

WORSHIP
IN PINK

susan G.
komen. 

PROGRAM TOOLKIT
For Black Faith Based Organizations

**Breast cancer can be overwhelming,
but there is strength in faith.**

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Welcome & About Worship in Pink

Thank you for coordinating a Worship in Pink event for your congregation, helping Susan G. Komen® to spread the message about breast health and the importance of finding breast cancer early when more treatment options are available, and chances for survival are highest. Worship in Pink is a vital community program and would not be successful without the support, time and creativity from you, the Worship in Pink Ambassadors!

Breast cancer education is important all year, not just in October. Breast cancer doesn't take a break when the calendar turns to November and the pink ribbons fade away. That means our fight against breast cancer is never complete.

Komen's Worship in Pink program invites faith-based organizations nationwide to come together to share lifesaving messages about breast cancer. Worship in Pink opens the lines of communication about breast health, promotes breast cancer screening, and the use of Komen's resources while also honoring and recognizing the lives of those who have been through or are going through breast cancer.

The goals of this program are to:

- encourage more people to get screened for breast cancer regularly and
- ensure participants are aware of the support and resources available through Susan G. Komen's Patient Care Center, including Komen's Breast Care Helpline, Financial Assistance Program, patient navigation and educational resources.

We depend heavily on each of you to engage with your congregation. This toolkit contains information and resources designed to help you get started, but the plan is up to you! Use your Worship in Pink event to celebrate breast cancer survivors, co-survivors and those living with metastatic breast cancer in your congregation or community and provide valuable breast health information.

THANK YOU for coordinating your organization's participation in our Worship in Pink program. We are excited that you are joining us in helping spread important breast health information to your community. We could not be successful without your support.

Thank you for your efforts!

Sincerely,



Theru Ross
Program Manager, Community Education & Outreach



About Susan G. Komen®

In 1980, Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became the Susan G. Komen® organization and the beginning of a global movement. What was started with \$200 and a shoebox full of potential donor names has now grown into the world's largest nonprofit source of funding for the fight against breast cancer. To date, we've invested more than \$2.9 billion in groundbreaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 60 countries. Our efforts helped reduce deaths from breast cancer by 40 percent between 1989-2016 and we won't stop until our promise is fulfilled.

The Komen mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

To achieve this mission, Komen focuses on two key drivers:

1. Finding breakthroughs for the most aggressive and deadly breast cancers; and
2. Ensuring all people receive the care they need

Komen provides a 360-degree approach to ending breast cancer. This 360 approach breaks down into four pillars: action, research, care, and community. We advocate to influence federal, state and local policy to ensure research progress and protections for all patients. We're funding research to better detect, prevent, treat and cure all forms of breast cancer. We work to eliminate barriers to care and provide access to vital breast health and breast cancer services. We provide support, information and guidance to survivors, those living with breast cancer and caregivers as they navigate breast cancer care.

Ambassador's Role in Worship in Pink

As an ambassador, you are vital to Worship in Pink and its success! Ambassadors serve as breast health advocates, and lead activities to promote the importance of breast health and breast cancer screening. We look forward to working with you as you plan and implement your Worship in Pink activities and program for your congregation.

The role of the Ambassador includes:

- Complete the online Ambassador training, where you will learn about the importance of breast health and screening and Worship in Pink and resources available for your congregation. This quick training can be completed at your own pace.
- Rally your congregation to host an activity for Worship in Pink.
- Plan messages and activities for your congregation's Worship in Pink event.
- Share the Worship in Pink message of inspiration, education, and hope!
- Encourage those in need of support or information to reach out to Susan G. Komen's Helpline at 1-877- GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636).
- Attend the virtual Ambassador Celebration to share your Worship in Pink stories and celebrate your successes with Komen staff and volunteers!
- Complete the post Worship in Pink survey.

Clergy's Role in Worship in Pink

As leaders, clergy members are encouraged to involve their congregation in Worship in Pink activities. Clergy can empower and inspire dialogue and learning about breast health and breast cancer.

Clergy are asked to:

- Promote breast self-awareness and screening through Worship in Pink outreach and education activities.
- Work with their Ambassadors to schedule a breast cancer-related activity or event for congregation members.
- Incorporate ongoing breast self-awareness and education as part of their health ministry.
- Wear pink for Worship in Pink events and activities.

