

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A missional community called to love and live in Christ

December 17, 2023



2023 Session of Brownson

Alice Herrington | Alicia Riggan | Amelia Kirkland | Andrew Benbow | Ann Edgerton | Art Edgerton | Beverley Pellom
Charlene Kinelski | Chris Jordan | David McNeill | David Wood | Dixie Parks | Don Branch | Don Power | John Bullard
Kathy McPherson | Ken Goodman | Larry Riggan | Lee Pittman | Mollie Calhoun | Morgan Strickland | Ryan Ciccone
Sara Conti | Sara James | Scout Cain (Y) | Wesley Little (Y)

Rev. John Hage—senior pastor
Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin—associate pastor for congregational care and connection
Rev. Austin Vernon—associate pastor for discipleship and missions
Kelli Garbett—director of children and their families
Erin Pollock—director of youth and their families
Matt Franks—interim music director

330 South May Street, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387
www.brownsonchurch.org — 910.692.6252
Sunday Worship | 9 & 11:10 AM
Livestream | 11:10 AM



Gathering

Please pass the Friendship Pad down each pew and back again after signing. If you are visiting, please provide your email address and phone number as we would love to connect with you.

Prelude "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" Johann Sebastian Bach
Diana Kirkpatrick, organ

Ritual of Friendship The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

News of the Church Alive Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

The Praise of God

Lighting of the Advent Candle (9:00) Moran Family (11:10) Depenbrock Family

Advent Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

Advent Prayer O come, all ye faithful, let us adore the coming King. This season of Advent, may our hearts be filled with Christ's peace as we eagerly await the coming of our Savior!
Amen.

+Hymn 110 "What Child Is This?" Greensleeves

Confessing

Call to Worship Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

Prayer of Confession Merciful God, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Amen.

Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Cantor, Will Franks, to sing first. Congregation on repeat.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The passing of the peace is an element of worship which traditionally follows the assurance of pardon. Sharing a sign of peace signifies our reconciliation and peace with God and one another. You are invited to pass the peace in the manner that is most comfortable to you.

Congregational Response "We Are Forgiven" Hal H. Hopson, 1995
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (repeat)

The Proclamation of the Word

Anthem (9:00) Away in A Manger—Happy Birthday Jesus Boogie
Pre-School Friends
(11:10) Go Tell It on the Mountain—Happy Birthday Jesus
Children's Choir K-5th Grade

(9:00) Children age four to third grade may depart for Kids Worship **(11:10)** Children remain in worship with their families
(9:00 & 11:10) There is a nursery for children ages 0-3. There is also a family room for watching the service in the parlor.

Baptism (11:10) Wesley Vernon, Son of Austin and Abbey Vernon

Hymn 482 "Baptized in Water"
Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Song of Illumination	“Emmanuel” Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel. (Cantor, Will Franks, sings first, congregation joins on repeat)	MCGEE
Scripture Lesson	Luke 1:46-55 The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	A Song of Peace	Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, <i>Associate Pastor for Congregational Care</i>
Hymn 100	“Canticle of Turning”	STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Responding

According to the PCUSA Book of Order, the Affirmation of Faith is a response to the Word proclaimed that affirms our faith in the holy, triune God. The affirmation of faith can be drawn from a variety of sources, including Scripture, creeds, confession, catechisms, hymns, or personal testimony.

+Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith 11.2 Rev. Austin Vernon, *Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

+Gloria “Gloria Patri” GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering Offertory

“Light of the World” Lauren Daigle
Janie Monroe, Solo

+Presentation of Gifts “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

+Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM) David McNeill | (11:10 AM) Alice Herrington

Departing

+Hymn 147 “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL
Vs. 1,2 & 3

+Benediction

A moment of silence followed by three chimes, signifying the Trinity, concludes Worship.

Postlude “The Star Proclaims the King is Here” Johann Pachelbel
Diana Kirkpatrick, organ

Announcements

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God given by Bonnie Quesenberry in memory of Ezra Quesenberry. A memorial service for Ezra Quesenberry was held in the sanctuary on December 16.

Youth: Tonight is a Christmas Hangout for youth 5-7 PM: Christmas pajamas, dinner, hot chocolate, cookie decorating and Elf. There are no youth programs Dec.18-Jan. 1. Merry Christmas!

Children: Join us tonight at 5 PM for our last Kids Connect Gathering of the year! Wear your cozy Christmas PJ's! Also, don't forget about all kiddos singing on December 24 at the 4 PM service. See the email from Miss Kelli about practice times.

2023 Giving We are grateful for your commitment to Brownson through your 2023 Pledge. Pledges must be received in the church office by December 31 to be credited in 2023 (postmarked or dropped in our drop box at the Tower door or mailbox in the front circle). If you would like to complete your pledge online, visit brownsonchurch.org/give.

