

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

January 11, 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 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 | 9 & 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 *Deep River* arr. Adolphus Hailstork
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. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care and Connection*

The Praise of God

+Call to Worship The heavens open, and grace pours down.
Before we speak, God names us. Before we act, God claims us.
Jesus steps into the waters, not to prove his worth, but to receive love.
We come not to earn God's favor, but to rest in God's delight.
Come, worship the God who calls us beloved.
We come, trusting that before we begin, we are already loved.
Let us worship God.

+Hymn 375 *Shall We Gather at the River* HANSON PLACE
Stanzas: 1-All | 2-Women | 3-Men | 4-All

Confessing

Call to Confession Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*
Prayer of Confession Gracious God, we confess that we often live as if we must earn your love. We strive, compare, and measure ourselves, forgetting that you call us beloved before we do anything at all. We resist your grace, hesitate to trust your voice, and doubt that you truly delight in us. Forgive us, O God. Release us from fear and striving, and root us again in your deep and abiding love. By your Spirit, help us live as your beloved children. Amen.

Kyrie



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

Cantor to sing first. Congregation on repeat.

Assurance of Pardon
Passing of the Peace

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 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture Lesson Matthew 3:13-17 Holy Bible, page 881
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Beloved Before We Begin Rev. Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*
+Hymn 177 *I Will Come to You (You are Mine)* YOU ARE MINE

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. Elizabeth H. Doolin, Assoc. Pastor

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.

Litany for Baptism of the Lord

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters.

Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless this water by your Holy Spirit, that we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ.

May we remember that we are named and claimed by our Creator, who like those went before us, calls us into beloved community, serving and sharing through the power of living water.

We remember our baptism with praise and thanksgiving.

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. John Hage, Senior Pastor

Offertory

Come to the Water

arr. Foley

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

(9 AM) Jane Howard (11:10 AM) Bill Berger

Departing

+Hymn 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

arr. BEACH SPRING

+Benediction

+Congregational Response 306

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Dennis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

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

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

Amy Shortt, organ

Announcements

Baptism of the Lord Sunday- As we begin this new year and celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we remember Jesus' baptism and God's promise that we are named, claimed, and loved. This is also a meaningful time to reflect on our own baptism—or to wonder about it for the first time. If you are feeling the Spirit stirring curiosity or leading you toward baptism, and you have never been baptized, we would love to talk with you. Please feel free to speak with Pastor John or Pastor Elizabeth. We would be honored to walk with you as you listen for where God is leading next.

The importance of Chancel Flowers. Chancel Flowers are dedicated by our members to the Glory of God in honor or memory of loved ones. 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. To provide flowers, the 2026 Chancel Flower calendar is posted in the Atrium

Winter Bible Study – Join us as we resume our in-depth Bible study on the Book of Matthew Wednesdays from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room. If you have questions or need information, please contact Alice Herrington (aherrington7@gmail.com) or Bill Berger (bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com).

Brownson Learning Center will begin enrolling students for the 2025-2026 school year this week. Church members have priority enrollment beginning on January 12 and will open to the public on January 15. Classes are available for children ages 1-5, Monday - Thursday 9am - 12pm. Email Kacy at blcdirector@brownsonchurch.org for more information or to request a link to enroll.

Meet & Greet for Prospective New Members, Sunday January 25, 10:15 AM, Parlor- If you have been visiting Brownson and want to learn more about church membership, please join Rev. John Hage and members from the New Member Welcome Team for conversation and information about membership. Grab a coffee and donut and stop by!

PERU 2026 Mission Trip

We will host an informational discussion and Peruvian lunch on Sunday, January 25 following the second service for anyone interested in our work in Peru and possibly joining the summer mission trip. Sign up so we know how much food to order at: Brownsonchurch.org/registration. For additional information please contact Gerald Ostlund at gerald.ostlund@gmail.com or Pastor John Hage at john@brownsonchurch.org.

Save the Date!
VBS 2026
June 22-25 9:00—Noon

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

(9 AM) Head Usher: Steve Brooks, Debbie Brooks, Frank Quis, Rick Burgin, Duck and Shirley Ruffy.

(11:10 AM) Head Usher: Charles Harris and Patrick Depenbrock, Gregg Allen, Wes Little, Ed Monroe, Michael and Sarah Garry.

Prayers and Praise

Member Death: We share in the hope of the risen Christ with the family of Eugene Good upon his death on December 20, 2025. Eugene's ashes will be interred at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

We share in the hope of the risen Christ with the family of Gladys Britt upon her death on December 21, 2025. A celebration of life will be held on January 24, 2026 at 11AM at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Fairmont, NC.

Christian Sympathy: to Steve Good upon the death of his father, Eugene Good on December 20.

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

Kids, pre-K through grade 5, are invited after Moment with the Children at both services 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 10 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 10 AM. Led by Don and Linda Branch.

Donuts and Devotionals—Join us 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 and others facilitators.

HIGHER GROUNDS

Everyone is welcome to join in a time of fellowship, coffee and donuts in the Atrium during the 10 o'clock hour.

Kids & Youth Connect Groups

KIDS CONNECT

Kids Connect kicks off tonight! Parents are asked to join us from 5:00–5:30 in the Atrium (beside the Fellowship Hall). We will quickly discuss spring and summer programming, and then parents are dismissed! Kids should bring \$5 and will dismiss at 6:45.

If you have any questions about kids programs, please reach out to Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

YOUTH CONNECT

Youth group spring kickoff is tonight 5-7 PM in the youth suite for everyone in grades 6-12. Parents, you can talk with Erin and get summer trip information today in between services in the Atrium or 4:45-5:15 PM in the youth suite. High school Bible study resumes on Thursday morning 7:30-8:15 AM at PineScone Southern Pines.

If you have any questions about youth ministry, please contact Erin Pollock at youth@brownsonchurch.org.

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

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, January 12 at 10 AM in Conference Room B.

PW Circle 3—Monday, January 12 at 11 AM in Conference Room C.

PW Circle 2—Tuesday, January 13 at 10 AM, in Conference Room C.