



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

Happy Easter

Brownson Bells April 2026



Dear Brownson Church Family,

As we stand on the eve of Easter, I find myself filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared together this Lenten season. In our series, *Healing What's Within*, I truly believe we have been guided by God's Spirit. Again and again, we have been reminded that we are not alone in our struggles.

So many among us are carrying burdens—illness, cancer, grief, loss, unexpected falls, and difficult transitions. These are real and tender places in our lives. And yet, in this season of Lent, we have turned again toward Jesus, trusting that He meets us there—with healing, with presence, and with hope.

I hope you will join us as we continue this sacred journey through Holy Week—whether at our Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae service, or on Good Friday for a time centered on healing and wholeness. These moments invite us to slow down, to reflect, and to open our hearts to the depth of Christ's love.

And then, Easter morning comes.

I cannot wait to gather with you and proclaim the good news: **He is risen!** And in His rising, I believe we too are invited to rise—to new life, to renewed hope, to healing that reaches even the deepest parts of our souls.

May the One who walks with wounded feet to the cross, and the One who steps out of the empty tomb in the quiet darkness, guide you into healing and new life.

Thanks be to God for the hope of this season—and for the healing that is possible through Christ.

Grace and peace,

John

Pastor John

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tony & Sherri Goforth



COMMUNION CALENDAR

Sunday, April 5

Sunday, May 3

Sunday, June 7



SESSION DIGEST

The Session of Brownson met on Monday, March 16.

The meeting began with an exercise in Praying for One Another. In this season, many in our church family are hurting. Part of our covenant life together is to pray for one another and carry on another's burdens before God. The Session gathered in groups of two to thoughtfully pray for those in our midst and for our own personal prayer needs.

Elder Dave Malan provided a devotional using Acts 16:6-8. God closes far more doors than he opens, and we must bypass all of the closed doors until the right door comes along.

A discussion took place for the 90th Anniversary Celebration and celebration leader Carol Haney provided information on what has been done and what still needs to be done for this event on May 3.

The Worship Ministry Team provided an update on Holy Week and the Elder involvement in several worship services.

The Congregational Care and Connection Ministry Team brought a motion forward to authorize a Volunteer Chaplain Program at Brownson to complement our existing care ministries to be led by Steve and Allison McLean. This was voted on and approved.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday | March 29

Worship at 9 & 11:10 AM

Higher Grounds and Connect Groups at
10 AM

Maundy Thursday | April 2

Tenebrae Service and
Confirmand Foot Washing at
7 PM

Good Friday Service of Healing and Wholeness | April 3

12 PM

Easter Sunday | April 5

Worship at 9 & 11:10 AM

Higher Grounds and Connect Groups at
10 AM

90 Years
ANNIVERSARY

*Remembering with Gratitude,
Moving Forward in Faith*

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 3

One Service @ 10:30

All Church Picture

Church Family Meal

A Day of Celebration and Reunion

5

10:30 AM—ONE SERVICE ALL TOGETHER

16 CONFIRMANDS WILL JOIN THE CHURCH
SPECIAL MUSIC FEATURING MOORE BRASS

FORMER PASTORS AND STAFF WILL BE IN WORSHIP

SPECIAL OFFERING—\$9, \$99, \$999

HOWEVER YOU FEEL LED TO GIVE

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THREE OF BROWNSON'S
LOCAL MISSIONS PARTNERS

to give online visit: brownsonchurch.org/give

11:45—ALL TOGETHER PICTURE

12:00—CHURCH FAMILY MEAL IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

The menu will include:

Classic barbecue with all of the southern sides

Gluten-free grilled chicken

Green salad

Birthday Cake

If you know someone you would like to invite back, please invite them to
this special day at Brownson Church

BROWNSON MERCHANDISE

Brownson Church Logo Apparel can now be found online in an on de-
mand storefront! Fundraising proceeds will benefit our
90th Anniversary Special Offering!

Visit: bonfire.com/brownson-church

Reigniting the Brownson Legacy Society

For generations, faithful members of Brownson have ensured that our ministry continues to flourish—not only for today, but for the future. Through thoughtful estate gifts and legacy commitments, they have helped build a foundation of faith that extends far beyond their lifetime.

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary, we are excited to **reignite the Brownson Legacy Society**—a renewed commitment to honoring those who have included Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in their long-term plans and inviting others to consider how they, too, can leave a lasting impact.

The Legacy Society is more than a recognition—it is a testament to faith, stewardship, and vision. It reflects a belief that God’s work through Brownson will continue to grow and transform lives for generations to come.

