
Celebration of Life
PASTOR
Janice
WATKINS
SEPTEMBER 30, 1956 | NOVEMBER 1, 2026
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026
The Word International Worship Center
12 N. Williams Street, Hazlehurst, GA 31539
Apostle Johnny Watkins, Pastor

A Life Well Lived

With hearts overflowing with gratitude for a life brilliantly lived, we celebrate the homegoing of our beloved Pastor Janice M. Watkins, who peacefully transitioned into the arms of her Savior on November 1, 2026, at the age of 70. Though we will miss her radiant smile and powerful presence, we rejoice knowing she has heard the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25:21).

Janice was born September 30, 1956, in Miami-Dade County to the late Rose Mae Williams and Jimmy Marshall. Her parents, along with siblings Willie Williams, Taften Williams, and Pamela Bolder, preceded her in death. She was a woman of incredible strength, style, and spirit from an early age. As a 1974 graduate of Coffee High School, she approached life with a fearless, adventurous heart. Whether she was swimming, skating, or riding roller coasters with the youth, Janice knew how to have wholesome, vibrant fun while staying completely anchored in her love for God and filled with the Holy Spirit. She believed in living life to its absolute fullest.

Janice's grace and gift for connecting with people shone brightly through her professional career. As a gifted, licensed cosmetologist for over 20 years, she operated her private salon as much more than a place to get styled—it was a sanctuary. To her clients, her chair was a safe haven filled with laughter, heart-to-heart mentoring, and spirited encouragement. She had the rare, beautiful gift of making people look stunning on the outside while reminding them of their immeasurable worth in Christ.

At an early age, Janice gave her life to Jesus Christ and began a lifelong walk of devoted service. In 1998, she answered the profound call to ministry alongside her devoted husband, Apostle Johnny Watkins. For over 28 years, she served as Pastor of The Word International Worship Center. Preaching the gospel was her true passion. She guided her congregation and hundreds of spiritual children with deep spiritual wisdom, warmth, and unwavering grace, encouraging everyone she met to walk in holiness, purpose, and love.

Beyond the pulpit and the salon, Janice was an amazing cook who poured love into every meal she prepared. Her infamous sweet potato pies and succulent pound cakes were legendary, bringing family and friends together in warmth and joy.

She leaves to celebrate her vibrant legacy:

- Her loving husband of 47 years: Apostle Johnny L. Watkins
- Her children: Brian Watkins and Shanae Lewis (Duane)
- Her grandchildren: Brian Anthony "BJ" Watkins, Jordan “Tank” Watkins, Kylie Lewis, Mackenzie Lewis, and Ace Watkins
- Her brother: Elisha "Red" Williams
- Extended family: A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless dear friends and spiritual children.

Pastor Janice. Mother Watkins. Mama Watkins. Nana. Maw Maw. Grandma. Aunt Janice. Mama. She left an indelible mark on this world—not just through the lives she styled, the souls she mentored, and the Gospel she preached, but through the deep, personal love she poured into every single person she met. Her Holy hugs healed and set so many people free. Though she has stepped into eternity, her impact remains alive in each of us. We honor her life, we cherish her memory, and we look forward to the day we meet again.

Celebration Service

Presider - Pastor Twanna Wilcox

Processional/Musical Prelude
Clergy and Family

Opening Prayer
Pastor Velma Crowder

Scripture Reading
- Old Testament - Pastor William Knox
- New Testament - Mother Cynthia Moore

Musical Selection
Sister Dale Douglas

Obituary/Video Presentation
Obituary Read Silently

Reflections and Tributes (3mins please)
- Spiritual Daughter: Pastor Beth King
- Spiritual Son: Pastor A. Dewitt Knox
- The Nieces: Carol Goodman, Robin Thomas, Shanna Williams
- Brother: Elisha "Red" Williams
- Granddaughter: Kylie Lewis
- Aunt/Auntie Sugarfoot: Mother Mary Wilkerson
- Daughter: Shanae Lewis

Musical Selection
Pastor Alexus Tyson

Eulogy
Apostle Leviticus Moore, Jr.

Resolution
Kingdom Fellowship

Acknowledgements
Thornton's Funeral Home

Closing Prayer and Benediction
Apostle Leviticus Moore, Jr.

Recessional
Clergy and Family











Honorary Pallbearers

Kingdom Fellowship Pastors

Pallbearers

Grandsons, Nephews, and Spiritual Sons

Flower Attendants

Nieces and Spiritual Daughters

Interment

Kirkland Grove MBC Cemetery
980 Kirkland Still Rd
Hazlehurst, GA 31539

Repast

The Word International Worship Center
12 N. Williams St.
Hazlehurst, GA 31539







Acknowledgements

Words are not enough to express our most sincere thanks for your presence, love and support during our time of loss. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness, and your kindness will always be remembered.

The family of Pastor Janice M. Watkins

Final arrangements and obituary design entrusted to
Thornton's Funeral Home
26 N. Miller St., Hazlehurst, GA 31539