



# First Presbyterian Church Waco, TX

---



---

Celebration of Life and Faith  
Bill Falco  
March 6, 2026

William Rost Falco (Bill) passed from this life on February 19, 2026, leaving behind a city he helped shape, a family he adored beyond measure, and a community forever better because he walked among us.

Born in Navasota, Texas, to Joe Savaggo Falco and Elvera Rost Falco, Bill's roots were firmly planted in Texas soil. From those beginnings grew a life defined by service, vision, steadiness, and an extraordinary love for people and places. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Phyllis Ponder Falco; his parents; his brother, Joe Savaggo Falco Jr.; and his cherished dog, Pepe. He is survived by his son, Carter Falco; his daughter, Leslie Falco Smith; his son-in-law, Eric Smith; and his grandchildren, Zephyr and Vix Smith and Maddie Socha.

Bill's love affair with Waco began in 1972 and never waned. As a City Planner and Director of Planning and Community Development Services for Waco, he helped imagine and bring to life a more beautiful, vibrant, and hopeful city. If you stand today in Indian Spring Park, stroll along the River Walk, admire the Suspension Bridge illuminated at night, or walk the revitalized stretches of downtown Waco, you are witnessing part of Bill's legacy. He was there when it happened, and more often than not, he was quietly helping make it happen.

With degrees from Baylor University, a bachelor's and a master's in economics, and a Ph.D. in environmental design in urban and regional planning from Texas A&M, Bill brought both intellect and heart to his work. He believed careful planning, partnership, and persistence could make Waco a better place to live. He also enjoyed sharing his passion and knowledge of urban planning with the next generation, teaching graduate-level classes at Baylor University. He worked tirelessly, and without seeking credit, to help bring positive changes to the city he loved.

But Bill's professional accomplishments tell only part of the story. His volunteer spirit seemed boundless. From Keep Texas Beautiful, where he served as President and helped bring the iconic "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign to life, to the Waco Symphony Orchestra, Historic Waco Foundation, Keep Waco Beautiful, ALIVE, Community Race Relations Coalition, the Family Abuse Center, the Doris Miller Sculpture, the Waco Cultural Arts Festival, Leadership Waco, First Presbyterian Church (where he served as an elder and youth Sunday school teacher), Fuzzy Friends, and countless neighborhood associations, Bill gave his time and energy freely and joyfully.

Yet for all his civic vision and leadership, Bill's greatest devotion was to his family. He was the steady presence when things were tough and the loudest and most enthusiastic supporter in every triumph, small or large. He always asked how you were doing, even when he could hardly speak. He forgave easily. He did what was right, always. He faced adversity with grace and met it with kindness. His children and grandchildren knew him as their most steadfast champion.

And then there was his laugh. Bill had the best laugh, full, loud and contagious. It would light up a room, soften a hard conversation, and remind everyone not to take themselves too seriously.

Paired with his warm smile and gentle steadiness, it made people feel safe, valued, and seen. He had a remarkable ability to notice and acknowledge the beauty, both physical and inner, in people, places, and things.

His spirituality was steady and deeply rooted, expressed more through action than words. Even as dementia touched his later years, it never touched his goodness. His giving nature endured. His instinct to help endured. His habit of asking about those he loved endured.

Bill loved Waco. He loved its river, its neighborhoods, its people, its cultural heart, and its potential. He believed the longer you stayed in Waco, the more you enjoyed it, and in part because of his efforts, generations will.

If you ever heard that unmistakable laugh, received his encouragement, or saw your city a little more beautifully because of his vision, then you carry part of him. His strong spirit lives on in each of us and the city he touched.

**Witness to the Resurrection**  
**William "Bill" Rost Falco**

The Gift of Life Bestowed  
Entered Gift of Life Released

September 29, 1943  
February 19, 2026

Prelude

Becky Ward

+ Opening Litany

Psalm 121

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come. My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**Many: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.**

One: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**Many: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.**

One: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Let us with loving remembrance, worship God.

+ Hymn #649

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

Unison Prayer of Praise

**God of Beauty and Grace, we are so grateful for the energy that you infuse into our lives. What a privilege it is to walk, talk, work and play. Each day is a humbling experience of challenges. Each day is a rich experience of joy and triumph. We are grateful for each day and moment in which we can live with loving integrity. We pause with gratitude for the time that we have spent with your son, Bill. We are so grateful for all who loved him and for the way they contributed to his best life. We pause to stretch our heart and mind contemplating his life and legacy. May we live offering you beauty and grace from our own life circumstances. Be with us now and always, O Great Redeemer. Amen.**

*My Bright Abyss*

Christian Wiman, pg. 11

Christianity itself is this-temporal, relative-to some extent. To every age Christ dies anew and is resurrected within the imagination of man. This is why he could be paragon of rationality for the Romantics, an exemplar of existential courage for writers like Paul Tillich and Rudolf Bultmann. One truth, then, is that Christ is always being remade in the image of man, which means that his reality is always being deformed to human needs, or what humans perceive to be their needs. A deeper truth, though one that scripture suggests when it speaks of the eternal Word being made specific flesh, is that there is no permutation of humanity which Christ is not present.

+ Hymn (See Insert)

*I'll Fly Away*

LIFE EVERLASTING

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 15:7-8

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14-16, 6:19-22

Eulogy

Leslie King, D. Min

Solo

*Lord's Prayer*

John Jovicich

Recitation of Psalm 23 (KJV) 7 & Closing Prayer

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

+ Benediction

Postlude

---

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WACO, TEXAS**

1100 Austin Ave. - Waco, TX 76701 - 254.752.1665 - [www.firstpreswaco.org](http://www.firstpreswaco.org)

Church Office Hours: 9:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:00

Sunday Services 8:30 AM (Weekly Communion) and 10:30 AM (Morning Worship)

Pastor - Leslie King

