

BROWNSON

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

September 13, 2026



THE FIRE
THAT CALLS

EXODUS 3:1-15

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 Krahner | 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 | 10:30 AM

Livestream | 10:30 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

Amy Shortt, organ

Ritual of Friendship

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

News of the Church Alive Minute for Mission

Church Retreat – Bind Us Together Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*
Erin Pollock, *Director of Youth and their families*
Kelli Garbett, *Director of Children and their Families*

The Praise of God

+Call to Worship

Erin Pollock, *Director of Youth and their families*

God called to Moses from the midst of the burning bush.

And Moses answered, "Here I am."

God calls us to stop, to notice, and to listen.

We come with open hearts, ready to hear God's voice.

God calls us by name and invites us to join in God's work.

We are listening for the ways God is calling us.

God meets us in the ordinary places of our lives – in our work, our homes, our relationships, and our daily routines.

Help us to notice where you are present, O God.

God says, "I will send you."

Give us courage to say, "Here I am Lord. Send me."

Come, let us worship the God who calls us.

We are here to listen, to respond, and to follow.

+Hymn 611

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Confessing

Call to Confession

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Associate Pastor*

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us, but we are often afraid to listen. You invite us to turn aside, but we are too busy to notice. You ask us to trust you, but we are quick to offer excuses about why we are not ready, not worthy, or not able. Forgive us for the ways we resist your call. Forgive us for the times we have ignored the burning bushes in our own lives—the moments when you have tried to get our attention. Open our eyes to see where you are at work. Open our ears to hear your voice. Give us courage to say, "Here I am," and faith to follow wherever you lead. Amen.

Kyrie

Pearl Hage and Rebekah Herring



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

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 468	<i>In My Life</i> In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today. In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In our song, Lord, be glorified today. In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In your church, Lord, be glorified today.	LORD, BE GLORIFIED
Scripture Lesson	Exodus 3:1-15 The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.	Holy Bible, page 49
Sermon	The Fire that Calls	Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
+Hymn 406	<i>We are Standing on Holy Ground</i>	HOLY GROUND

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 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.	Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, <i>Associate Pastor</i>
+Gloria	<i>Gloria Patri</i> 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.	GREATOREX

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.
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Invitation to the Offering

Anthem	<i>I'll Fly Away</i> The Chancel Choir	arr. Hayes
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+Presentation of Gifts	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.	OLD HUNDREDTH
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Prayer of Thanksgiving	Patrick Depenbrock
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Departing

+Hymn 300	<i>We Are One in the Spirit</i>	THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
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+Moment of Remembrance on the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

+Benediction and Blessing of our Meal

+Congregational Response	<i>Let There Be Peace on Earth</i>	WORLD PEACE
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.		

Postlude	Amy Shortt , organ	
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A moment of silence followed by three chimes, signifying the Trinity, concludes Worship.

Announcements

Note for Families - At Brownson, we believe that *to wiggle is to worship!* Children are a joyful and important part of our life together, and we welcome them fully in worship- wiggles, movement, noise, and simply being the children they were created to be. We invite you to relax and feel at home as it's a joy to worship God together!

Shoe Drive - We're holding our **3rd Annual Shoe Drive for Northern Moore Family Resource Center** in Robbins. We're setting an ambitious goal of 200 pairs of new gym shoes for students ages 4-18! We'll be collecting each Sunday through September! Watch for collection containers in the Narthex and Atrium.

Still Us - September 24, October 22, 2:30-4 PM in Conference Room A: Join Dr. Karen Sullivan for three community gatherings to learn about the exciting progress of the Still Us Foundation and discover meaningful ways to get involved in creating a more dementia-inclusive community. Whether you're simply curious or ready to volunteer, all are welcome!

Staying Connected - As Brownson continues to grow, we want to stay connected and care well for every member of our church family. Staying Connected is an ongoing effort to update contact information and keep our church records current. Over the coming months, we will be asking each household to verify their address, phone, email, emergency contact, and directory preferences, and to provide a current photo for our database. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from one of our Grace Greeters! This is more than an administrative task—it is one way we care for one another as the Body of Christ. Thank you for helping Brownson stay connected!

