

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH  
**MESSENGER**

JANUARY  
2026



THE HINGE OF  
HISTORY



In world history, as in our individual personal histories, all moments are not created equal. Some moments are of greater significance or consequence.

Since preparing to teach on "Mary's Song" recently, a thought from an article I read during my research stuck in my spirit: "Mary sees clearly a most remarkable thing about God: He is about to change the course of all human history; the most important three decades in all of time are about to begin."

I pondered this idea and remembered Bro. T. L. Craft saying that "eternity's doors swing on little hinges." I did an Internet search for the phrase "hinges of history" and found a treasure trove of fascinating information.

The "hinge of history" refers to crucial turning points or periods of time when choices and events have a disproportionately large, long-term impact on the world, shaping humanity's future.

I ran across several books on this theme, including a series written by Thomas Cahill titled "The Hinges of History." The books explore pivotal moments in Western culture. The titles and summaries are intriguing to say the least.

In my studies on the life of Jesus Christ, I noticed that the phrase "from that time" occurs three times in the book of Matthew, indicating turning points—or hinges—in the ministry of Jesus.

The first occurs after the baptism and temptations of Jesus when His public ministry began: "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

The second occurs when the tide of public opinion turned against Jesus. He prophesied His death and focused more intensely on training the Twelve: "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (Matthew 16:21).

The third occurs when Judas determined to betray Jesus, indicating the beginning of the end: "And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him" (Matthew 26:16).

These three passages describe hinges, significant changes in the public ministry of Jesus.

We can apply the phrase "from that time" to assert that, from a world history perspective, the life of Jesus Christ stands as the most pivotal period of all time. He was THE hinge of history.

The recognition of the significance of the life of Jesus Christ is reflected in our calendar. The Gregorian calendar, which marks time by the birth of Christ, is the most widely used calendar in the Western world. BC stands for "before Christ" as recorded history counts down to Jesus' birth. AD stands for the Latin phrase "Anno Domini," which means "the year of our Lord." It refers to the year that Jesus Christ was born. (The early calendars miscalculated the birth of Jesus by a few years, but the intention is the same with the use of BC and AD in dating world history.) The Gregorian calendar was influenced by Christian thought, but is widely accepted and used, acknowledging the birth of Jesus Christ as the hinge of human history.

In your life, each day counts, but not all days are equal in consequence. It is important to savor significant moments that are hinges in your personal history. When a hinge moment comes, make sure you do not miss it. Time passes swiftly, and days blur into years. Soon, we reach the twilight years of our lives and then pass away. Make sure you are wide awake and fully engaged when you are experiencing a hinge in your personal history. Your future, and the futures of others, may be determined by that moment, that hinge of history.

Finally, in the life of a church, there are hinges of history. In the nearly 65-year history of our local church, there have been significant moments for our church. We are blessed that our founders and subsequent members walked with God and sought His guidance as they navigated our church's history. Our church has been shaped by those significant hinge moments.

And now, Atlanta West Pentecostal Church is at another hinge of history. Moving into a new Sanctuary is monumental. We are at a moment of destiny. This hinge of history is connected to the blessing of our new facilities. This place is a gift from God to fulfill His mission. However, we must never forget that we are stewards of this moment. This is not a time for complacency or church as usual.

This hinge of history for our church is a crucial time when our level of commitment and the choices we make will have a significant, long-term impact that will shape our church's future.

As we begin a new year, please join me in making fresh consecrations to the message and mission of the church. Let us make the most of this hinge of history. The future is counting on us.

## January Birthdays

<b>1</b>	Joshua Austin Sr
	Anthony Stewart
	Tyler Frazier
	Adriana Escobar
	Kyearston Frazier
<b>4</b>	
	Freddie Hernandez
	Addison Marin
<b>6</b>	
	Gabriella Johnson
	Anthony Jones
<b>7</b>	
	Megan Taylor
<b>8</b>	
	Lorne Johnson
	Evan Nixon
	Mason White
	Eunice Waldron
<b>9</b>	
	Monica Blish
	Sis. Patti Hall
	Priscilla Crowder
	Jackqueline Horton
	Grayson Carwell
	Caiden Sapari
<b>10</b>	
	Zach Blish
	Mandy Nixon
	Melissa Pierson
	Ariaanah Johnson
<b>11</b>	
	Brendan Lopez
	Katie Smith
	Margaret Williams
<b>12</b>	
	LaVaughn Johnson
	Emma Page
	Stephanie Plunkett
<b>13</b>	
	Nayla Simpson
<b>14</b>	
	Tabitha Grayson
	Victoria Walding
<b>15</b>	Hayley Crowder
	Tamkia Parchment
	Kylee Davis
	Mia Edwards
<b>16</b>	Chris Duncan
	Grayson Floyd
	Nayeli Rodriguez
<b>17</b>	Wendell Brock
	Crystal Johnson
	Chidi Eziakor
	Joseph Ahudey
	Buck Swart
<b>18</b>	Pearl Jackson
<b>19</b>	Sis. Tereaon Fisher
	Morgan Johnson
	Jason Halloway
<b>20</b>	Scott Floyd
	Mark Faulkner
	Caleb Sapari
<b>21</b>	Jarred Johnson
	Sis. Colleen Morris
<b>22</b>	Dylan Robinson
	Jude Tawiah
<b>23</b>	Mack Duncan
	Enoch Evans
	John Casino
<b>24</b>	Jimmy Duncan
	Janie Craft
	Kayla Swart
	Joslyn Njenga
<b>25</b>	Eli Vargas
	Joey Lopez
	Kodey Whitley
	Makenzy Small

## January Anniversaries

<b>2</b>	Philip & Donna Strouse
<b>2</b>	Gideon & Adaeze Lyemeake
<b>3</b>	Frederick & Lillian Douglas
<b>5</b>	Kevin & Danelle Jones
<b>8</b>	Michael & Roxanna Carter
<b>11</b>	Brian & Kandace Forrest
<b>14</b>	Donnie & Ninda Rosser
<b>16</b>	Chris & Amelia Walton
<b>17</b>	Mark & Nancy Measels
<b>18</b>	Wayne & Sandy Walker
<b>19</b>	Hunter & Jace Derickson
<b>25</b>	Greg & Rosa Boyd



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Years' Day	2	3 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 1
JANUARY 2026						
Ch.I.P.Z. - Children in the Power Zone						
				Church Offices Closed		
4 Missions Sunday  Ch.I.P.Z.  9 am Welcome to the Family Class	5	6 7 pm 301 Meeting Online	7 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z.  7:30 pm CrossOver  7:30 pm CROWD	8	9 11 pm CROWD Lock-In	10 6:30 am HOPE  9 am Bible Quizzing Tournament  7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 2
Week of Prayer and Fasting						
11 Baby Dedication  Ch.I.P.Z.  9 am Welcome to the Family Class	12	13 7:30 pm All-Volunteers Meeting	14 7:30 pm CROWD  7:30 pm HYPHEN	15	16	17 6:30 am HOPE  7:30 pm Man-to-Man
18 IMAGINE Sunday  Ch.I.P.Z.  9 am Welcome to the Family Class	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 7 pm Ladies Prayer	21 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z.  7:30 pm CrossOver  7:30 pm CROWD	22	23	24 6:30 am HOPE  7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 4
25 Small Groups Fair  Ch.I.P.Z.  9 am Welcome to the Family Class	26 1 pm Trustee Board Meeting	27	28 7:30 pm Business Meeting  CROWD & HYPHEN Canceled	29	30	31 6:30 am HOPE  7 pm Family Prayer