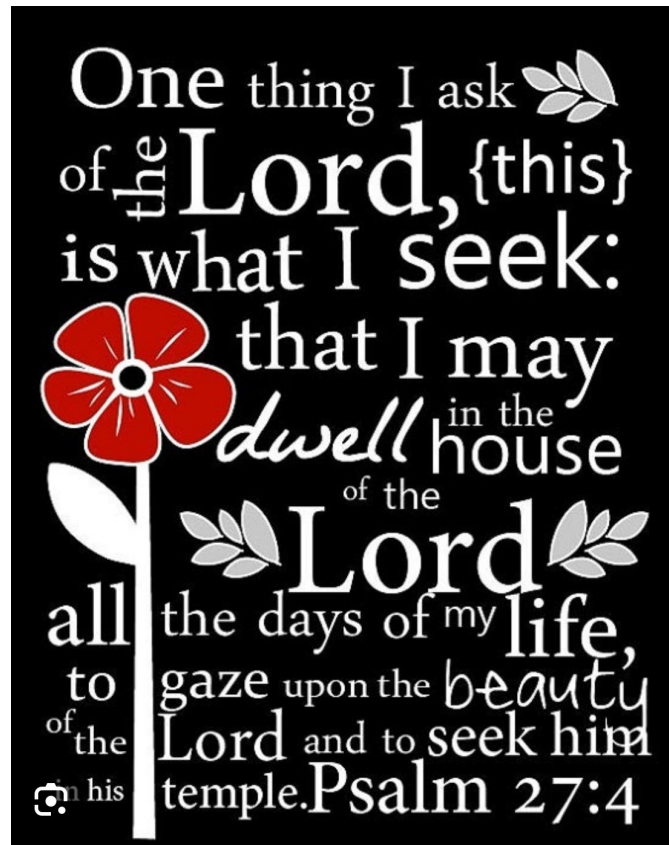


# BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A missional community called to love and live in Christ*

## August 31, 2025



### 2025 Session of Brownson

Alex Bowness | Andrew Benbow | Anne Friesen | Art Edgerton | Betsy Robinson | Bill Berger  
Chris Hunt | B. Christian Freberg | David Malan | David Wood | Gena Smith | Jane Howard | Kara Vonderkall  
Kamron Monroe | Kathy McPherson | Keith Walvoord | Lee Pittman | Lisa Hughes | Mandy Berg  
Mollie Calhoun | Morgan Strickland | Pat Henry | Roy Cameron | Ryan Morrison | Luke Markotich (Y) | Janie Monroe (Y)

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**Rev. John Hage**—senior pastor

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

**Rev. Austin Vernon**—associate pastor of discipleship and missions

**Kelli Garbett**—director of children and their families

**Erin Pollock**—director of youth and their families

**Amy Shortt**—director of music ministries and organist

330 South May Street, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387

[www.brownsonchurch.org](http://www.brownsonchurch.org) — 910.692.6252

Sunday Worship | 10 AM

Livestream | 10 AM



## Gathering

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*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 print legibly.*

**Prelude** *Festive Voluntary on "Darwall's 148th"* arr. Lasky  
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**

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

## The Praise of God

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**+Call to Worship** One thing we ask, this we seek—  
**To dwell in the house of the Lord all our days.**  
To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord,  
**To seek God in His holy presence.**  
Come, let us worship the Lord who calls us to seek, to come, and to abide.

**+Hymn 610** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

## Confessing

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**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sought many things before You. We have been distracted by lesser loves and shallow desires, failing to seek Your face and dwell in Your presence. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts again toward You, that we may find our true home in Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie**



Cantor 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

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**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 698**

*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.**

*Congregation to join on repeat.*

Scripture Lesson	Psalm 27 The Word of the Lord. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	Holy Bible, page 493
Sermon	This I Seek	Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
+Hymn 175	<i>Seek Ye First</i> Stanza 1 - ALL Stanza 2 - MEN Stanza 3 - WOMEN Repeat Stanza 1 - ALL	LAFFERTY

## 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	Apostle's Creed <b>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</b>	Rev. Austin Vernon, <i>Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions</i>
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+Gloria	<i>Gloria Patri</i> <b>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.</b>	GREATOREX
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### Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer	<b>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.</b>
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### Invitation to the Offering

Offertory	<i>Look at the World</i> The Chancel Choir	arr. Rutter
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+Presentation of Gifts	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> <b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</b>	OLD HUNDREDTH
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+Prayer of Thanksgiving	Betsy Robinson
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## Departing

+Hymn 353	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	SOLID ROCK
+Benediction		Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
+Choral Response	<i>Go Ye Now in Peace</i> The Chancel Choir	Joyce Eilers

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

Postlude	<i>Rondeau</i> Amy Shortt, organ	Purcell
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## Announcements

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 in observance of Labor Day. Normal operating hours resume on Tuesday, September 2.

**Care 101**—Have you wanted to care for someone experiencing illness, grief, or a major life change, and were not sure where to begin? If you have felt this way, you are not alone! This is why we are offering “Care 101.” In this class, we will lay the foundation for caregiving in a variety of situations, including illness, death, grief, and dementia care. Brownson pastors along with other community leaders will be leading and teaching. This class will take place on Sunday mornings at 10 AM beginning September 14 and concluding on October 12, gathering in the Cornerstone Conference Room in the Cornerstone Building. No registration is required – come as you are!