Join Us Today for the All Together Initiative . During the potluck lunch, we will gather at the table for a *Tell Me A Story* time. We will have conversations about when we have seen Brownson at its best and discuss moments that reveal the church's DNA and core values. We look forward to you joining us for this special time in the All Together Initiative process.

5th Annual Church Retreat - All are invited to join us for the Brownson Church Retreat Nov. 13-15 at Caraway Conference Center. The theme for this year's retreat is "**Bind Us Together**" and will be woven through preaching, discussion, music, recreation, fellowship and creative offerings. We also welcome back Rev. Ernie Thompson as the retreat speaker. Rev. Thompson is a retired PC(USA) pastor who served congregations in Greensboro and Wilmington during his ministry. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Registration is open and can be found on the Brownson website. Any questions can be brought to Kelli Garbett or Erin Pollock.

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday October 11, 4PM

Please join us for this special service celebrating the gift of God's creation - especially the gift of our pets! All are welcome, and pet owners are invited to bring their pets. *All pets must be up to date on vaccines; dogs must be leashed; cats and small animals must be in a carrier.* If your pet does not respond well to social situations, you are welcome to bring a collar, tag, or picture of your pet. We will also be accepting donations of dry dog and cat food to contribute to the Sandhills Coalition Pet Pantry. Contact Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin with any questions.

Meet & Greet for Prospective New Members, Sunday, September 27, 9:30 AM, Parlor. If you have been visiting Brownson and want to learn more about church membership, please join Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin and members of the New Member Welcome Team for conversation and information about membership.



Ways to Serve | Local Missions

SANDHILLS COALITION

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

DROP OFF LOCATION: Baskets in the Narthex

Contact Caryl Schunk, cschunk@guilford.edu

Kids & Youth Connect Groups

KIDS CONNECT

Kids Connect kicks off tonight! Parents and kiddos (grades K – 5th grade) are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 5 – 7 for fun, fellowship, food, and some important parent info! Next week our Sunday morning opportunities kick off with groups meeting at 9:30. See bulletin insert for info on each of these! If you have questions about Kids Programs, please reach out to Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

YOUTH CONNECT

Youth Group Kickoff is tonight! All youth grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to join us 5-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall for food, games and an informative meeting. High school Bible study starts on Thursday, Sept 17, 7:30-8:20 AM at PineScone Southern Pines. Rides to Pinecrest are provided after Bible study. And the middle school half-nighter is on Friday, September 18. Please check email for more details. For more information about Brownson Youth please contact Erin, youth@brownsonchurch.org.

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.

PW Circle 6— Monday, Sept. 14 at 10 AM, in Conference Room B.
PW Circle 3— Monday, Sept. 14 at 11 AM, in Conference Room C.
PW Circle 7—Thursday, Sept. 17 at 10 AM, in Conference Room C.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast—Tuesday, September 15 at 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs, 1850 US 1, Southern Pines. Led by Bill Berger.

Fall Bible Study on the Book of Mark: Join Alice Herrington's in-depth Bible study on the Book of Mark on Wednesdays from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room, beginning September 9. If you have questions or need information, please contact Bill Berger (bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com or 334.398.1941).

Music Notes

Our Chancel Choir is preparing to present a major choral work in the worship service on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1. We invite all singers to sing this amazing work with us. Our rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 PM. Only 7 rehearsals until the presentation so don't delay. Contact Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries, for more information.

Prayers and Praise

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are given by Don Power to the Glory of God in memory of my beloved wife Joan of 60 years.

Hospital/Rehab: Billiegene Garner—MRH; Fred Nuenighoff—MRH

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

(10:30 AM) Head Usher: Frank Dean, Burt Ozment, Hope Dugenske, Peggy Flygar, Bob Flygar