

## James R. Bruening

James Ray Bruening, 89, of Mesa, Arizona, died April 5, 2023. He was born August 19, 1933, in Ridgway, Pennsylvania, to Henry and Ethel Bruening. He graduated from DuBois High School, DuBois, Pennsylvania. He received a football scholarship from the University of New Mexico and graduated from UNM in 1955. He served as Assistant Dean of Men at the university. Jim married Laura L. Lovett in 1954 in Belen, New Mexico.

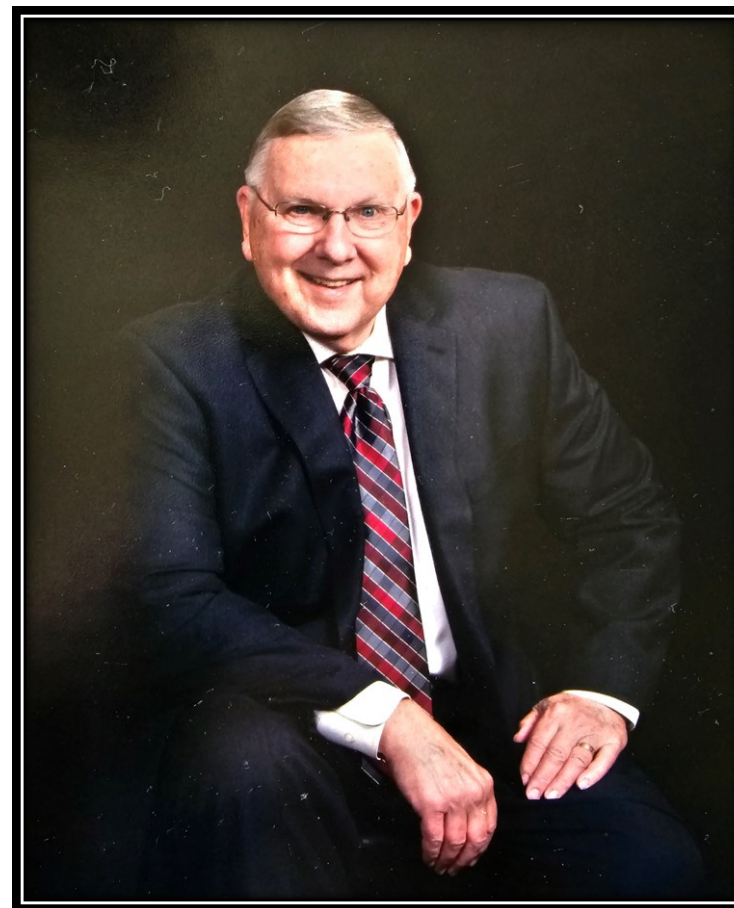
Jim received a call to pastoral ministry while in high school and continued his ministerial training after college. He graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, in 1960 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree and was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church.

Jim served three churches in twelve years in the E.U.B. denomination. He was pastor of churches in Johnstown, Colorado, Española, New Mexico, and Aurora, Colorado. He became a Presbyterian pastor in 1972 and served churches in Roswell, New Mexico, and Mesa, Arizona. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1984.

Following eleven years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Mesa, he retired from active service in 1998, but continued serving churches when needed. Jim was involved in community service in each city that he served. In retirement, he loved doing genealogy and scrapbooking in order to leave his family a sense of their history.

He is survived by his wife, Laura, and three children: Linda (Dan) Reeves of Mesa, Brian (Callie) Bruening of Lubbock, Texas, and Lisa (Kurt) Dorr of Little Elm, Texas, and six grandchildren: Kevin (Jess) and Jason (Amanda) Reeves, Laura (Javier) Peña, Carter (Brittney) Bruening, Austin (Peyton) and Garrett Dorr, and seven great grandchildren: Brielle, Everleigh, Declynn and Owen Reeves, Sophia, Isabella and David Peña.

## *A Celebration of Life*



### James R. Bruening

August 19, 1933 — April 5, 2023

April 29, 2023

2:00 p.m.

#### *First Presbyterian Church*

161 N. Mesa Drive Mesa, AZ 85201  
(480) 964-8606 [www.fpcmesa.org](http://www.fpcmesa.org)

## Celebration of Life

James R. Bruening

Prelude I                  *Ode to Joy*                  – arr. Diane Bish  
                                    Dr. Mark Ramsey

Prelude II                  *Me on Your Mind*                  – Matthew West  
                                    HolyGrounds Praise Band

Welcome    Rev. David Hodgson

\*Hymn    #475  
                                    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Prayer    Rev. David Hodgson  
                                    *The Lord's Prayer*                  – Albert Hay Malotte  
                                    High Priority Quartet

Old Testament Readings with commentary

Psalm 34:1-10

Psalm 103:1-5

Isaiah 43:15-21

Anthem                  *Here I Am, Lord*                  – arr. Mark Hayes  
                                    Sanctuary Choir

New Testament Reading  
Luke 8:42-48

Poem                  The Touch of the Master's Hand  
                                    by Myra Brooks Welch  
                                    Read by Dr. Glenn Bennett

Homily    Rev. David Hodgson  
                                    The Ultimate Question

Anthem    – Frederick Flaxington Harker  
                                    *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*  
                                    Dr. Glenn Bennett, Tenor

Prayer

\*Hymn    *He Leadeth Me*                                  Slides

\*Benediction

Postlude    – Charles Marie Widor  
                                    *Symphony No. 5, V. Toccata*

*While the family tends to the private service of committal  
in the Columbarium following the service,  
please gather in Fellowship Hall for a reception.*