

BROWNSON

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

December 21, 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)

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 and organist

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 print legibly.

Prelude *Valse, Op.64, No. 2* F. Chopin
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*
Minute For Mission Peru Mission Trip Larry Riggan

The Praise of God

Lighting of the Advent Candle (9:00) French Family (11:10) Berg Family

Advent Carol 88 **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Advent Prayer **O come, O come, Emmanuel. Into our fear, bring your comfort. Into our worry, bring
your strength. Into our waiting, bring your holy peace. Do not be afraid—Christ is
coming. Amen.**

+Carol 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Confessing

Call to Confession Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

Prayer of Confession Merciful God, in this season of longing and light, we confess that fear often shapes
our choices more than faith. We worry about how others see us, we cling to our own
expectations, and we hesitate to trust your quiet leading. Like Joseph, we face
moments of uncertainty—yet we do not always listen for your voice. Forgive us for
the times we judge too quickly, hold back mercy, or resist the next faithful step. Speak
to us again: Do not be afraid. Give us courage to follow where you lead and hearts
open to your healing love. 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

Children's Special Music (9 AM) *I Love You Lord*
Children's Bell choir

Song of Illumination #177 *I Will Come to You* You are Mine
**Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home, I love you and you are mine.
Congregation to join on repeat.**

Scripture Lesson	Matthew 1:18-25 The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.	Holy Bible, page 879
Sermon	Joseph: Fear of Judgement	Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Solo	<i>Joseph's Lullaby</i> Matt Franks, tenor	Words and Music by Millard and Bannister

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	Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, <i>Associate Pastor for Congregational Care</i>
	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	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	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.	
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Invitation to the Offering

Offertory	<i>Wexford Carol</i>	arr. Elaine Hagenburg
	(9 AM) Quartet (11:10 AM) The Chancel Choir	

+Presentation of Gifts	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	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) Morgan Strickland (11:10 AM) Keith Walvoord
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Departing

+Carol 135	<i>Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow</i>	FOLLOW
+Benediction		Rev. John Hage, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
+Choral Response	<i>Go Ye Now in Peace</i> The Chancel Choir	

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

Postlude	<i>And the Word Was Made Flesh</i> Amy Shortt, organ	Plainchant
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A brief Congregational meeting will take place immediately following the 11:10 AM service.

Announcements

90 Years of Grace: God's Faithfulness, Our Story

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge for 2025, please find pledge cards in the Narthex or you can submit your pledge online: brownsonchurch.org/give.

Congregational Meeting: Today at 12:15 PM immediately following the 11:10 AM service. The purpose of this meeting is to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Austin Vernon.

Year-End Giving: We are so thankful for your continued generosity to Brownson Church. Please know that for your 2025 pledge to be credited this year, all gifts must be received in our office by December 31, 2025, at 12 noon. They can also be postmarked by December 31, or you can drop your pledge by the church office during business hours, in the drop box in the breezeway or the mailbox in the front circle. December typically brings in 20% of our income, but we have a ways to go to meet our goal, so your giving is critical to help us close out the year. For a convenient way to give online, please use the QR code.



Coalition Christmas – Thank you to everyone who adopted a family this year. Due to your generosity, all families have been assigned to a member of the congregation! Contributions are still being accepted for food gift cards, which are provided for each family. Your generous donations enable us to offer food assistance to families in need each year!

Winter Bible Study – Join us as we resume our in-depth Bible study on the Book of Matthew on January 7 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).

The Church office will be closed December 25– January 2.

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

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

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

Sunday Morning

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.

The Ligon Class—10 AM, Conference Room B

Donuts and Devotionals—10:15 AM, Conference Room C

Kids & Youth Connect

KIDS CONNECT

Brownson Little friends (ages 3-5 and siblings) are invited to join us today for our annual Christmas Ornaments and Cocoa event. We will be meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:15!

Kids evening programs will resume on January 11.

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

YOUTH CONNECT

There is no regular youth group tonight and no high school Bible study this week. Spring kickoff is January 11!

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



Christmas Eve at Brownson Church

December 24

4 PM | Service for Families

6 PM | Service with Communion,
Carols and Candlelight

330 South May Street, Southern Pines

Music Notes

With grateful hearts, we offer our sincere thanks to all who helped bring last Sunday's presentation of *Promise of Peace* to life. To our choirs and our guest musicians – thank you for sharing your talent and devotion. We are equally thankful for the many individuals behind the scenes whose faithful work made this day possible.

We also extend heartfelt appreciation to our congregation for your constant encouragement, support, prayers, and generous financial gifts, including the provision of new choir robes for our children and youth. Every contribution – seen and unseen – has helped us offer this musical celebration to the glory of God.

Thank you for being a church family that serves, gives, and worships together with joy.

Prayers and Praise

Local Missions | Ways to Serve

SANDHILLS COALITION

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

DROP OFF LOCATION: Baskets in the Narthex

Questions? Contact Caryl Schunk, cschunk@guilford.edu.