss/share.)

Women for America Podcasts

November 22: **Using Your Voice for the Israeli People with Special Guest Alice Stewart** – CWA CEO and President Penny Nance is joined by CNN political commentator and well-known

Republican Alice Stewart [to discuss](#) how we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and speak up on the situation in Israel.

December 7: **Stand with Israel at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills** – This podcast is a [recording from Calvary Chapel Chino Hills'](#) special Stand with Israel event, where Penny joined Pastor Jack Hibbs and other like-minded brothers and sisters in leading the congregation into a time of prayer and action.

December 17: **The U.S role in the Israel-Hamas War with Former Secretary of State Mike**

Pompeo – Penny is joined by former Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, for an [update on the Israeli war](#) against Hamas. Mr. Pompeo gives insight to the United States’ role in the conflict, and shares about his experience working with the Middle East during his time as Director of the CIA and continuing through his time serving under the Trump Administration.

December 22: **The Jig is Up: Radical Ideology Comes for Irish Dance** – Penny sat down with CWA Legislative Strategist Maggie McKneely to [reflect on a recent Irish dance competition](#) she participated in where a young boy was crowned first in the Girls Under-14 division. YWA Ambassador and NCAA athlete Macy Petty joins the conversation to provide her take and to update our audience on the work she has been doing to urge the NCAA to protect women.

Television/Online Media/Radio

December 5: *Newsmax* – **Chris Plante The Right Squad** – Penny [appeared for the first time](#) as an exclusive expert to discuss various news issues of the day ranging from the weaponization of school lunches to men in women’s sports, to Christmas.

December 7: *Jack Hibbs Podcast* – **Women’s Rights, Trump, and Truth** – Penny [sits down](#) with Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills to discuss various issues of the day from a Biblical perspective.



December 13: *FOX News* – **Fox News @ Night with Trace Gallagher** – Annabelle Rutledge

[stands against](#) antisemitism on college and university campuses and in support of Israel on her first FOX appearance for Fox @Night.



December 18:

Newsmax – **Chris Plante The Right**

Squad – Penny once again [joins](#) as an expert for the roundtable discussions on various news of the day ranging from the hypersexualization of the Democratic party, to the border crisis, to a recent study on how sleeping in on the weekends can save your life.



December 18: *Fox Business* – **Varney & Co.** – Macy Petty [discusses](#) the risk of allowing biological males to compete in women’s sports on *Fox Business’ Varney & Co.* FOXbusiness.com also [ran a story](#) about her appearance as well.

December 20: *The Victory Channel* - **Victory News** - Macy was interviewed for Kenneth Copeland’s [network news cast](#) (20:17mark) about the situation around biological males invading women’s sports.

Print Media

December 6: *WAVA FM* - **The Don Kroah Show** - Penny discussed [her recent Newsmax op-ed](#) on just war theory and provide information for Christians on Israel’s justification for war against Hamas.

December 7: *American Spectator* – **Prayer Vigils for Israel Contrast Growing Anti-**

Semitism on College Campuses– Young Women for America leader Grace Reilly [interviews](#) CWA’s Annabelle Rutledge on Young Women for America’s response to antisemitism on college campuses.

December 7: *The Daily Signal* - **Parents Outraged After Trans-Identifying Boy Wins Girls’ Irish Dancing Competition, Heads to Worlds** – CWA Legislative Strategist Maggie McKneely [reflects](#) on a recent Irish dancing competition she competed in where a trans-identifying boy placed first in the U14 division.

December 8: *FOX News* - [Disney can’t feel the love at the box office. And here’s the reason why.](#) Penny’s op-ed about Disney’s failures at the box office as a result of their devotion to ESG was the lead opinion piece at FOXNews.com.

December 13: *FOX News* – **NCAA Won’t Protect Female Athletes from a Trans Takeover of Their Sports** – Macy Petty [writes](#) on behalf of female athletes losing their place and being put at risk because of biological men in their sports in her latest op-ed with Fox News.

December 18: *Daily Caller* – **Schools Are For Learning, Not Social Media** – Legislative Strategist Maggie McKneely makes the case for the “Eyes on the Board Act” which promotes learning, not social media scrolling in her [latest op-ed](#).



FIELD HIGHLIGHTS

CWA’s Grassroots Leaders Standing Strong for Israel

Since the horrors of October 7, CWA, from multiple fronts, has intensified its focus on the 7th of our [core issues](#): support for Israel. Our leaders nationwide have participated and led in these efforts. The state organizations, Women for America Influencers, Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders, and their 3,500-plus Chapter attendees have promoted and used our support for [Israel resources](#), such as the prayer points, devotion, podcasts, webinars, videos, and web articles, in the November [Influencer Monthly](#).

