MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • OCTOBER 2026

Progressive National Baptist Convention Calls Churches Nationwide to Action for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

"Faith, Screening and Saving Lives"

WHAT	During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) is calling its member churches across the United States and the Bahamas to encourage every woman to know her risk, talk with her doctor and get screened. PNBC congregations are invited to: • Wear pink during Sunday worship in October. • Share breast health information and screening resources with members. • Honor survivors and pray for patients, caregivers and families. • Encourage women age 40 and older to schedule a mammogram.
WHO	• Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd Sr., President, Progressive National Baptist Convention • Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, First Vice President, PNBC • Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois III, Second Vice President, PNBC • Rev. Thomas L. Bowen, General Secretary, PNBC • PNBC member churches nationwide
WHEN	Throughout October 2026, Breast Cancer Awareness Month
WHERE	PNBC member churches across the United States and the Bahamas PNBC Headquarters: 601 50th Street NE, Washington, DC 20019
WHY	Black women are diagnosed with breast cancer at a slightly lower rate than white women but are about 38% more likely to die from it, according to the American Cancer Society. Black women are also more likely to be diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive form, and are more often diagnosed at younger ages and later stages. Early detection saves lives. National guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommend that women at average risk get a mammogram every two years starting at age 40. PNBC churches have long been places of healing as well as worship. Caring for the body is part of caring for the whole person, and no woman in our community should face this disease alone.
VISUALS	• Congregations wearing pink during Sunday worship • Survivors honored during worship services • Prayer for survivors, patients and caregivers
INTERVIEWS	PNBC leadership is available for interviews by phone or Zoom throughout October. To schedule an interview, please contact Media Relations.
CONTACT	**Dr. Tonya Merriweather Gipson Miller** Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. 469.810.8718 | pnbcpress@gmail.com | www.pnbc.org

About PNBC

The Progressive National Baptist Convention was founded in 1961 by pastors who would not separate faith from freedom. PNBC became the denominational home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and today represents 1.5 million congregants across the United States and the Bahamas. Guided by its motto of Fellowship, Progress, Service and Peace, PNBC continues to advance justice, health and wholeness in the communities it serves.

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