

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

March 15, 2026

90 Years ANNIVERSARY

*Remembering with Gratitude,
Moving Forward in Faith*

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 3

One Service @ 10:30

All Church Picture

Church Family Meal

Healing What's Within

Christ | Mystics | Music | Meaning
2026 Lenten Series

2026 SESSION OF BROWNSON

Alex Bowness | Anne Friesen | Art Edgerton | Betsy Robinson | Bill Berger | Charles Harris
Chris Hunt | B. Christian Freberg | David Malan | Donna Chapin | Farra Wilson | Gena Smith
Jane Howard | Jan Stone | Jeff Ward | John Krahnert | Kara Vonderkall
Keith Walvoord | Lisa Hughes | Mandy Berg | Patrick Depenbrock | Pat Henry | Roy Cameron | Ryan Morrison
Ruth Burgin | Hardin Freberg (Y) | Ella Hall (Y)

Rev. John Hage—senior pastor

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin—associate pastor for congregational care and connection

Kelli Garbett—director of children and their families

Erin Pollock—director of youth and their families

Amy Shortt—director of music ministries

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 or phone number as we would love to connect with you. Please write legibly.

Prelude *Amazing Grace* arr. Riley

Karen Lewis, violin | Amy Shortt, piano

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

+Call to Worship

God of Light, you see us even when we cannot see clearly.

Open our eyes to your presence among us.

When we search for explanations and blame,

Remind us that your grace is greater than our understanding.

When the world feels dark or uncertain,

Christ comes among us as the light of the world.

Come, let us worship the God who meets us in ordinary places.

And opens our eyes to wonder, mercy, and new life.

+Hymn 649

Open My Eyes, that I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Confessing

Call to Confession

Rev. Cynthia Strickland

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, We confess that we do not always see clearly. We are blind to the suffering of others. We are blind to the quiet ways you are at work around us. We are blind to our own need for grace. Too often we rush to explain, judge, or assign blame instead of trusting in your mercy. Forgive us, O God. Touch our eyes as you touched the eyes of the man born blind. Through your grace, open our hearts and minds so that we may see again—see your presence in the ordinary, see your light in the darkness, and see our neighbors with compassion and love. In Christ, the light of the world, restore our sight and lead us into new life. Amen.

Kyrie 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, Have Mercy

Cantor to sing first. Congregation will sing when invited 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

Moment with Children

Kelli Garbett, *Director of Children and their Families*

Children age four to fifth grade may depart for Kids Worship

We have a nursery for children ages 0-3. There is also a family room for watching the service in the Parlor

Song of Illumination 577

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Scripture Lesson

John 9:1-7

Holy Bible, page 978

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon	When God Meets Us in the Mud	Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Anthem	<i>Come to Me All Pilgrim's Thirsty</i> (9 AM) Quartet (11:10 AM) The Chancel Choir Karen Lewis, violin	arr. Highben

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 The Apostles' Creed Rev. Cynthia Strickland
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 Rev. Cynthia Strickland

Offertory Anthem *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Prins
The Brownson Handbell Choir

+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 AM) Jan Stone (11:10 AM) Keith Walvoord

Departing

+Hymn 314 *Christ, Be Our Light* CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
Stanzas 1, 2 and 5

+Benediction

+Choral Benediction *Peace* a Shaker Tune arr. K. Siegfried
(9 AM) Quartet (11:10 AM) The Chancel Choir

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

Announcements

Easter Flowers: If you would like to donate an Easter lily in honor or in memory of someone, please use the yellow special offering envelope in the pew racks. Please indicate your dedication on the envelope. If you wish to donate online, go to brownsonchurch.org/give and use the drop-down menu to select Easter Lilies then notate in the memo line your flower dedication. An email will be sent upon receiving your dedication. If you do not receive an email, please contact assist@brownsonchurch.org. **Deadline is March 26.**

Volunteers Needed - Flower Ministry Brownson's Flower Ministry spreads joy through the season of Easter. Our volunteers deliver flowers to church members in need of connection. Easter lilies will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday, March 29 through April 1. Simply pick up the flower with your name, deliver to the recipient on the envelope, and connect. If you'd like to be part of this ministry, please email Madison Broadwell at madisonbroadwell4@gmail.com.

Save the Date: We will celebrate Brownson's 90th Anniversary as a church family. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 3 for **one** all together service at 10:30 AM, an all-church picture and family meal! More details coming soon!

"**Online Higher Grounds**" will appear in the Atrium today. This Zoom connection will allow you to meet and say hello to our Online Members. Please stop and introduce yourself. No technology experience required!

