

It's hard to believe that it's almost 2 years since I was diagnosed in March of 2017. I remember looking ahead at all that lie before me at that time and not being able to wrap my head around it. It was surreal to think that just as I was getting myself into shape and feeling stronger and more fit than I had ever been in my life; I was now headed for 4 months of chemo, surgery and 33 rounds of radiation to battle Stage 3 invasive ductal carcinoma. In the proverbial blink of an eye it all changed... Instead of heading to the gym every day, I was headed to all the appointments, the tests, the blood work, the scans. I remember thinking, what the heck is happening??

Fortunately, I was guided to an awesome medical team and things just started moving along. Once we had a clear picture of what we were dealing with and what our treatment plan would be, it was time to tell my kids. I'd have to say that was one of the worst days ever... I hardly got the words "I have breast cancer" out of my mouth and then I was unable to speak. Watching the tears roll down my grown children's cheeks as they looked at me with eyes full of fear and sadness crushed me. I'll never forget how they hugged me and told me I was going to be alright. And I was alright... taking each day, each treatment, each appointment in stride, one day at a time, as they say. Thankfully, well supported by family and friends, I completed those long months that I couldn't even think about in the beginning.

Cancer changes everything.

I've learned many things throughout this experience.... to enjoy the good days and float through the bad ones, to ask for and accept help, to cry and give it all to God, to be still-spiritually and physically- because PET scans, MRIs and radiation require stillness.

Cancer changes everything and its effects on you don't end when surgery and treatments are completed. Fortunately, I found the amazing women of LBP to walk alongside me through it all. They welcomed me with open arms and hearts and filled a need I didn't even know I had - to be able to speak freely about what I was going through without having to protect the person who was hearing it, because they already knew firsthand what I was dealing with. They are always ready to lift another up in whatever way is needed. The knowledge, shared experiences, and the love and support from the ladies in this group has helped to make this continuing journey easier to walk. Thankful to be a part of LBP!

~ Diane Majewski
Erie, PA