Worship in Pink Program Ideas

You have the flexibility to create a program that is best suited for your congregation and community. We have slide decks and videos available for you to use in your Worship in Pink program, and we have other ideas below to get you started.

CREATE A WALL OF HOPE

Create a wall of hope with names, pictures or stories of congregation members who have been impacted by breast cancer. Display photos to visually honor and remember those who have been affected by breast cancer.

INVITE A SURVIVOR, A PERSON LIVING WITH BREAST CANCER, OR A CO-SURVIVOR TO SPEAK

Chances are, there is someone within your congregation who has been affected by breast cancer and is willing to share their story. A familiar face giving a testimony of their experience is a highly effective way to educate and raise awareness about breast cancer.

HOST A WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION EVENT

Hosting a Women's Health Education event is an excellent opportunity for women to receive educational resources that will help them learn more about breast self-awareness and the available resources. You can use the Komen breast self-awareness slide deck for your presentation or invite a local healthcare provider to attend the event as a co-presenter.

A medical professional will be able to answer any medical questions your congregation might have. They can also help dispel any myths and explain various breast cancer screenings methods and terms. Komen is unable to provide a speaker, but there may already be one in your congregation.

For additional questions and referrals to resources, you can also direct participants to call the Komen Breast Care Helpline at 877-GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636), email helpline@komen.org or visit Komen.org.

HOST A BREAST CANCER SCREENING EVENT AT YOUR ORGANIZATION

If your community has a healthcare provider that offers mobile mammography, reach out to them to see if your faith-based organization could serve as a host site. Plan early! Mobile units typically book months in advance.

In the weeks leading up to the event, work to sign participants up for an appointment on the mammogram unit. On the day of the screening event, decorate the area around the mobile unit with pink balloons, streamers, or a pink table to make the event special for your congregants.

If your community does not have a mobile mammography unit or it is not available, set up a pink table before or after services to share educational and local resources. Encourage participants to sign a pledge to talk to their doctor about what screening tests are right for them and get screened.

ASK FOR A SPECIAL LOVE OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF KOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Take five minutes at the end of your organization's service to share information about breast cancer, using the script Komen provided in this toolkit. Request that congregants make a contribution supporting Komen's work to end breast cancer forever through its focus on research and health equity.

CREATE A TEAM FOR YOUR LOCAL KOMEN RACE OR WALK EVENT

Create a team and participate in the MORE THAN PINK Walk® or Race for the Cure®. The events provide a space to share stories, remember those we've lost, support those who are here and find the strength to move forward. When you sign up, you're joining others in a shared commitment to end breast cancer forever. You are supporting thousands of women and men facing breast cancer now and honoring the ones' we've lost. And your support ensures no one ever faces this terrible disease alone. Visit www.komen.org/walk to find the event closest to you.

PROVIDE KOMEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Help yourself to the [free educational resources](#) from Komen. Download and print them to provide to your congregation and community.

Get Social

Please share photos of your Worship in Pink festivities, decorations, and events you host with us!

Email pictures to us at tross@komen.org or tag us on social media. We would love to see the amazing things you are doing in your community through this program!

Be sure to use the hashtag #WorshipInPink when posting.



Susan G. Komen



@susangkomen



@susangkomen



@susangkomen



Breast Cancer Facts

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. It is second only to lung cancer in cancer deaths among women in the U.S.
- The two most common risk factors for breast cancer are being born female and growing older.
- One woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every two minutes, and one woman in the U.S. will die of breast cancer every 12 minutes.
- In 2022, it is estimated there will be 287,850 new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in women in the U.S., and 2,710 cases diagnosed in men.
- It is estimated there were more than 168,000 women living with Stage IV metastatic breast cancer in the U.S. in 2020.
- Most women in the U.S. with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. Only about 15 percent of women with breast cancer have a close family member with a history of breast cancer.
- Approximately five to ten percent of breast cancers in women are thought to be due to inherited genetic mutations, while up to 40 percent of breast cancers in men may be related to genetic mutations.
- Although rare, young women can also get breast cancer. Less than five percent of breast cancers occur in women under age 40. However, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death US. among women ages 20 to 39.
- In 2022, it is estimated that 43,240 women and 530 men in the U.S. will die from breast cancer.
- Today, there are more than 3.8 million survivors and people living with breast cancer in the U.S.