Whether you have already made a commitment or are just beginning to consider it, we invite you to join us in this important journey. The Brownson Legacy Society was created in 2018 to recognize the generosity of those who have made contributions to our endowments. Our endowments have played an important role and have enabled us to add meaningful ministry outside of our normal operating budget. In 2026, we look back and are grateful to the Legacy Society as we have navigated unexpected challenges over the past few years.

We are grateful for our current Legacy Society members who have intentionally remembered Brownson in their estate planning and hope to encourage others to join them by leaving a legacy to the church. A planned gift allows our members to make a statement of faith that endures beyond a lifetime and supports our ministries for generations to come.

Since its inception, 40+ members of the congregation have joined the Legacy Society and we have received many direct gifts to our endowments. Others have committed to remembering Brownson in their will.

If you would like to be part of Brownson’s Legacy Society, or for further information about it, please contact us at finance@brownsonchurch.org.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

April 2
Pat Keffer
Mallory Wood
April 3
Bill Bower
Penny Enroth
Ashley Molloy
Kyle Simmons
April 4
Susie Boals
Robert Fitch
Gail Hicks
Ross Leonard, II
Luke Markotich
April 5
Callip Hall
April 6
CeCe Carpenter
Steve Good
Elaine Sills
April 7
Joe Cain
Ashley Haddock
Ann McAllister
Abby Pittman
April 8
Grace Ames
Frank Dean
Pam Ferguson
Michael Pandich
Bill Reynolds
Casey Wood
April 9
Sam Depenbrock
Mara Fiskin
Jacob Myrick
Jim Patterson
April 10
Pat Dean
Kacy Depenbrock
Mary Edwards
Asa Moran
Grace Morrison
Kristen Ward
April 11
Anne Callison
Stacey Ostlund
Reagan Parsons
Amy Shortt

April 12
Don Crowder
Don Dowd
Pat Groseth
Cara Herring
Legrand Scruggs
Will Simmons
April 13
Marcia Davis
John Krahnert
Kathy McPherson
Erin Sheppard
April 15
Nick Chandler
Steve Floyd
James Murphy
April 16
Lisa Hughes
Emmett Tanea
April 17
Melinda Parker
April 18
Susan Bowness
Charli Ginos
Melissa Mang
David Martin
Bill Rock
April 19
Lois Holt
April 20
Katie Kuester
Xinyan Shi
April 21
Chris DiMarco
Mark Futrell
Carol Peters
April 23
Pat Allen
Missy Brown
Butch Chandler, Jr.
April 24
Allie Ballard
Dan Bennett
Bill Giles
Mia Martin
Shirley McIver
April 25
Barry Blasko, III
Matthew Eddy
Carol Lamphier
Mark Lindstrom

April 26
Andrew Eddins
Frank Shaw
April 27
Laura Cates
April 28
Sue Davis
Cathy Coats Harpster
Harry Berg
April 29
Pearl Hage
Nancy Lopez
Jackson Smith
April 30
John Cates
Pennie Duggins
Sandy McIver
Alice Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES

April 1
James & Kay Demyan
April 2
Paul Whit & Jane Howard
April 3
Craig & Beth Pryor
April 4
William & Sara Dent
Gates & Trish Harris
April 6
Brian & Leigh Ann Platt
April 7
Mike & Bea Fields
April 9
Joe Kling & Pat Maxwell
April 10
Jim & Gail Hicks
Jeff & Kristen Ward
April 12
Rob & Erin Pollock
April 14
Dennis & Dee Lombard
April 16
Don & Linda Branch
April 17
John & Sherry Kimbell
Tom & Nancy Reams
April 21
Fred & Carol Monroe
April 23
Xan & Gena Smith
April 25
Troy & Nichole Disser
Bobby & Josephine Vause
April 27
Jackson & Laura Sveen
April 28
Drew & Laura Kessell
Rusty & Allison Smith
April 29
David Ray & Crystal Blue
Marcus & Cathy Larose
Charlie & Davene Patterson
April 30
Nick & Kjirsti Myles

Adult Discipleship

Brownson Connects

Our Sunday morning program, meets at 10 AM in the Atrium. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut from Higher Grounds and join one of our welcoming, engaging connect groups!

The Ligon Bible Class – This connect group studies scripture and biblical themes through The Present Word quarterly curriculum. Join us on Sunday mornings in Conference Room B. All are welcome! Led by Linda Branch and Mary Margaret McNeill.

The Living Word Today (hybrid) – Non-partisan current events are discussed each Sunday morning at 10 AM in Conference Room A or on ZOOM, using The Wired Word curriculum with biblical references. All are welcome to join us in person or via Zoom. Meeting ID: 825 8501 9818 Passcode: 664945.

