

THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

OCTOBER 2026 / VOLUME 26, NUMBER 10

Living *and* Loving Generously

During the month of October, the First Pres community engages in annual spiritual reflection on generosity as an important element of our Christian discipleship. The Stewardship 2027 theme is *Living and Loving Generously*. Through upcoming Penn Street Online reflections we are invited to personally reflect on our financial, time, and talent commitments for 2027. The Stewardship season culminates with Commitment Sunday, November 1, when pledge cards are presented as an act of worship in all three Penn Street services.

Border Ministry Update with Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, October 4

Gain a deeper understanding of the realities of immigration and border ministry through the lens of faith on Saturday, October 4, with presentations at 10 a.m. in Room 235 and 3 p.m. in Room 237. Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, Partner Coordinator for Tres Rios Presbytery Border Ministry and former pastor of University Presbyterian Church in El Paso, will share current realities at the border, address common misconceptions about immigration, and explore how faith communities can respond through meaningful ministry and engagement.



Penn Street Arts presents Texas Boys Choir, October 6

Experience an inspiring evening of choral music as the renowned Texas Boys Choir performs as part of the Penn Street Arts Concert Series on Tuesday, October

6, at 7 p.m. in the First Pres Sanctuary. Known for their exceptional artistry and beautiful vocal sound, the choir will present a captivating repertoire that showcases the talent and tradition of one of Texas's premier boys' choirs. This concert is free and open to the public.



New Prayer Groups begin October 1

Experience God's presence through prayer this fall. Three weekly small groups will meet for eight weeks in Room 239 (limited to 10 participants per group) to practice contemplative prayer, engage Scripture, and pray for others. Learn more and register at fpcfw.org/upcomingevents

LECTIO DIVINA/SACRED READING: MONDAYS, 9 A.M.

Group members will experience this ancient prayer practice that combines slow, attentive reading of Scripture with silent reflection. Participants will ask themselves "What is God saying to me through this text today?" The passage for each gathering will be scripture read in worship the following Sunday. Led by Lisa Connolly.

CENTERING PRAYER: THURSDAYS, 10 A.M.

To be still and know God's presence. That is the intention of this contemplative prayer practice. Group members will practice quieting their minds and keeping silent so that they can open themselves up to the presence of the Living Creator. Led by Margaret Sudderth.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: THURSDAYS, 5:30 P.M.

This prayer group will have the blessing of praying to God on behalf of others. Led by Mary Salazar.



Congregational Meeting called for Sunday, October 4

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, October 4 immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. Three items of business include: 1) the report of the Congregation's Nominating Committee for Elders, Trustees, and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee for service beginning in 2027; 2) election of the Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz as Associate Pastor for Care and Connection (moving from Temporary pastoral relationship to Installed); and Pastors' Terms of Call for 2027.

Dear friends,

We began the school year the way any respectable congregation should: at a roller-skating rink! Somewhere between 80 and 90 children, youth, and parents packed Rollerland West for our Back-to-School Party in late August. There was skating, laughter, pizza, and only a few reminders that we are not all as young as we think we are. Then, after the party, 60 of us boarded two buses, headed back to First Pres (with a stop at Curly's on the way) for our Youth Lock-In Overnight. It was loud, exhausting, great fun, and a wonderful way to begin another year together! (Plus, after 21 years at First Pres, I have grown a little weary of making t-shirts for every special event. So, for this year's Lock-In, we changed things up and had plaid pajama pants made, complete with an embroidered First Pres Youth logo. The youth loved them, and they also served as a helpful reminder that, despite all evidence to the contrary, sleep is actually required at our Lock-In!)

Our Sunday evening Youth Group theme this fall is "Teachable." That seems appropriate at the beginning of a school year, though we are not talking about grades, homework, or remembering your Chromebook charger. To be teachable is to admit that we do not have it all figured out. It means asking good questions, learning from unexpected people and

even our mistakes, and being willing to admit that maybe we do not know as much as we think we do. That can be difficult, especially for those of us who are quite certain we are always right.