2024 Stewardship Campaign Pledge Cards: If you haven't submitted your pledge – it's not too late! Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex or the church office. You can also submit your pledge online: brownsonchurch.org/give. You may also call in your pledge to our Bookkeeper, Tracy Kelly—910.692.6252.

PCUSA Offering—Special envelopes can be found in the pew racks. This offering supports critical financial support to church workers and their families.

Empty Stocking Consider providing gifts for a local family in need. To be paired with a family, please contact Brenda Hiscott: hiscott@nc.rr.com, 910-295-9544; **Food vouchers for families can be picked up in the church office.** Donations are also being accepted to pay for meal vouchers. Checks can be made to Brownson Church Empty Stocking.

Note Cards: PW has a small selection available, including Christmas designs. Please check the bulletin board in the Atrium or contact Linda Bryant at lsbryant@nc.rr.com. Cards are \$10 per pack, and all proceeds go toward Presbyterian missions.

Church Office Hours: December 26-28 church office hours are 9 AM-1 PM. We are closed on December 25 and January 1. Normal office hours resume on January 2.

Sunday, December 31 we will have **one Hymn Sing service at 11:10 AM.**

New Member Meet & Greet: Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 10:15 AM in the Cornerstone Building Conference Room. Join us to learn more about our vibrant and growing church.

Prayers and Praise

Hospital/Rehab: Eleisabeth Miller (MRH rehab), Dick Kuehl (The Greens of Pinehurst)

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

9:00 AM Head Usher: Frank Quis, Paul Whit & Jane Howard, Rick & Ruth Burgin

11:10 AM Head Usher: Wes Little, Ed Monroe, Gregg Allen

Ways to Give

Thank you for supporting the mission of Brownson Church. Your gift has an immediate impact on the work of ministry through our mission and values and the work we do across Moore County and beyond! To give today, you may do so through the envelopes in the pews, through the **Give** tab on our website, or by using the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



Advent Services

Thursday, December 21—The Longest Night

5:30 PM—A Christmas Service for the Soul

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

11:10 AM Traditional Service (No Higher Grounds)

4 PM – Service for Families

6 PM – Service with Candlelight, Carols and Communion

Local Missions | Ways to Serve

SANDHILLS COALITION:

DONATION PRIORITIES: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Rice and Mac & Cheese.

DROP OFF LOCATION: Baskets in the narthex.

Contact Rev. Austin Vernon, discipleship@brownsonchurch.org

THE FOOD BANK

- Pack food boxes for low income seniors
- Second Tuesday of the month, 9 AM—11 AM
- Sign up to Volunteer on December 19
- Contact: Bob McCall, rdm36@charter.net

FAMILY PROMISE WOMEN'S SHELTER

We need dinner makers and/or overnight volunteers from January 8—11, 2024. Contact Sara Conti, 937-725-3016

Sunday Morning

NURSERY

During the 9 & 11:10 AM services, Brownson has a full service nursery for children 3 and under, where loving staff are ready to welcome your children. The nursery is located in the Education Building. Please see an usher for assistance.

CHILDREN | YOUTH

**Children Pre-K through grade 5* will be invited from Higher Grounds at 10:15 AM to join Kelli for connect classes.

**Middle school youth* will be invited from Higher Grounds at 10:15 AM to join Erin for connect classes.

ADULT GROUPS

The Living Word Today This class discusses current event through the lens of our Christian faith, using *The Wired Word* curriculum. Join us in Conference Room A at 10 AM or Zoom. Log in to Zoom.com using Meeting ID: 825 8501 9818 Passcode: 664945.

The Ligon Bible Class This class studies: *The Present Word* quarterly curriculum. Join us in Conference Room B at 10 AM

Donuts and Devotionals Bring your coffee and donuts and join us in Conference Room C at 10:15 AM. As we discuss some of the most important stories in the Bible. Led by Rev. Austin Vernon

Women of the Way This women's connect group focuses on spiritual practices that encourage us to live out our faith in deeper ways. The first study will be on *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie J. Thompson. All women are invited to join the conversation. Meet in the Parlor at 10 AM. Led by Alice Herrington.

Mid Week Adult Bible Studies

Brownson Men's Groups invite everyone of the church to join in their Bible Study and fellowship.

***Men's Fellowship Breakfast**—Tuesday, December 19, 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs, 1850 US 1, Southern Pines. Led by Bill Berger.

***Men's Theology on Tap**—Wednesday, December 20, 6 PM at Midland Country Club's Table on the Green, 2205 Midland Rd, Pinehurst. Led by Charles Harris and Gerald Ostlund.