**Summer Giving** - As you travel this summer, please consider continuing your giving while you are away. We tend to see a decline in giving, while our expenses remain the same. You can do this through our website: [brownsonchurch.org/give](http://brownsonchurch.org/give) and schedule a weekly or monthly payment, or through your bank's bill pay option or by using this QR code.



**Congregational Meeting—Sunday, September 7, 2025:** There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following 10 AM worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Elder Class of 2028.

**Save the Date - Church Family Meal:** Join us on Sunday, September 7 for our annual Church Picnic and Family Meal. There will be one service at 10 AM with the meal following at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the meal and no need to register. **The church will provide the fried chicken and barbecue and would love for our Brownson family to provide all of the sides for the meal. Plan to bring things like baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, coleslaw, fruit and dessert.** If you would like to volunteer to set up or clean up, please contact Jane Howard, [jphtravel@gmail.com](mailto:jphtravel@gmail.com).

**A Fall Bible Study on the Book of Matthew:** Join Alice Herrington's in-depth Bible study which begins on **September 10, from 10:30 AM - 12 PM** in the Cornerstone Conference Room. It will be a 10-week study. If you have questions, please contact Bill Berger at [bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com](mailto:bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com) or 334.398.1941 or Rev. Austin Vernon [discipleship@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:discipleship@brownsonchurch.org).

**Engaged Brains Training** – Please join Cheryl McNeil as she prepares us to connect and care for those experiencing brain changes. We will discover simple skills to help us better connect and build relationships, reframe and recognize abilities of our members, practice positive approaches, examine resources and explore various activities matching our members' abilities and interests. We will meet on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, from 2-4 PM in Conference Room A. We hope to see you there!

**Church Retreat- Registration Deadline is September 21!** ALL are welcome to join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual church retreat at Caraway Conference Center November 7-9. It is a weekend full of worship, fellowship, connection, and fun. The theme this year is “Fully Alive” and Rev. Ernie Thompson will be the retreat speaker. If the whole weekend doesn't work for you, you can sign up to be a day-tripper and join us on Saturday. You can register at [www.brownsonchurch.org/registration](http://www.brownsonchurch.org/registration).

**Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts:** Brownson Church sponsors both Scout Troop 223 and Cub Scout Pack 73. Boys and Girls age 6th grade and up meet on Wednesday's year around in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8 PM. Contact: Brian Platt ([brianjplatt@gmail.com](mailto:brianjplatt@gmail.com)). Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet on Mondays in Fellowship Hall beginning September 8 from 6-7 PM. Contact Heather Narvaes ([hlnarvaes@gmail.com](mailto:hlnarvaes@gmail.com)).

## Prayers and Praise

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Steve and Ellen Leggett in honor of Kelli Garbett and Erin Pollock and the wonderful children and youth programs guiding and inspiring our youngest members.

**Member Death:** We share in the hope of the risen Christ with the family of Mary Elizabeth “Betsy” Pry upon her death on August 14, 2025. A Memorial Service was held at Boles Funeral Home on August 23, 2025.

## Sunday Morning

### NURSERY

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

### CHILDREN and YOUTH

Kids, pre-K through grade 5, are invited after Moment with the Children to join Kids Worship. Parents, if your child is participating, please fill out a Brownson Kids sticker for each child, place it on them before they come to the front. Stickers are in the pews.

### ADULT GROUPS

**The Living Word Today**—Non-partisan current events are discussed each Sunday morning using *The Wired Word* curriculum with Biblical references. Conference Room A at 9 AM or Zoom. Log in to Zoom.com: 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 9 AM. Led by Linda Branch and Mary Margaret McNeill.

**Donuts and Devotionals**—Join us in Conference Room C at 9 AM. We discuss some of the most important stories in the Bible. Led by Rev. Austin Vernon.

## Kids & Youth Connect

### KIDS CONNECT

Kids Connect kickoff is Sunday, September 7. All children (grades K – 5) and their families are invited to the kickoff from 5 – 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided.

If you have any questions about Kids Programs and offerings, please reach out to Kelli at [children@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:children@brownsonchurch.org) with any questions.

### YOUTH CONNECT

Youth group kickoff is September 7! All youth (grades 6-12) and their parents are invited to the kickoff 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Dinner provided.

If you have any questions about youth events, please contact Erin Pollock at [youth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:youth@brownsonchurch.org).

## Mid Week Adult Connect Groups

*The Men's Group and PW invite everyone of the church to join in their Bible Study and fellowship.*

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast** Tuesday, September 2, 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs, 1850 US 1, Southern Pines. Led by Bill Berger.

**PW Circle 4**—Thursday, September 4, at 10:15 AM, in Conference Room C. Led by Kathy McPherson

## Local Missions | Ways to Serve

### NORTHERN MOORE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Brownson is hosting its second annual summer shoe drive for the children at Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Please consider donating new shoes for children grades K-12 in the collection bins, which will be located in the atrium. Our goal this year is 130 pairs of shoes!

### FAMILY PROMISE

- Assisting homeless women with children. Volunteers needed for providing dinners and overnight hosts.
- Dates: September 15—18, 2025
- Contact: Chris DiMarco, [cdimarco@nc.rr.com](mailto:cdimarco@nc.rr.com).

## Music Notes

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume in September. Bell Choir will also kick off rehearsals in September! Stay tuned for more details. We'd love to have you make music with us! For questions, please contact Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries at [music@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:music@brownsonchurch.org).

## Serving Today

**Thank you to our Greeters serving today:**

Head Ushers: Charles Harris, Patrick Depenbrock, Gregg Allen, Ed Monroe, Sarah Garry.