Which brings us to Jonah. This fall, our congregation is exploring "The God of Jonah" in worship. Jonah is wonderfully certain about God. He knows where God should go, who God should love, and what God should do about people Jonah does not particularly like. God, it turns out, has other ideas. Jonah has a lot to learn about God, about other people, and about himself. So do we.

Following Jesus does not mean having all the answers. It means trusting that God still has something to teach us...through Scripture, through people we never expected, and (every now and then) through discovering that we were wrong. Sometimes faith means being willing to let God change our minds. We are off to a great start in practicing all this together, and I cannot wait to see what God still has to teach us this year. Stay teachable, friends!

Keep on keepin' on,

Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart
Associate Pastor – Youth

Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the *Penn Street Letter* are due Wednesday, October 21. Submissions for the weekly *Penn Street Online* emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Have photos or a story idea you'd like to share? Scan the QR code here to submit!



First Presbyterian Church's Session

2026 CLASS OF ELDERS

Julia Bradley
Al Comeaux
Emily Hadley
Janie Lesok
Jane Mathis
Andrew Michalove
Nancy O'Malley
J.B. Smithson
Brian Wharry

2027 CLASS OF ELDERS

Mark Beasley
Cesar Chavez
Mike Henry
Judith Kinser
Ashli Smick
Judy Stricklin
Burch Waldron

2028 CLASS OF ELDERS

Elizabeth Carlock
Blair Chappell
Beverly Howard
Becky Jenkins
George Morey
Thomas Parsons
Mark Russell

Publisher Info

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Nominees for Elder Class of 2029

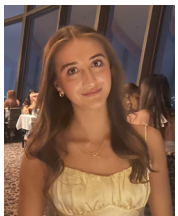
This issue of The Penn Street Letter includes the annual publication of biographies of members nominated for the next class of Elders, as well as at-large members of the Nominating Committee and at-large Trustees. There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 4, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service, for the purpose of electing officers (elders and trustees) and the Nominating Committee members at large.



Ellen Benson (Elder and Trustee) joined First Pres in 1997 and previously served on our Session in the Elder Class of 2012. Ellen is a former elementary school teacher – her most recent role was as a gifted and talented teacher for FWISD. She spent 10 years serving as a trustee on the board of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly. What she loves is this church, through PW Circle and most recently Busy Women's Bible Study, is that she's had the opportunity to make lasting friendships across generations. "The relationships I have formed are deeply meaningful and are a favorite part of being a member of this church. I have had the chance to develop my faith and serve in meaningful ways through committees like Stewardship, Nominating, Adult Christian Nurture, and Mission, as well as through my time as an Elder." Some of Ellen's fondest memories (from nearly 29 years at First Pres) is the Christmas Eve candlelight service. She loves the familiar verses and hymns and getting to visit with friends. It's special for her to watch her girls catch up with the childhood church friends who are also home for the holidays. She and her husband Ralph raised their three daughters here. Outside of church, Ellen likes to spend time with family and friends.



Charlotte de la Peña (Elder) and her family joined First Pres in 2012. She is currently serving as Chair of the Children's Work Group. Over the years, she has also participated tirelessly in numerous children and youth events – the Kids and Youth Spring Retreat, Summit46, Mission on the Move, and KidQuake – to name a few. Charlotte loves the First Pres community and our commitment to serving the Fort Worth community (and beyond!). Her fondest church memories are definitively all related to Mo-Ranch. "Our family has attended the Mo-Ranch All Church Retreat every year since 2016. Our daughter Irene was baptized there by Robyn. We lived in Austin for 5 years, and meeting up with First Pres every year at Mo kept us connected to our church family. When we moved back to Fort Worth in 2021 it was so good to be home, both in Fort Worth and with our church family." In her free time, Charlotte likes reading, needlepoint, and spending time with her family.



Paige Coulter (Youth Elder) and her family came to First Pres in 2021. She joined the church with the 2025 Confirmation Class and is currently a sophomore in high school. She has served as a liturgist at the 8 a.m. service and an acolyte at 11 a.m., and she's been on numerous youth mission trips. When asked what she loves about First Pres, she said "The community and the people I interact with are all so great." Her fondest memories of life in the church are going to the all church family retreat at Mo-Ranch every year. She loves spending time there with friends, doing activities, and going to worship at Mo's Chapel on the Hill. When not busy with church or school, Paige likes hanging out with her friends and family.



