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

October 25, 2026



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 | 10:30 AM
Livestream | 10:30 AM

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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 Joyfully Alive Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

Minute for Mission Holiday Flower Ministry Madison Broadwell

The Praise of God

+Call to Worship We come seeking freedom: freedom from fear, from shame, from the burdens we carry and the patterns that hold us captive.
In Christ, we find the truth that sets us free.
Jesus invites us to remain in his word, to know the truth, and to discover a freedom deeper than doing whatever we please.
Teach us, O Christ, to live in your truth and walk in your grace.
We do not come because we have everything figured out. We come because we need the One who knows us fully and loves us completely.
Free us from what binds us, and free us for lives of love, faith, and service.
In Jesus Christ, we are offered a new way to live and the promise that we can be free indeed.
Let us worship God!
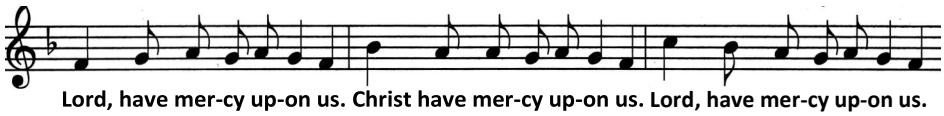
+Hymn 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues To Sing* AZMON

Confessing

Call to Confession Steve McLean

Prayer of Confession **God of truth and grace, we confess that we do not always live in the freedom you offer. We cling to old habits, hold on to resentment, and let fear shape our choices. Sometimes we resist the truth because it asks us to change. Sometimes we confuse freedom with getting our own way. Forgive us, God. Help us face ourselves honestly, trust in your grace, and follow Jesus into a fuller life. Free us from what holds us captive, and free us to love you and our neighbors more faithfully. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Kyrie



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.

Baptism August and Alice Wolf, children of Freddie and Hannah Wolf

Hymn 482 *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN
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.

+Please stand if you are able

Song of Illumination 468 *In My Life* LORD, BE GLORIFIED
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.

Scripture Lesson John 8:31-36 Holy Bible, page 977
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Freedom From, Freedom For Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

+Hymn 829 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* OLIVET

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 Steve McLean
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 Allison McLean

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

Anthem *Holy Lord* arr. Harlan
The Chancel 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 Farra Wilson

Departing

+Hymn 314 *Christ, Be Our Light* CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
+Benediction

+Choral Response *In the Lord* TAIZE'
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

+Postlude Amy Shortt, organ

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!

Holiday Flower Ministry- Did you know Brownson has a Holiday Flower team to spread joy through the seasons of Easter and Christmas? Our wonderful volunteers sign up to deliver just one, or many, flowers to church members in need of connection. This season, Christmas poinsettias will be ready for pick up here at Brownson on Sunday, December 6 through December 10. 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. Thank you from the Congregational Care Committee!

Name Tag Board: In an effort to be more connected, Property & Grounds has installed magnetic name tag boards in the Atrium. Please store your name tags there so you can get them on your way into church and return them after worship.

The importance of Chancel Flowers. Chancel Flowers are dedicated by our members to the Glory of God in honor or memory of loved ones. Their beauty graces our sanctuary as part of worship. On Monday, they are made into small bouquets by our Flower Ministry Team and delivered to our members who may be sick, in the hospital or grieving in some way and they will continue to enjoy their beauty and Brownson fellowship. The 2026 Chancel Flower calendar is posted in the Atrium. We have a few spots available in November and December.

Today, we give thanks for **Allison and Steve McLean**, members of Brownson who are helping lead us in worship. Allison and Steve have recently completed their chaplaincy licensing and serve at FirstHealth as chaplains, sharing Christ's love and offering care to others in our community. With the approval and support of the Session and our Congregational Care Committee, they are also helping extend this ministry of presence, prayer, and compassion to members of our Brownson family. So they might come see you one day. We are grateful for their gifts, their willingness to serve, and the ways they embody Christ's love both within our congregation and throughout our community. Please join us in thanking Allison and Steve for their ministry and in helping to serve in worship today.

Prayers and Praise

Hospital/Rehab: Arnold Seawell– MRH

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

Tonight is Trunk or Treat! Invite your friends and neighbors, and join us for some family fun from 4-6 PM. If you have questions about Kids Programs at Brownson, please reach out to Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

YOUTH CONNECT

There is no youth group tonight but the youth will be helping with Trunk or Treat from 4-6 PM. High School Bible Study is Thursday morning 7:30-8:20 AM at PineScone Southern Pines. Faith Lab is Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 AM in the youth suite. For more information about Brownson Youth please contact Erin, youth@brownsonchurch.org.

Music Notes

On Thursday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 AM. in the Fellowship Hall, all are invited to join Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries, for lunch and an informal introduction of James Whitbourn's *Son of God Mass*, a major choral work which will be presented by our Chancel Choir on Nov. 1. We'll listen to excerpts and explore the music and text, helping us hear the work more deeply when it becomes part of our All Saints worship service. This is offered in partnership between Congregational Care and Connection and Worship Ministry Team. A light lunch will be provided.

Sunday Morning Offerings Location Guide

The Living Word Today—Room A
Ligon Class—Room B
Donuts and Devotionals—Room C
It Takes a Village—Cornerstone Library
Another Chapter - Cornerstone Conference Rm.
Grow, Discover & Shine—Children PreK-5th Grade—Ed. Building
Faith Lab - Youth Suite

Linger with Lemonade

Join us for an informal time of connection outside the Sanctuary after church for some lemonade and fellowship as we head out into our week following worship at 11:30 AM.

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today: Head Usher: Chris Jordan, Paula Zellers, Marjorie Heffner, Bill Zell, Kelley J. Kibler, Mary Hamblen