

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

MESSENGER

APRIL
2026

EASTER





In the hours leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus Christ was subjected to betrayal, false witnesses, illegal hearings before Jewish and Roman leaders, and a brutal beating. Isaiah spoke of His humiliation, stating: "His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man" (Isaiah 52:14 NLT).

Isaiah 53 gives several glimpses of our suffering Savior. He was despised and rejected. He was wounded, bruised, and whipped. He was oppressed and afflicted. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. In the Gospels, we have a four-dimensional view of Jesus' crucifixion. You can read the accounts starting in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.

After Jesus was pronounced dead by the Roman soldiers, there was an expedited burial to prevent ceremonial defilement. The body of the deceased King of the Jews was taken down from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, two wealthy members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, went to the Roman governor, Pilate, and requested the body of Jesus, which Pilate granted (Mark 15:44-45). Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body in linen, layered with expensive embalming spices, and reverently placed His corpse in a garden tomb owned by Joseph. All of this was finished by sundown on the eve of the great Passover Sabbath.

In fear that Jesus' disciples would steal His body from the tomb and feign a resurrection, the large stone at the aperture of the tomb was sealed and a 24-hour guard of Roman soldiers was dispatched.

The efforts to guard the grave proved futile: death was swallowed up in victory because Jesus had risen from the dead early Sunday morning.

For the next 40 days, Jesus showed Himself alive on many occasions, and eyewitnesses testified that He was alive. These witnesses included the following:

- Mary Magdalene: The first to see him (John 20:11–18; Mark 16:9).
- Other Women: Mary (mother of James), Salome, and Joanna (Matthew 28:9–10; Luke 24:10).
- Simon Peter: Appeared to him alone (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5).
- Two Disciples on the road to Emmaus: Including Cleopas (Luke 24:13–32).
- James: Jesus' brother, who likely became a believer after this encounter (1 Cor 15:7).
- The Apostles (without Thomas): In the locked room (John 20:19–23; Luke 24:36–49).
- The Apostles (with Thomas): Eight days later (John 20:24–29).
- Seven Apostles at the Sea of Galilee: Including Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two others (John 21:1–14).

- More than 500 Brethren: A large gathering (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- The Eleven Apostles: At the Ascension (Matthew 28:16–20; Luke 24:50–52).

These eyewitness accounts substantiate the reality of Jesus Christ's resurrection, but how does this apply to us? Does the resurrection of Jesus give us hope of life after death?

The answer lies in the purpose of Christ's death. He was the substitution for us – taking our sins and nailing them to His cross (Colossians 2:14). Jesus did not die for His sake; He died for ours. His resurrection can become ours.

Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19). John wrote: "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9).

Jesus died, was buried, and resurrected on the third day so we could be partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). The message of the empty tomb is that Jesus has power over death and hell. His resurrection becomes ours. We are "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

Both through types and shadows and in the life of Jesus Christ, the plan for His resurrection to become ours is clearly laid out in the Bible:

- Repentance: We identify with the death of Jesus Christ when we die to our sins in repentance. This is a change of heart, mind, and life direction away from sin and toward God. It is our first step toward God. (See Proverbs 28:13; Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38, 26:20; 1 John 1:9.)
- Water baptism: We identify with the burial of Jesus when we are baptized in water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. Repentance and baptism are not isolated actions. They are both essential to prepare our hearts for resurrection power. (See Mark 16:16; John 3:3–5; Acts 2:38, 10:48, 22:16; Romans 6:3–6; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12–13; 1 Peter 3:21.)
- Holy Spirit baptism: We are raised to new life when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. This completes the New Birth of water and of the Spirit, giving us the power to walk in the newness of life. (See Acts 1:4–5, 8, 2:2–4, 2:38, 10:44–48, 19:1–5; Romans 6:3–6; Romans 8:9–11.)

Jesus' empty tomb is evidence that the "tomb" of our past cannot hold us hostage. We are raised from death to life by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ (John 5:24). It is a promise, and it is the hope we celebrate on Easter and every day!