Sam Hobbs (Elder) joined the First Pres family in 2013 and has been very involved with the kids and youth programming of our church ever since. He is currently serving on the Youth Work Group and has served as a Youth Teacher and a Confirmation Teacher, Mentor, and Sponsor as well as a VBS volunteer. What Sam loves about First Pres is the feeling of family and the numerous opportunities to serve in the community, around the country, and the world. He also loves the ecumenical nature of our church. A recurring and fond memory for Sam is in the fall when school is starting back up, youth group is getting underway, summer is coming to an end, and a renewed sense of energy and momentum is in the air. Sam is a teacher by profession and in his spare time enjoys writing and producing music.



Mary Jenkins (Youth Elder) joined First Pres in 2025 as part of the Confirmation Class. She is a sophomore at Paschal High School. Her love of First Pres is centered around the connections made within the community. Mary has many fond memories of her time here – Confirmation, Lock-Ins, Mission Trips, Bible Study, and Youth Group activities. Her interests outside of church include baking, soccer, and theatre.



Jill Koss (Elder) joined the First Pres family in 1994. She has served as a Youth High School teacher as well as a Confirmation teacher and mentor. She is retired from pediatric healthcare. Jill says our focus on being the church, both internally with each other, as well as in the greater community and the world is what she loves about First Pres. She has many fond memories at First Pres, but teaching the 4-year-old church school class, participating in multiple mission trips to Honduras, singing in the choir, the beauty of Kirkin' Sundays, and being a Stephen Minister are a few that rise to the top of her list. Outside of her church life, Jill loves to flower garden, read, do needlework and other creative arts, and hike.



Amy Parker (Elder) joined First Pres in 2005. She has been involved in numerous children and youth activities over the years – having raised her four kids here. Amy loves the way First Pres seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ in the community and that First Pres finds community close to home and in places around the earth. Amy has many fond memories but getting to go to Cuba with the youth including her son Will right after he graduated from high school was a highlight. She enjoys reading with her book club of 20 years and quilting and needlepoint. On their vacations, Amy and her husband Tim like to visit national parks.

Nominees for Elder Class of 2029

(continued from page 3)



Carol Smith (Elder and Trustee) joined First Pres in 1972 and has previously served on Session in the Class of 1994. In her years at First Pres, she has served on multiple committees – i.e., Mission and Outreach and Fellowship – and she currently chairs the Worship and Music Committee. She has also been to the All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch, more than once. Carol loves the people, the mission and worship at First Pres. She has a list of fond memories – births, baptisms, confirmation, marriages, and burials – and everything of life in between. A recent favorite was the choir tour to Scotland in 2023, singing in amazing venues including the Chapel Royal and Stirling Castle, surrounded by choir family and church friends. Carol started her career in economic development and market research and recently ended nearly 30 years in luxury retail. She's not retired yet, and is looking for her next work adventure.



Dan Sykes (Elder) joined First Pres in 1975, and in that time has served five previous terms on our Session. Over the years, his committee service has included Mission and Outreach, Nominating, and the Board of Trustees, to name a few. Dan loves the staff, the congregation, the worship, the outreach of First Pres. And he said, "and I could go on." He said there are too many fond memories of his time here at First Pres – but when pressed, he said when he and Jane served as youth sponsors with Dennis and Jeannie Wolfe, that ranks up near the top. And when Dr. Jones asked them to do that within two weeks of joining the church, "well, we could never say no to that wonderful man." Dan is now retired, so he likes to spend his free time golfing, painting, volunteering, fishing, doing genealogical research, and working puzzles. He admits he's mediocre at all of these, although he does occasionally finish a puzzle.

AT-LARGE TRUSTEES



Tim O'Connor (At-Large Trustee) joined the First Pres family in 2003 and has previously served on Session in the Elder Class of 2020, serving on the Property Committee. Tim loves the people and sense of community at First Pres, the longevity of its ministers, and the church's new bluegrass music tradition. His fondest memory of his life in the church is teaching youth church school. Tim's works in Investment Management, but in his free he time likes outside – gardening, exercise, enjoying meals with friends (temperature appropriate), college football, and reading history.