Breast Cancer Disparities in Black Women in The U.S.

Breast cancer disparities for Black women are startling. According to the most recent data available, breast cancer mortality is about 40 percent higher for Black women in the U.S. than white women. And, Black women are often diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer when treatment options are limited, costly and the prognosis is poor. Susan G. Komen believes this is unacceptable and is working to change these outcomes.

- About 36,260 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among Black women in the U.S. in 2022.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Black women in the U.S.
- Overall breast cancer incidence among Black women in the U.S. is lower than in white women in the U.S., however, Black women have a higher breast cancer incidence rate than white women before age 40.
- One in nine Black women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.
- The median age of diagnosis is slightly younger for Black women (60) than white women (64) in the U.S.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Black women in the U.S.
- About 6,800 deaths from breast cancer are expected to occur among Black women in the U.S. in 2022.
- Black women have the highest breast cancer mortality of all other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.
- Breast cancer mortality is about 40 percent higher in Black women in the U.S. than in white women.
- About 10 percent of Black women in the U.S. are already at Stage IV when they are first diagnosed with breast cancer.

How Komen is Addressing Health Equity

To advance health equity in breast cancer care, Komen believes that everyone should have a fair and equal opportunity to be as healthy as possible despite their cultural or demographic background. That is why Komen is committed to eliminating barriers to care for individuals and communities experiencing breast health inequities now and in the future.

Komen is working to achieve health equity for the Black community by aiming to reduce the disparities in late-stage diagnosis and mortality rates between Black and white women in metropolitan areas where the gap is most significant.

Komen is recruiting, training, and increasing the number of Black breast cancer patient navigators to support the diversification of the patient navigation workforce and provide culturally competent care.

Stand for H.E.R.

Susan G. Komen cannot stand by knowing that health inequities exist in the Black community that result in unacceptable breast cancer outcomes. Instead, we have decided to deepen our health equity work, and take a stand with the Stand for H.E.R. - a Health Equity Revolution program.

Stand for H.E.R. is Komen's commitment to collaborating with Black people, policymakers, researchers and other key stakeholders to help create a world without inequities where Black people have the same chances of surviving breast cancer as anyone else.

Komen seeks to break down the barriers that created these inequities for Black people through education that empowers; patient support that ensures connection to timely, high-quality care; workforce development that improves the diversity and cultural sensitivity of health care workers; research that is representative and benefits all; and through creation of policies that promote health equity.

Through these collaborative and collective efforts, Together, we Stand for H.E.R., to create a Health Equity Revolution.

Sample Script: Breast Self-Awareness

In 1980, Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became the Susan G. Komen® organization and the beginning of a global movement. What was started with \$200 and a shoebox full of potential donor names has now grown into the world's largest nonprofit source of funding for the fight against breast cancer. To date, we've invested more than \$2.9 billion in groundbreaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 60 countries. Our efforts helped reduce deaths from breast cancer by 40 percent between 1989-2016 and we won't stop until our promise is fulfilled.

Komen is reaching out to communities nationwide through the Worship in Pink program to raise awareness about breast cancer and encourage breast cancer screening by partnering with faith-based organizations. Today, we as a faith community have collaborated with Komen to open the lines of communication about breast health, promote breast cancer screenings, promote the use Komen's resources and honor those impacted by breast cancer.

Our focus is to educate our community about the importance of breast health and provide information about screenings to find breast cancer early. The two most common risk factors for breast cancer are being born female and getting older – two things we cannot change or control. But there are some things you can do that play an important role in your breast care.

KOMEN'S 4 KEY BREAST SELF-AWARENESS MESSAGES ARE:

1. Know your risk
2. Get screened
3. Know what is normal for you
4. Make healthy lifestyle choices

KNOW YOUR RISK

- Talk to both sides of your family about your family health history. This information can be used to help you learn about your risk of breast cancer. Gather information about who has had breast cancer or other cancers or other health problems. On Komen's website, komen.org, there is a "My Family Health History" tool to help you gather this information.
- Talk with your doctor about your risk of breast cancer using information from your family health history.

GET SCREENED

- When you talk with your doctor to understand your risk, it is also important to talk about when to get screened.
- If you are at a **higher risk**, talk with your doctor about which screening tests are right for you and when they should begin.
- If you are at **average risk**, it's important to have a clinical breast exam at least every three years, starting at age 20, and every year starting at age 40. It's also important that women at average risk have a mammogram every year starting at age 40.

