

# News

## Area Churches Pull Together to Fight Breast Cancer with Worship in Pink Activities

By Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington

**A**s a big pink display of community involvement, over 30 churches in the Portland metro area are organizing activities that promote breast cancer awareness and the importance of screening in early detection.

The growing Worship in Pink program, directed by Susan G. Komen Oregon & Southwest Washington, is held during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Volunteer Ambassadors from each church are trained in the message and are provided resources to use at their activities.

Nationally, breast cancer is the second most common cause of death in African American women, exceeded only by lung cancer. Currently, in Portland, only 57 percent of African American women get mammograms, compared to 76 percent of the general population. This is especially troubling because African American women are much more likely than other women to be diagnosed at a later stage (42 percent in African American women vs. 27 percent in the general population). They tend to be diagnosed at a younger age with a more aggressive form of breast cancer.

As a way to work towards closing this gap, seven of these churches are going above the regular Worship in Pink program and assisting women in need to receive a mammogram as African American Initiative Pilot Churches. Pilot Church congregations are at least 50 percent African American. Their Ambassadors will receive additional training on both insurance options, for

the insured and uninsured, and how to motivate and help someone through the process of getting a mammogram. In the months following their Worship in Pink activity, they will contact and help attendees who ask for assistance.

Worship in Pink is truly a community wide project with churches working together on outreach and education. Janet Long, one of Allen Temple CME Church Ambassadors, was one of the original Pink Ambassadors from the first Pink Sunday event held in 2010. Her congregation has persevered through two devastating fires to their church building and is now combining their efforts with another church. Janet says, "in February 2014, Maranatha Church graciously allowed us to hold our worship service in their building. With us sharing the same building for worship, we became bonded in a new way and wished to share the Worship in Pink experience as well. Last year was our first joint collaboration where we hosted a "Lunch and Learn" event. This year our "Lunch and Learn" will be held at Maranatha Church on Oct. 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with special guest Dr. Natalie Johnson, a surgical oncologist and breast cancer survivor."

Christell Harris, Maranatha Church's Women's ministry leader and usher, is also an Ambassador with Worship in Pink. Her involvement began a few years ago when the issue became deeply personal.

One of the church's ambassadors had recently passed away from breast cancer and then just a couple of months later, the woman's daughter passed away from the same disease. It was devastating to Christell. She says, "I was close



Allen Temple CME Ambassadors Janet Long, Carol Roberts, and Reverend Rhonda Smith, along with Ambassadors from Community of Hope Church, learning about the message and resources at the 2016 Worship in Pink Ambassador Summit Training.

to both of them. After they passed I wanted to reach as many people as I could. It is more than just awareness — it is important to get the mammogram. Even if you don't have insurance, there are places where you can get a free mammogram." Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Senior Pastor at Maranatha, says of the program, "Worship in Pink is important because many African Americans often are diagnosed in late stages; Worship in Pink helps bring awareness and access to combat this deadly disparity and see us all proper in our health."



Maranatha Ambassador Janelle Hartley talks with some Worship in Pink attendees.

For help in receiving a mammogram, attend a Worship in Pink activity at one of these African American Initiative Pilot Churches:

- Allen Temple CME Church and Maranatha Church ("Lunch & Learn" from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 8 in the Multipurpose Room at 4222 NE 12th Ave \* Portland)
- Antioch Missionary Baptist Church ("Family and Friends Lunch" from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 29 at 5935 N Minnesota Ave \* Portland)
- Bethel AME Church ("Pink Believers Breakfast" from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Oct. 8, in the Multipurpose Room at 5828 NE 8th \* Portland)
- Community AME Zion Church ("Worship in Pink Annual Tea" from 1 to 3 p.m. on Oct. 22, at 2211 NE 137th Ct \* Vancouver)

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church ("High Tea and Hat Show" from 12-2 pm Oct. 15 at 8101 N Fiske Ave \* Portland)
- Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church ("Worship in Pink Camp MPowerment" Oct. 7 in the O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall at 3138 N Vancouver Ave \* Portland)

The complete Worship in Pink schedule of activities can be found at [KomenOregon.org](http://KomenOregon.org).

About Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington: In the last 25 years, the local organization has funneled nearly \$19.8 million into programs that prioritize the importance of improving and building on the quality of life for survivors and forever fighters, emphasize the value of early detection and screenings, as well as financial assistance for access to treatment. Another \$11.8 million has been dedicated to local cutting edge research.

**MFHM**  
My Father's House Ministries  
Pastors Jerry & Annie Gutierrez

**JOIN US FOR THE 3 SPECIAL SERVICES!!**

Join us for **Rosh Hashanah** (YOM TERUAH) **The Jewish New Year Celebration**

We will also be receiving a special offering

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 7PM**

**Day of Atonement** (YOM KIPPUR) We will also be receiving a special offering

**Thursday, October 13th at 7pm**

**Feast of Tabernacles** (SUKKOT) We will also be receiving our First Fruits offering at this service

Friday, October 21st at 7pm

**The Double Tree Hotel**  
1000 NE Multnomah Street • Portland, OR 97232  
Across from the Lloyd Center Mall • Free parking at the hotel

For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481 or log on to [www.mfhmportland.com](http://www.mfhmportland.com)

520 SW 3rd Ave. Portland, OR  
(503)796-9250  
[Avalonflowers@msn.com](mailto:Avalonflowers@msn.com)  
[avalonflowerspdx.com](http://avalonflowerspdx.com)

**Avalon Flowers**  
Creative, original designs  
Anniversaries, weddings, funerals, birthdays!