John Melcher (At-Large Trustee) and his wife Jackie came to First Pres from the Hemphill Church in 1982, when the Hemphill members merged into the First

Pres congregation. As a Legacy member, John has served on our Session twice, in the Elder Classes of 1988 and 2006. He served on the Board of Trustees in the early 2000's as well as on the Property Committee from 1999-2001. And he has been involved in more than one major building project here at our Penn Street campus and at Community Crossroads. When asked what he loves about First Pres, he said "the people - both members and staff and all the good work that they do. I especially loved the turn out for my wife Jackie's funeral." John's fondest memory is when we opened the expansion which included the Great Hall (served on the building committee for that one). Since retiring from the construction and real estate businesses, John spends a fair amount of his spare time on his stamp collection, mainly Great Britain and Canada.



John Mitchell (At-Large Trustee) has been a member of First Pres since 1990. He and Kay raised their two sons here. Over the years in the church, John has served 3 terms as a Ruling Elder, twice on the Board of Trustees, on the Salt & Light Dental Clinic Board, and on numerous committees – Finance, Stewardship, Personnel and Youth. In addition, John regularly volunteers with Vacation Bible School, has been a confirmation mentor for the Youth, and is a teacher for our I Know My Bible Class for our 4th and 5th graders. What he loves about First Pres is our ability to still create community among a group of people who have a wide range of perspectives. Unfortunately, this isn't an environment that is common in today's world. John has a lot of fond memories involving teaching children's church school – in his words, "I learn something new almost every Sunday." John is in healthcare – he works for Texas Health Resources. Outside of work and church, he enjoys reading and walking while listening to podcasts.

AT-LARGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Ann Christian (At-Large Nominating Committee) joined First Pres in 1979. She and her husband Steve have been active ever since. Ann currently serves on the Adult Work Group and has volunteered with Academy 4 and Room in the Inn (to name a few). She loves the church members here, the opportunities for spiritual growth through small group gatherings and Bible study, and community service opportunities with church friends, and especially the ministries that we have outside the church in the community like Community Crossroads. In her 48 years as a member of First Pres, she has "a plethora of fond memories that weave a rich and varied tapestry of experiences, friendships, rich spiritual and theological growth, and community service opportunities." And her years worshiping at Hemphill and working with the youth there were very instrumental to her spiritual growth and transformation. Ann has recently retired and spends her free time serving on the board of the Key School & Training Center and shares her time and talents with several

Nominees for Elder Class of 2029

(continued from page 4)

community groups and non-profits. She also loves trying new recipes in the kitchen and playing Mahjong.



Ken Garlington (At-Large Nominating Committee)

joined First Pres in 2004. He has participated in the Kids & Youth Spring Retreat and the All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch. Ken served on Session in the Elder Class of 2015. Ken loves the incredible diversity of church life that's possible in a larger church like First Pres. His fondest memory was during COVID – he remembers

sitting in their car in the church parking lot, with candles in hand and thinking, "This is how you know you are part of a church that will last." In his free time, Ken volunteers his time supporting his former profession, collecting groceries for Community Crossroads, going to the gym, playing video games, and being a "house-husband."



Murray Hilyard (At-Large Nominating Committee)

has been a member of the First Pres family since 1980. He has served as an usher on Sunday mornings and as a shuttle driver. This year he participated in the Mission on the Move week with some of our First Pres kids. Murray loves the welcoming, intelligent and loving environment of First Pres, as well as the beautiful music and history in our

wonderful building. He has many fond memories of going to fun events with his parents, like the Christmas parties and their Westminster Class parties, as well as the youth choir and many fun youth group adventures. Being retired, Murray gets to enjoy taking care of his pets, his house and yard, swimming, cooking great food, and traveling ("when my elderly doggy lets me").



