

*Dr. Patrice
A. Palmer*

The Woman of many hats and monikers, I am Privileged to say I truly knew Peaches, Patrice, Dukes and Dr. Palmer. And I am Beyond grateful to be able to call her My Mother. Mom Dukes or Grandma to 10 and counting. It wasn't about the different hats or titles she wore for us it was about the cape she put on daily. She was and still will always be our biggest super hero. Showed us all the true definition of resilience, grit, determination, purpose driven, selflessness and sacrifice. She gave her life to her hard work, grandchildren, siblings, niece, nephew, friends and family. But more than anybody in the world, her 5 children. She truly dedicated her life to our happiness and well being. Restored and repaired all that was lost or broken 100 times over. She showed us that change doesn't happen by accident, in fact it's purposeful. It's not about how the race starts it's about how you keep running and how you finish. You ran a legendary race and now it is complete. Tell grandpa "drop down" when you see him up there. Our biggest cheerleader, superhero, backbone and supporter. The Matriarch, The GOAT. Our Mother. Dukes!! We love you... And your legacy will live on forever

A Word Of Thanks

The family of Dr. Patrice Palmer gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the many expressions of love, support, and sympathy extended to us during this time of bereavement.

Your prayers, words of encouragement, floral tributes, and acts of kindness have provided immeasurable comfort and strength as we celebrate her remarkable life and enduring legacy. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of compassion shown by family, friends, colleagues, and community members whose lives were touched by her presence.

May God abundantly bless each of you for your generosity, thoughtfulness, and unwavering support.

*With heartfelt gratitude,
The Family of Dr. Patrice Palmer*



**MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME**

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

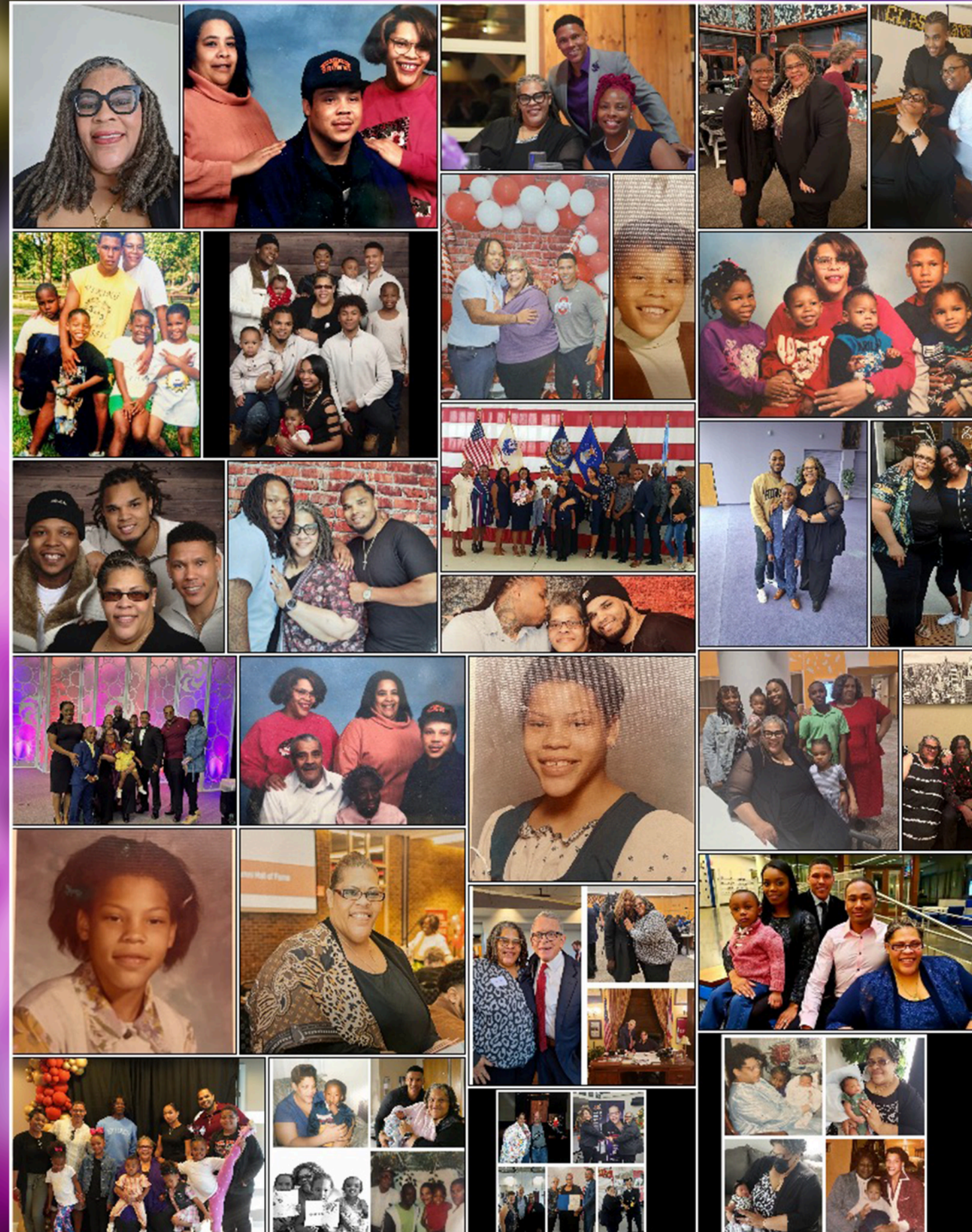
CINCINNATI CHAPEL
674 FOREST AVE,
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