- Komen has a [screening reminder tool](#) to help make sure you never miss a screening. You can find it on the Komen website.

KNOW WHAT IS NORMAL FOR YOU

- It's important that you know how your breasts normally **look and feel** and that you report any changes you see or feel to your doctor. Men, this applies to you too!
- The warning signs of breast cancer **are not the same for all people**.
- Overall, women (and men) know a lump could be a sign of breast cancer, and if they find a lump in their breast, they should follow up with their doctor.
- However, **visual changes** can also be the first sign that something is going on in the breast and should be checked.
- Here are a few **warning signs** to look out for – and to report to your doctor if you notice any of these signs or any changes in your breasts.
 - Lump, hard knot or thickening inside the breast or underarm area
 - Swelling, warmth, redness or darkening of the breast
 - Change in the size or shape of the breast
 - Dimpling or puckering of the skin
- **Other changes** that a doctor should check include:
 - Itchy, scaly sore or rash on the nipple
 - Pulling in of the nipple or other parts of the breast
 - Nipple discharge that starts suddenly
 - New pain in one spot that doesn't go away

MAKE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES

The final key breast self-awareness message is to make healthy lifestyle choices. These lifestyle choices may help lower your risk of breast cancer – and contribute to overall good health.

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Add exercise to your routine
- For those who choose to drink alcohol, limit to less than one drink a day for women and fewer than two drinks a day for men.
- Limit menopausal hormone use, which is linked to an increased risk of developing breast cancer.
- Breastfeed, if you can. Women who breastfeed have a lower risk of breast cancer, especially before menopause, than women who don't breastfeed.

These healthy lifestyle choices may help reduce your risk of breast cancer. It's important to note cancer tends to be caused by a **combination of factors**. Some things we may be able to control (such as exercise). Others are out of our control (such as age), and some are still unknown.

After today's service, we will share resources that contain these breast self-awareness messages.

1. Know your risk - gather your family history and talk with your doctor about your risk

2. Get screened
3. Know what is normal for you
4. Make healthy lifestyle choices

Please share these messages with your friends and family who are not here today and encourage those you love to get screened and "Know Your Normal" and follow up with their doctor if they notice a change. Together we can end breast cancer forever. Call the Komen Helpline at 877-GO-KOMEN (877-465-6636) if you need any breast health services or answers to your questions about breast health and breast cancer.

The Komen Breast Care Helpline is a free resource available in English and Spanish for every person, including survivors, caregivers, those living with metastatic breast cancer, and people not yet touched by breast cancer, with questions about better care for themselves.

Thank you for participating!

If you are interested in learning more about Komen and their work, please visit their website at komen.org or by calling 877-GO KOMEN (877-465-6636) or emailing helpline@komen.org.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

MSK offers breast cancer screening services at our **New Jersey** locations in **Bergen, Somerset,** and **Monmouth** counties.

MSK.org

To learn more about screenings, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link.





Sample Announcements

- Breast cancer may be overwhelming, but there is strength in faith. Susan G. Komen® invites faith-based organizations nationwide to join forces against breast cancer this October, and we are excited to participate. Join us in honoring and celebrating the lives of those impacted by breast cancer, promoting breast health, and spreading the importance of breast cancer screening!

Visit [komen.org](https://www.komen.org) or call 1-877-GO-KOMEN for information and support.

- Breast Cancer may be overwhelming, but there is strength in faith. Susan G. Komen invites faith-based organizations nationwide to join forces against breast cancer this October and we are excited to participate. Join us on {*date*} in honoring and celebrating the lives of those who have been impacted by breast cancer, promoting breast health and spreading the importance of breast cancer screening!



Susan G. Komen Resources for Breast Health Information & Support

BREAST CARE HELPLINE

The Komen Helpline offers support provided by trained specialists and oncology social workers to support those navigating our complex healthcare system in both English and Spanish.

Hours are: Monday – Friday 9 AM – 10 PM EST

Call 1-877-465-6636, email helpline@komen.org or visit [Komen.org](https://www.komen.org) to learn more.

TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Financial hardships shouldn't keep those with breast cancer from getting the care they need. While medical treatment and care are typically the primary costs associated with a breast cancer diagnosis, there are other expenses of daily living that can prevent patients from getting the care they need, when they need it. The Komen Treatment Assistance Program is here to help.

Visit www.komen.org/treatment-assistance-program/ to learn more.

REAL PINK PODCAST

The Real Pink podcast brings people together to have meaningful conversations about breast cancer. For those diagnosed with breast cancer, we know it impacts many aspects of life - like our relationships, our

finances, our jobs, and our health. At Real Pink, we never shy away from tough, emotional, or potentially embarrassing life-changing topics. We strive to help those affected by breast cancer — from patients to family members to friends — by providing the information needed to make informed decisions.

Find recordings at www.realpink.komen.org.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC) IMPACT SERIES

Komen's MBC Impact Series is a FREE virtual series that will provide people living with metastatic breast cancer and their loved ones a safe, collaborative space to gather information related to MBC and discover practical resources to help make decisions for improved physical and emotional health.

To register, visit www.komen.org/mbcseries.

KOMEN BREAST CANCER FACEBOOK GROUP

Komen offers an online support community through our closed Facebook Group – Komen Breast Cancer group. The Facebook group provides a place where those with a connection to breast cancer can discuss each other's experiences and build strong relationships to provide support to each other. Visit Facebook and search for "Komen Breast Cancer group" to request to join the closed group.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Susan G. Komen helps people with any stage of breast cancer find and participate in clinical trials, including trials supported by Komen.

For more information about clinical trials, please call our Helpline at 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636), visit <http://clinicaltrials.komen.org> or email at clinicaltrialinfo@komen.org to connect with a trained specialist.

KOMEN'S CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Komen works to educate people about public policy issues, so they are empowered to become forceful advocates for themselves and their neighbors, and then unites their collective voices for maximum impact. Stay "in the know" about current legislative and advocacy actions by becoming an Advocacy Insider today.

Visit <https://www.komen.org/how-to-help/advocacy/center-for-public-policy/> to learn more and get involved.



You can help discover cures to breast cancer, faster.

ShareForCures™ is a breast cancer research registry by Susan G. Komen®, connecting researchers with information from people who have or had breast cancer.

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There is hope every single day in research centers across the country and across the world. Research is hope for the far too many of us who are living with breast cancer.

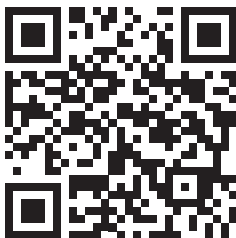
PAM KOHL
Breast Cancer Advocate

YOUR BREAST CANCER INFORMATION IS AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE. When combined with thousands of other ShareForCures members, you provide scientists with a more diverse set of data to make new discoveries, faster.

YOU CAN JOIN SHAREFORCURES IF YOU:

- Are 18 years or older*
- Live in the United States (including territories)
- Have been diagnosed with breast cancer

LEARN MORE AT: www.shareforcures.org



You can make a difference in improving lives and discovering breakthroughs.

**Individuals in Alabama and Nebraska must be over 19 and individuals in Mississippi and Pennsylvania must be over 21 to participate.*

Ambassador Check List

Please use this list to help as you plan and execute your Worship in Pink activity:

EVENT PLANNING

- Watch the online, self-paced Susan G. Komen Worship in Pink Ambassador Training
- Confirm activity date(s) with clergy
- Schedule date(s) on your organization's calendar
- Assemble a team to assist you in program implementation
- Develop team tasks and assignments for event
- Schedule team check-in meetings
- Recruit volunteer support assistant if needed

EVENT COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION

- Place activity announcements in the bulletin, on signage and flyers
- Develop social media strategy using provided toolkit: Facebook, Instagram, email blast
- Distribute

EVENT DAY!

- Wear Pink!
- Provide talking points for Ambassadors' part of the program
- Make sure the presentation and any needed technology (PowerPoint, Zoom, video, etc.) is ready for service
- Provide printed breast health materials

AFTER THE EVENT

- Complete online post Worship in Pink e-survey
- Ambassadors register for Celebration event
- Send thank-you notes to supporters

Contact Information

Theru Ross

Program Manager
tross@komen.org
972-855-4304

Susan G. Komen Breast Care Helpline

1-877-GO KOMEN

Worship in Pink Website

<http://www.komen.org/WorshipInPink>