Gene Regen (At-Large Nominating Committee)

joined First Pres in 2001. He has spent his years here serving the children and youth of our church at Summit46, Academy 4, KidQuake, as a Confirmation Teacher, and as a VBS volunteer. From time to time, you will also see Gene driving the church shuttle on Sunday mornings and for special events. He loves that at and through First Pres he has

the opportunity to give back to the community and the world at large. His fondest memories throughout his church years are the times spent in fellowship at Mo-Ranch. Outside of church time, Gene is in the oil and gas exploration business, and in his free time he enjoys watching the stock market and gathering with friends.



Suzie Adams (At-Large Nominating Committee)

joined First Pres in 1967, joining her husband Terry and his family who were already church members. Over the many years, Suzie has been a member of, and served, Presbyterian Women. She has served over 20 years as a Greeter for the 11 a.m. service, has taught Sunday School, volunteered for the Toy Store, the Homeless

Connect, The Connect at Crossroads, a WOW Greeter, the Evangelism Committee, Alpha Omega Sunday School Class, and is a member of the 76116 & Southwest Care Team. Suzie has spent endless hours serving numerous ministries at Community Crossroads and is currently a Thursday Volunteer in the Clothing Room. During COVID she remembers sacking lunches in the Great Hall on Wednesdays, and as a Circle Chair ZOOMED many Circle meetings. She loves the welcoming spirit of First Pres, offering God's love to all who come through our doors. Suzie says, "Through our ministries, worship, and mission & outreach programs we join in a community of faith and friendship." Fond church memories for Suzie began 59 years ago when she and Terry were married in our Chapel by Dr. Robert F. Jones. Their son was born and baptized at First Pres, and her journey has continued from that time forward. Suzie says, serving First Pres in numerous capacities over the years has "strengthened my faith, filled my heart, and has allowed me to be of service to our Lord." Suzie enjoys being retired as Executive Director of The American Institute of Architects Fort Worth after 40 years, and now able to choose what encompasses her life: opportunities of service at First Pres, Community Crossroads, other service organizations, family, friends and travel, especially to Santa Fe.



Mary Alice Harry (At-Large Nominating Committee)

has been a member at First Pres since 2002. She was ordained as a Ruling Elder in 2008 and served in the Elder Class of 2010. Mary Alice is active in the 76116 Care Team and volunteers with the Room in the Inn ministry and the Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. She serves as an Usher on Sunday

mornings and is active in Presbyterian Women. Mary Alice loves the community of friends, the many opportunities to worship, and the endless activities to grow in her faith here at First Pres. While she has many fond memories, Mary Alice treasures her experiences with Presbyterian Women. Having served as Moderator and Circle Chair of Hannah Circle, she says she's been blessed with exceptional friends, wonderful Bible Lessons, and an increased knowledge of our Church. Also, as a member of the Evangelism Committee, she treasures the friendliness of our Church, our exceptional pastors, our dedicated staff, and the mission that we continue to sponsor. Two highlights of her time at First Pres were serving as a Ruling Elder and serving as Moderator of Grace Presbyterian Women. Since retiring, after three careers in her life (teacher, social worker, and realtor), in her free time, Mary Alice is involved in many activities at Trinity Terrace as well as enjoying her family and friends.



Barbara Martin (At-Large Nominating Committee)

joined First Pres in 1999 and has spent her 27 years here involved in multiple ministries and programs. Barbara currently participates in Room in the Inn, Presbyterian Women, and sings in the Chancel Choir. She is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church, has served as a Confirmation mentor, an usher, and previously been a member of the Congregational Care, Engagement & Outreach, and Nominating committees.

Nominees for Elder Class of 2029 *(continued from page 5)*

Barbara is a retired nurse and spent many years working with her husband Charlie in their pharmacy. What Barbara loves about First Pres is the great variety of opportunities to worship and serve. She also loves the sense of camaraderie here. One of Barbara's fondest memories at the church continues to grow as she sings in the alto section of the Chancel Choir! In her earlier life, she fondly remembers church camp at Ceta Glen outside of Amarillo. When not busy with church work, Barbara enjoys reading and book clubs and dinner/lunch with friends or family.



