



Focus on Abortion

AMERICANS SHARE THEIR STORIES

PHOTOGRAPHS AND INTERVIEWS BY ROSLYN BANISH



The Presbyterian Church USA has a long history of support for reproductive rights, including the right to abortion care. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the 1973 SCOTUS decision in *Roe v. Wade*, allowing access to abortion in the country. Just a few weeks later delegates to the 225th General Assembly of the PCUSA passed a resolution “affirming that women and pregnant people are full moral agents, created in the image of God, and it supports their moral capacity to decide whether to continue or end any given pregnancy. It also denounces attempts to prevent people from receiving essential health care and rejects attempts at all levels of Government to reduce, limit or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care.” We are urged by our church leadership to continuing advocating for, speaking about, and even shouting about, our strong commitment to reproductive rights including abortion care, insisting that women must have access to the complete range of healthcare to be fully free and complete human beings.

One way FPC will show this support is through hosting an exhibit in the Back Pew Gallery entitled *Focus on Abortion: Americans Share Their Stories*, based on the book by that title which is comprised of 62 photographs and accompanying stories of individuals who have deep connections to abortion. Author Roslyn Banish states that “it is my hope that they will build bridges of understanding between disparate voices in the often-polarized conversations around abortion.”

This exhibit is brought to New Mexico by FPC member Diane Buchanan, and Leslie House and Kathy Eagan, all of whom are involved with the Patchwork of Women (PoW), a group formed locally in response to the overturning of *Roe* in 2022. The group’s goals include doing everything possible to help elect pro-choice politicians in NM and around the country, and working to protect against further erosion of reproductive rights in the USA.

Mark Your Calendars for the Following Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 19—Friday, Dec. 1: The Back Pew Gallery will be open to church members Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm, and on Sundays, 8:30am-12:30pm. Non-church members may view the exhibit with a church member or by making arrangements to visit with 48 hour’s notice by texting Diane Buchanan at 469-371-3186.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 4:30-6:30pm: Please join us for a closing event including a final opportunity to view the photographic exhibit and the unique opportunity to attend a staged reading of many people’s abortion stories, told in intersecting monologues. This special presentation will be performed by local actors led by Talia Pura.