Additionally, they supported our Young Women for America

leaders, who [held prayer vigils](#) for Israel on college campuses around the country. Our CWA state leaders attended and prayed at eight of the vigils. Here are a few pictures from the events.

We are tremendously grateful for our leaders!

PRAYER:

Join us in prayer for our leaders around the country. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and success as they commit their prayer and time to impacting the culture for Christ in their states and local communities.



YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA Putting on the New Self in 2024



Morgan Schlesselman, YWA National Director

As we closed out 2023, many Young Women for America (YWA) chapters hosted Christmas parties to celebrate the semester and our Savior's birth. The YWA Inland Empire chapter partnered with a local organization that meets the practical needs of moms rescued from sex trafficking. The chapter joined the organization's Christmas drive and bought Christmas gifts for some families. They wrapped the gifts and prayed over them at their party. The YWA Liberty chapter hosted Annabelle Rutledge, CWA's Executive Vice President, to speak about engaging the culture as a believer.

Female Athletics and Title IX. You can read more about it [here](#). As we listened to Members of Congress deny biological reality and the need to protect the original intent of Title IX from the Biden Administration's proposed changes, we were reminded of how important it is that YWA and CWA magnify the voices of young women across this country who know that girls' sports are for girls only.



YWA Ambassador Macy Petty and I attended the NCAA Volleyball National Championship in Tampa, Florida. We were able to pass out hundreds of informational cards that linked to CWA's [webpage](#) on supporting female athletes. It was so encouraging to receive over-whelming support from fans, family members, and friends who agree that men shouldn't be competing in women's sports. Macy's latest [op-ed](#) calls on the NCAA to stand up for female athletes.

We also continued our efforts in protecting girls' sports. The YWA team attended a hearing by the U.S. House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services on *Protecting*

As we turn to the New Year, we anticipate more opportunities to stand for Israel, girls' sports, the sanctity of life, and so on. We would cherish your prayers for renewed energy and passion for our leaders during the spring semester.

PRAYER:

Heading into the New Year, my prayer is that we'd all experience the words of Ephesians 4:22-24: "To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Additional Prayer & Action for Leaders & Friends

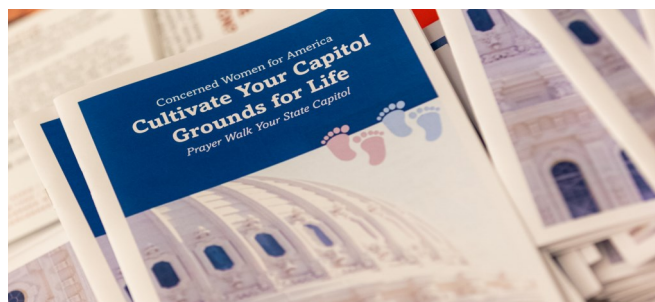
JANUARY - Sanctity of Human Life Month

We encourage all of our CWA leaders and friends to put extra emphasis on life throughout January. There are an array of things you can do.

- Attend a March for Life event in your area or check this site for [other marches](#).
- As a CWA Chapter leader, you can table at a local March for Life event. If interested, contact your State Director, or in states without a State Director, contact [Michelle](#). Allow enough time to receive supplies.
- As a CWA Chapter leader, you can have your chapter participate in a local March for Life with CWA signs. Contact your State Director for assistance or [Michelle](#) in the absence of one.
- January 21 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Reach out to your pastor and ask them to recognize the day's importance. Consider providing information about the local pregnancy care center.
- Go to CWA's [downloadable publications](#) page to view our pro-life resources. If you would like to order resources contact your State Director or [Michelle](#) in the absence of one.
- Follow CWA on our social media platforms and share our posts. Share CWA web articles with your email network.

If you participate in any life events, be sure to take pictures and email them to [Michelle](#). We would love to showcase your activities! The sooner you send the picture after the event, the quicker we can post them.

Great Pro-life Tool Available



Cultivate Your Capitol Grounds for Life prayer walk booklet is now available! If you are within driving distance of your state capital, this is a great tool to pray in and around your capital. For CWA Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders who live within driving distance of your state capital, it's a phenomenal tool to plan for one of your monthly meetings. Order the booklets through your State Director, or in states without a director, contact [Michelle](#), and she will be happy to assist you.



JANUARY

Human Trafficking Awareness month

Go [here](#) for resources such as prayer points, statistics, action items, articles, and more.