Oleta Thrower (At-Large Nominating Committee) has been a First Pres member since 1991. In her years at this church, she has ministered and served in many capacities – as a Kids Hope volunteer, a WOW volunteer, a VBS volunteer, as a participant in Presbyterian Women, a sponsor on the Youth Civil Rights trip in 2022, and as member of the Arlington Mansfield Care Team. Oleta has also attended the Mo-Ranch All Church Retreat for the past 3 years. She is an ordained elder and previously served here at First Pres in the Elder Class of 2001. When asked what she loves about First Pres, Oleta says, "I love the warm greetings folks give each other and our mission statement that is alive and well." A fond memory for her was working with the great Habitat Team in the 1990's, where she and her husband learned about community outreach and made long-lasting friends. Although retired now, Oleta spends her free time in sewing groups and book clubs that give her visiting time with old and new friends. She is also into water aerobics.



Melinda Van't Slot (At-Large Nominating Committee) joined First Pres in 1996. As a retired teacher, she spends much time serving First Pres. She has been active in Congregational Care ministries like bereavement meals, the prayer line, prayer shawls, and Stephen Ministry. She is currently one of our Baptism Coordinators. Melinda has also worked in Missions as an ESL volunteer and with the food pantry at Community Crossroads. In addition, Melinda is an ordained elder here at First Pres. It's obvious Melinda loves the people here and the opportunities to serve, and she says "being involved in this church has enriched my life." Melinda met her husband, Peter, here, and they were married in the Chapel. She has fond memories of baptism visits with families, mentoring confirmands, teaching church school and going on mission trips. In her spare time, Melinda likes walking, reading, and playing Mahjong.

PRESCHOOL FAMILY PLAYDATE & MEET-UP

Calling all families with kiddos 0-5 years old - let's meet up on the First Pres playground on Saturday, October 3 from 9-10:30 a.m. for play and breakfast snacks! Scan the QR code here to RSVP.



September Session Highlights

First Presbyterian Church's Session met on Sunday, September 20. Highlights from that meeting include the following items:

- Grace Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry came to orient us in the CPM process for Alejandro Salazar.
- Approved on recommendation from the Nominating Committee the names for 2027 Committee Chairs.
- Received from the Personnel Committee the proposed Terms of Call for 2027.
- Approved a Congregational meeting for October 4, 2026, immediately following the 11 a.m. service, for the purpose of election of officers (Elders, Trustees, and at-large members), Ashley Drake Mertz election, and the 2027 Terms of Call.
- Received a Renovation Update.

Heart Hat Tour of Transform 1012 Saturday, October 17 | 10-11 a.m. | 1012 N Main St.

The First Pres Advocacy Subcommittee invites you to a special "heart hat" tour of The Transform 1012 Center, the former Ku Klux Klan auditorium in Fort Worth that is being transformed into a center for arts, community healing, and reparative justice. This behind-the-scenes opportunity offers a sneak peek at this remarkable project that is repurposing a monument to hate into a beacon of truth-telling, reparative justice, and liberation. Registration is required to sign the waiver and receive parking instructions. Scan the QR code here to register. Learn more about the project at transform1012.org.



people first at
First Pres

Each month we'll highlight First Pres staff team updates.

OCTOBER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrate the following members of our team on their years of faithful service with First Pres:

Deneice Allen, Ministry Assistant, 9 years

Alex Enriquez, Maintenance Technician, 1 year

Nevada Patterson, Assistant Teacher (1s), 1 year

Liz Barron, Assistant Teacher (1s), 3 years

Pam Burkholder, Director of Communications, 29 years

Heath Brosi, Director of Hospitality & Food Service, 8 years

Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of September 23, 2026. In an effort to respect the privacy of those listed below, names are only printed once permission from the individual is obtained. Are you in the hospital or dealing with an illness? Let us know by contacting Parish Associate for Pastoral Care Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this month...

With joy we celebrate...

The birth of Reece Goodwin Wade to parents Natalie and Ike Wade. First Pres family includes grandparents **Bill and Michelle Goodwin**; and great-uncles, **Scott Goodwin and Paul Amaru**.

The birth of Georgia Nell Todd on August 26, 2026 to parents Philip and Leslie Todd. Georgia joins big sister, Mills. First Pres family includes grandparents **Keith and Teresa Argenbright**.