THE *Angels* ARE AT
Heavens Gates
WAITING FOR



PRECIOUS MEMORIES



*Dr. Patrice
A. Palmer*

MARCH 8, 1962 – MAY 30, 2026

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Remarks
Bishop Sherman S. Watkins

Prayer
Pastor John Yates

Scripture Reading
Elder Vincent Pate

Musical Selection
**Gregory J. Watkins and
The Worship & Praise Chorale**

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Order of Service
Bishop Sherman S. Watkins

Resolution Presentation
Franklin County, Board of Commissioners

Resolution Presentation
Senator Michele Reynolds

Family Tribute

Resolution Presentation
**Norman Scarce Representative
of The Secretary of State**

Remarks
Jeff Sparr of Peace Love

Musical Selection
**Gregory J. Watkins and
The Worship & Praise Chorale**

Eulogy
Bishop Sherman S. Watkins

Remember Me

To the living, I am gone,
To the sorrowful, I will never return,
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore
gazing at a beautiful sea,
As you look upon a flower
and admire its simplicity,
Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:
Your thoughts, and your memories,
Of the times we loved,
The times we cried,
The times we fought,
The times we laughed.
For if you always think of me,
I will never have gone.

Homegoing Celebration For

Dr. Patrice A. Palmer

MARCH 8, 1962 - MAY 30, 2026

Celebrating Her Life
Friday, June 12, 2026 | 7pm
HIGHER GROUND
ALWAYS ABOUNDING ASSEMBLIES
870 St Clair Ave, Columbus, OH 43201



Her Life Reflections

Dr. Patrice Palmer, affectionately known to many as “Peaches” and “Dr. P,” departed this life on May 30, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined by extraordinary resilience, unwavering faith, transformative leadership, and boundless compassion. She was 64 years old.

A Life of Redemption, Purpose, and Faith

Dr. Palmer’s life stands as a remarkable testament to the power of redemption, perseverance, and divine grace. After spending more than two decades navigating the challenges of the criminal justice system, she experienced a profound spiritual awakening in 2003 that forever altered the course of her life. Anchored by her steadfast faith in God, an unyielding determination to change, and the unwavering support of her family, she embraced a journey of complete transformation.

With remarkable resolve, she pursued higher education, earning both her Bachelor of Science in Social Work (2009) and Master of Social Work (2010) from The Ohio State University. She later obtained a Doctorate in Divinity and Theology, further deepening her commitment to faith-based service and leadership. As an ordained minister, her faith was not merely a part of her identity—it was the cornerstone upon which she built her life, purpose, and legacy.