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1
Wayne Walker
Alexsa Jones | 12
Alex Neumann
Sis. Laurissa Wolfram-Hvass
Susan Adkins | 21
Brittanie Davis
Jacqueline Spry |
| 2
Joshua Campbell
Yadira Rivera | 13
Preston Crabtree
Tony Frazier
Dante Jones | 22
Anderson Rubin
Dorcas Adjei
Mya Haight |
| 3
Selitha Ahudey
Nyla Billups
Andrea Giasson
Aaron Yates | 14
Ethan Austin
Hazel Runkel
Neeraja Thonupunoori
David Taylor | 23
Ryan McElroy
Kendall Blackwell
Laura Tillman |
| 4
Abel Gonzalez Correa | 15
Rickey Barker
Stephen Gilbert
Rhonda Jackson
Zayne Marsh | 24
April Pye
Jaleh Brock
Jaiah Scott
Kory Austin
Ella Crabtree
Adrian Blalock
Mattie Worthy |
| 5
Dean Reimers
Louise Jonkers
Aalyana Carter
Camren Thornton | 16
CJ Eziakor
Isaac Austin
Jeminiah Ahudey | 25
Ronsyl Domingo
Evan Shand |
| 6
Nora Johns
Alayna Irizarry | 17
Donna Johnson
Raphael Jones
Larah Lopez
Gary Floyd, Jr. | 26
Philip Strouse
Jack Frazier Jr.
Briana Turner
Robin Craft |
| 7
Diane Reimers
Preston Austin
Bro. Justin Johns
Nori Porter
Nolei Porter | 18
Danelle Jones
Stephan Mitchell
Stella Norris | 27
Elianna Bautista
Leo Lopez |
| 8
Jana Floyd
Connie Rowland
Brayden Walker
John Oshogbor
Sis. Charlotte Cottrell
Dylan Frazier
Michael Carter | 19
Sis. Cheri Robinson
Felix Johnson
Wyatt Carwell
Tim Livingston
Emma Varlet | 28
Jason Jones
Lee Stubelt |
| 9
Sarah Perez
Leslie Mason
Olusegun Adebanwo | 20
Bro. David Derrick
Dylan Evans
Brianna Derrick
Wyman Runkel
Linda Willey
Charlie Bell Puckett | 29
Amelia Walton
Linda Radford
Pamela Edwards
Keaton Strouse
Chinwe Eziakor
Beckett Floyd
Joshua Austin, Jr. |
| 10
Jared Cooper
Azariah Menera | | 30
Shannon Turner
Joni Richardson |
| 11
Freddie Hernandez | | |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Butch & Susie Quinn |
| 1 | Kelly & Sharon Donnell |
| 2 | TJ & Theresa Huff |
| 4 | Bro. John & Tessa Turner |
| 5 | Colton & Danielle Fain |
| 6 | Paul & Joni Richardson |
| 9 | John & CJ Wilson |
| 10 | Bill & Janette Crowder |
| 12 | Joseph & Tempest Hardigree |
| 15 | Nathan & Mary Carnes |
| 16 | Freddie & Jackie Hernandez |
| 17 | Jeff & Cassie Patton |
| 18 | John & Kimberly Casino |
| 18 | Dennis & Crystal Johnson |
| 18 | Lee & Tiffany Stubelt |
| 24 | Wendell & Kristi Brock |
| 25 | Tommie & Cynthia Washington |
| 27 | Engell & Erica Salinas |
| 27 | Bro. David & Holly Jury |
| 27 | Leo & Brinky Lopez |
| 27 | Corban & Alexis Norris |
| 27 | Tony & Debbie Frazier |
| 29 | Bro. Louis & Yongmi Clark |

What's With the Party?
February 23 - March 22

Filled with the Holy Ghost
Sadie Bennett Giorcelia Michel
Aylee Lin Burdett David Velazquez

Baptized in Jesus' Name
Jeffrey Allen Rose Halloway
Mackenzie Allen Layna Price
Megan Allen Josiah Shand
Kristen Bailey Bradley Taylor
Damoh Cole Maria Velasquez
Georgena Gordon David Velazquez



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1 style="text-align: center;">April 2026</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Ch.I.P.Z. - Children in the Power Zone</p>			1 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	2	3 Good Friday Church Offices Closed	4 6:30 am HOPE Small Groups Semester Ends 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 1
			Week of Prayer and Fasting			
5 Easter Sunday Missions Sunday Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	6	7 7 pm 301 Meeting Online	8 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm Hyphen	9	10	11 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 2
12 Guest Speaker: Bro. Braden Andersen Baby Dedication Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	13	14	15 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	16	17 7:30 pm Church Dedication Guest Speaker: Bro. Jerry Jones	18 6:30 am HOPE 9 am Bible Quiz Tournament 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 3
19 IMAGINE Guest Speaker: Bro. Jerry Jones Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	20	21 7 pm Ladies' Prayer	22 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm Hyphen	23 3 pm Trustee Meeting	24	25 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 4
26 Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	27	28	29 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	30	GA District Ladies' Conference	