The birth of Travis Lee Hargrave on August 20, 2026 to parents Blake and Michelle Hargrave. Travis joins big brother, Tyler. Blake is part of our First Pres Maintenance Team.

Our loving sympathy to...

The family and friends of **Marshall Norment** following his death on September 18, 2026. First Pres family members include his father and mother, **Russell and Vivian Norment**, and his brother, **Stewart Norment**.

The family and friends of **Kay Bangert** following her death on September 9, 2026. First Pres family member includes her husband, **Bruce Bangert**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Jere Robertson, Susie Kuipers, Mark Connolly, Joan Wright, Fred Oberkircher, Jane Mathis, William King, Jr., Gene Colvin, Heather Martin, Wil'lwinn Chochola, Nancy Lynn Scott, and Gaylon Peyton, who are recovering from surgery or injury. We also pray for their caregivers.

Linda Northern, Susan Garrett, John

Pumphrey, Margo Dean, Judy Stricklin, Rachele Williams, Manning Day, Grace Camacho, Robert and Dinah Riddle, Tad Delgado and parents **Emily and Bryan Delgado, Larry Kinard, Fred Wilson, Frances Blake, Phyllis Propes, Irene Howard, Chuck Sullivan, and Karl Travis**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. We also pray for their caregivers.

Our Caring Prayers for Extended Family include...

Cameron Parmelee (granddaughter of **Sally and Bob Parmelee**), Jax Boyd Hill (son of **Dolly Hill**), Shirley Jones (wife of **Harry Thorley**), Cecilia Gallegos, (wife of staff member David Gallegos), Troy Chapman (friend of **Bill Stokes**), Tim Alexander (cousin of **Susie Kuipers**), Missy King (niece of **Bill and Barbara Holmes**), Chris Austin (cousin of **Sean Austin**), Joel Ballew (father of **Bryan Ballew**), Martha Meador (mother of **Martha Letbetter**), Lonnie Goolsby (father of **Kelle Tillman**), Lucy Redrow (daughter of Leigh Ann and **Grant Redrow**), Terry James (nephew of **Rachele Williams**), Tahji Hoffman (great-niece of **Rachele Williams**), Audrey Hart (great-granddaughter of **Bob and Jane Trask**), and Nancy Hatfield (mother of **Sarah Haddock**).

Prayers for the safety of **Rolf Tilley**, (son of **Jaret and Katie Tilley**) who is stationed in Turkey with the U.S. Navy. Prayers for the safety of Pape Russell (grandson of **Barbara Russell**), who is serving in the US Navy. Prayers for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar** (son of **Becky and Renee Saldivar**), who is serving in the US Navy. Prayers for the safety of Nathan Gunter (nephew of **Russell and Vivian Norment**), who is stationed in Korea.

We pray for safety and peace for those affected by conflict.

We pray for our partner congregations: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist in Fort Worth and for the congregations of Buen Pastor, Resurrección, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches in Cuba.

Welcome, New Members!

Please join the Evangelism Work Group in welcoming these new members.



Ann and Mike Cummock joined First Pres by reaffirmation of faith. Ann is retired from American Airlines, and Mike is a

professional land surveyor.



Elaine and Bruce Howard joined First Pres by transfer of membership from St. Luke's United Methodist Church in

Midland. Elaine, a homemaker, and Bruce, who recently retired from the energy sector, have been visiting for the last few months.



June McAllister joined First Pres by transfer of membership from First Presbyterian Church in Ruidoso, NM. June was

ordained as a Ruling Elder here at First Pres some years ago.



Kathy and John Murphey joined First Pres by reaffirmation of faith. Kathy is a retired educator and CPA. John is a retired Bell Helicopter

executive. They were both ordained as Ruling Elders at St. James/Oak Hill Presbyterian Church here in Fort Worth.



First Presbyterian Church

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PERIODICALS POSTMASTER:

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THE
Penn
Street
Letter



The Sandwich Generation

**CARING FOR YOURSELF
WHILE SUPPORTING CHILDREN
AND AGING PARENTS**

*Sunday, October 25
12-2 p.m. | Room 235
Lunch included
Childcare provided*

