

Here We Are, Send Us! 3.0  
***Standing With and For Those in Harm's Way: Women Seeking Reproductive Health Care***  
Maine Council of Churches  
June 5, 2025

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Practical action steps for promoting reproductive justice:

Make available, for young and old, comprehensive sexuality education that is scientifically sound, respectful of diversity, and grounded in love and justice.

Provide women and others safe space to share their reproductive stories, without shame or judgment. Keep expanding ways to show respect for women and learn from their moral wisdom.

Do more to invite men of conscience into the conversation about procreative responsibility and advocacy for reproductive justice.

Move out of your comfort zone and make connections with community partners like Mabel Wadsworth Health Center, Family Planning of Maine, and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Some of our work is, yes, inside our congregations, but much of the change agenda requires joining the broad grassroots social change movement that is advocating for a comprehensive social justice agenda, including sexual, gender, and reproductive justice across class, race, and cultural lines of difference.

In planning worship, put a sabbath for reproductive justice on the liturgical calendar.

Come up with creative ways to express support for reproductive health care providers, including staff at Planned Parenthood, Mabel Wadsworth, and Family Planning. Perhaps send chocolate.

Identify yourself *publicly* as a person of faith who prayerfully supports the right to abortion as well as affordable access to other kinds of health care.

Hold a fundraiser for SAFE Maine, an abortion fund working to expand outreach to women in rural Maine communities.

Show up in Augusta, speak *as a person of faith* with your legislators, and stand up for reproductive justice *because of, not in spite of, your faith and values*.

When the time comes, show up at your polling place, and vote the bums out.

Above all, keep hope alive. Remember that it was St. Augustine who pointed out that hope has two beautiful children: anger and courage. Remain steadfast in your anger at the sight of cruelty and injustice.

In the midst of rising fascism don't adjust or be resigned to degradation. Bolster one another to become as courageous as possible, even if your voice trembles and your knees shake, and challenge yourself to become a "holy *fight-like-hell* firefighter," joining others to put out as many fires as possible. God willing, your witness, whether large or small, will make a difference.