2026 Habitat Apostle Build. April 10 and 11 from 8 AM to 12 PM. Habitat has requested 6 volunteers/day. Sign up at sandhillshabitat.org. For further information contact Don Power at donc6power@gmail.com.

The **Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk** will be **Sunday afternoon March 29** at Union Pines High School. Check out how to register or donate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/sandhillshnc>. Sign up to walk with the Brownson Presbyterian Church team.

Please join **Presbyterian Women** for their special gathering in Fellowship Hall on March 16, as we welcome renowned motivational speaker Janet Sue Rush, who will speak on "How to Enjoy Failure, Be Amused by Rejection, and Thrive on Stress." Fellowship and food at 9:30, during which non-seasonal note cards will be available, and program at 10:00.

Meet & Greet for Prospective New Members, Sunday March 29, 10:15 AM, Parlor-If you have been visiting Brownson and want to learn more about church membership, please join Rev. Elizabeth Doolin and members from the New Member Welcome Team for conversation and information about membership.

The Congregational Care Team along with Children's Ministry is excited to host a **Parents' Night Out on Friday, April 17, from 5-8PM**. Children are invited to a fun night of activities while parents can have a few hours to themselves! Childcare will be offered for children ages 6 weeks to fifth grade. To register, go to brownsonchurch.org/registration. Contact Elizabeth Doolin or Kelli Garbett with any questions. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Elizabeth Doolin.

Prayers and Praise

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and in gratitude for the Brownson Church family as we celebrate our 90th year. Given by Frank and Missy Quis.

Hospital/Rehab. Nancy Hackney, Anne Collins and Jean Wallen—MRH

Celebrations: The rose on the Baptismal Font, given by the Coleman Baby Rose Fund, is in celebration of the birth of Paige Ellis Friesen, granddaughter of Bob and Anne Friesen.

Mid Week Adult Bible Studies

The Brownson's Men's Groups, Mom's Group and Presbyterian Women invite everyone of the church to join in their Bible Study and fellowship.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast—Tuesday, March 17 at 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs, 1850 US 1, Southern Pines. Led by Bill Berger.

PW Circle 7— Wednesday, March 18 at 11 AM, in Conference Room C.

Holy Week Schedule

March 22 | 5th Sunday of Lent

Worship at 9 & 11:10 AM | Youth Choir
Higher Grounds and Connect Groups at 10 AM

March 29 | Palm Sunday

Worship at 9 & 11:10 AM
Higher Grounds and Connect Groups at 10 AM
Children's Choir and *Invite a Friend Sunday*

April 2 | Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service with communion and
Confirmand Foot Washing at 7 PM

April 3 | Good Friday Service of Healing and Wholeness 12 PM

April 5 | Easter Sunday

Worship at 9 & 11:10 AM
Higher Grounds and Connect Groups at 10 AM

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

(9 AM) Head Usher: Chris Jordan, Paula Zellers, Marjorie Heffner, Kelley and Chris Kibler, Mary Hamblen.

(11:10 AM) Head Usher: Don Power, Anita Emery, Chan and Lucy Roberts, Susan Bowness, Pat Henry, Cindi Hamilton.

Sunday Morning

ADULT GROUPS

The Living Word Today— Non-partisan current events are discussed each Sunday using *The Wired Word*. Conference Room A at 10 AM or Zoom. Log in to Zoom.com: Meeting ID: 849 0052 9560, Passcode: 209651

The Ligon Bible Class—This class studies: *The Present Word* in Conference Room B at 10 AM. Led by Linda Branch and Mary Margaret McNeil.

Donuts and Devotionals—in Conference Room C at 10:15 AM. We discuss some of the most important stories in the Bible. Led by Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin.

Music Notes

In addition to the leadership of our Chancel Choir each week, we have several opportunities to share their gifts in worship: **March 22** – Youth Choir sings in worship and **March 29 (Palm Sunday)** – Children's Choir leads the Procession of Palms

Youth Choir rehearses Sundays at **4:15 PM**, Children's Choir rehearses Sundays at **5:00 PM**, Bell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at **5:45 PM** – new ringers are always welcome!

Kids & Youth Connect Groups

KIDS CONNECT

Our 1st Grade Milestone is today at 10:15. Meet Mrs. Kelli at Higher Grounds if you're planning to participate! Kids Connect meets tonight at the Gaga Pit from 5:00 – 6:45- Real Life Hungry Hippo Style!

YOUTH CONNECT

Youth group is tonight 5-7 PM in the Youth Suite for everyone in grades 6-12. It's Christians vs. Romans night! Youth Choir rehearsal is today 4:15-5 PM in the Sanctuary. High school Bible study is Thursday morning 7:30-8:20 AM at PineScone Southern Pines.