A Champion for Justice and Change

Rather than allowing her past to define her, Dr. Palmer transformed her experiences into a powerful platform for advocacy, empowerment, and systemic change. As a licensed social worker, social justice advocate, educator, and the CEO and Co-Founder of Chosen4Change, she devoted her life to supporting individuals returning from incarceration and helping them break cycles of recidivism and marginalization.

Whether standing before a classroom, addressing policymakers, or mentoring those seeking a second chance, Dr. Palmer inspired others through her authenticity, wisdom, and magnetic presence. Her voice carried both conviction and compassion, and she often encouraged others with her signature message:

“Remember your past, embrace your present, and envision your future.”

Her impact extended across both individual lives and public policy. Through tireless advocacy, she testified before the Ohio Senate in support of legislation aimed at removing criminal history questions from public employment applications and worked closely with the Ohio Governor’s Expedited Pardon Project to expand opportunities for deserving individuals seeking a fresh start.

Dr. Palmer’s contributions earned widespread recognition and national acclaim. In 2018, she was honored as Franklin County’s Employee of the Year. In 2020, she attended the State of the Union Address as an honored guest and was inducted into The Ohio State University College of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2022, she received one of the profession’s highest distinctions when the National Association of Social Workers named her National Social Worker of the Year. She was also recognized as a YWCA Woman of Achievement.

Yet, despite the accolades and accomplishments, her greatest fulfillment came from serving others. She possessed an extraordinary ability to see potential where others saw obstacles, offering grace instead of judgment and hope where despair had taken root. Through countless conversations, mentorships, and acts of kindness, she reminded people that healing, redemption, and greatness are always possible.

Family Legacy

While Dr. Palmer’s professional accomplishments were extraordinary, her most cherished role was that of mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, mentor, and friend. Her fierce love, vibrant spirit, infectious laughter, and unwavering devotion to family remain woven into the lives of those she leaves behind.

Cherishing her memory and celebrating her enduring legacy are her beloved children: Brandon (Taniqua) Palmer, Justin (Takesha) Palmer, Elijah-Juan Williams, Maxamillion Williams, and Ozsha’leek Palmer-Martin, who was not only her daughter but also her trusted confidante and close professional partner.

She also leaves behind her treasured grandchildren: Demetrius Palmer, Jaedin Edwards, Justin Palmer Jr., Drew Palmer, Justyce Palmer, Jordynn Palmer, Jahmaya Palmer, Jahmaury Palmer, Brooklyn Palmer, and Bailey Palmer, each of whom brought immense joy and pride to her life.

She is lovingly remembered by her devoted siblings, Michael (Cordalyn) Palmer and Cheryl Palmer; her cherished nieces and nephews, LaKeesha Palmer, Jasmine Whetstone-Palmer, and Jontue Rogers Jr.; a host of beloved cousins; treasured friends; former students and mentees; and esteemed community partners whose lives were forever enriched by her wisdom, compassion, and unwavering belief in their potential.

Through her generosity of spirit, servant leadership, and profound commitment to uplifting others, Dr. Palmer cultivated meaningful relationships that extended far beyond family ties. Her absence leaves an immeasurable void, yet her influence, teachings, and example will continue to inspire generations to come.

Dr. Palmer was preceded in death by her beloved parents, William Dyson Palmer and June Higgins Palmer; her stepmother, Selina Palmer; and her sisters, Patsy Burke and Peggy Wade.

A Lasting Legacy

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” — Winston Churchill

Few embodied these words more fully than Dr. Patrice Palmer. She lived with courage, loved with intention, served with humility, and fought tirelessly for the dignity and restoration of others. Though she has completed her earthly journey, the sparks of hope she ignited in countless hearts will continue to shine brightly, illuminating pathways of possibility for generations to come.

Her life was proof that transformation is possible, faith is powerful, and one person can change the trajectory of countless lives.

Her legacy lives on.