Donuts and Devotionals – This connect group explores a wide variety of biblical passages and themes through informal discussion. We are currently engaged in our Lenten Small Group Series – *Healing What's Within*. Bring your coffee and donuts to Conference Room C and join the conversation! Led by Elizabeth Doolin and other group leaders.

Mid-Week Adult Studies

Theology on Tap – A Bible study for the men of the church that meets on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM, currently using the Lenten Small Group curriculum. Join us at Hickory Tavern, 9735 US-15 (#501), Pinehurst. Led by Charles Harris and Gerald Ostlund.

Men's Tuesday Fellowship Breakfast – This group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs. All men of the church are welcome to join! For more information, please contact Bill Berger at bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com.

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

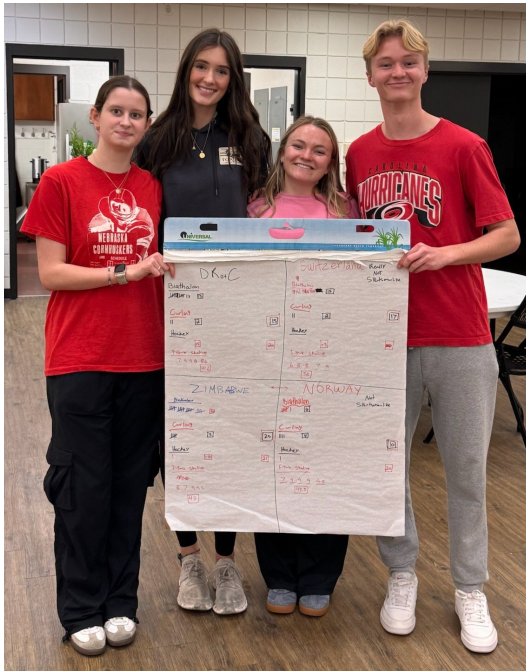
Moms of All Ages and Stages – Meets on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 PM in the youth suite to discuss the book of John from the Bible.

BROWNSON connects

Lenten Small Groups







Brownson Youth

This spring has been a wonderful time of reconnection, study and a lot of laughter and it's hard to believe that the end of the programmatic year is coming up. In April, the youth will share what they've learned and experienced in youth group this year by leading worship on Youth Sunday. The confirmation class, which has been meeting throughout the year, will also share their faith stories and be welcomed as new members of the church. High school Bible study continues on Thursday mornings until April 30 and youth group celebrates the end of the year on May 3!

Calendar

April 5 & 12 - No Youth Group.

April 19 - Confirmation Class Work Session. 2:30-5 PM.

April 19 - Youth Group. 5-7 PM. Youth Sunday Rehearsal.

April 26 - Youth Sunday at both services!

April 26 - Confirmation Class shares faith stories. After the 11:10 AM service.

April 26 - No Youth Group.

April 30 - Last high school Bible study.

May 1 - Final summer trip payments due.

May 3 - Confirmands welcomed as members during the 10:30 AM service.

May 3 - Final youth group of the year!



BROWNSON
YOUTH
A missional community called to love and live in Christ



BROWNSON KIDS

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

Kids Worship

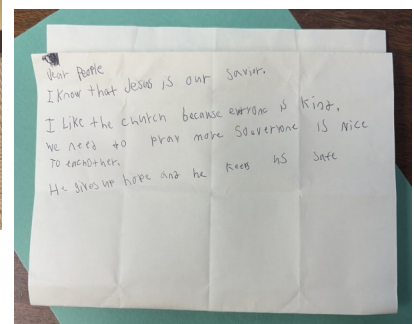
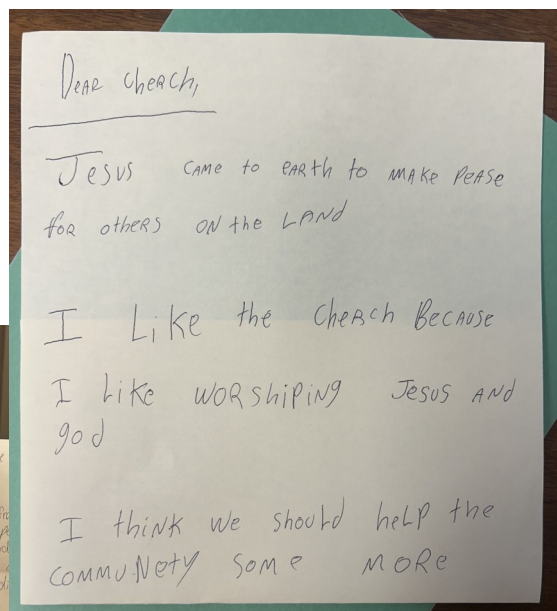
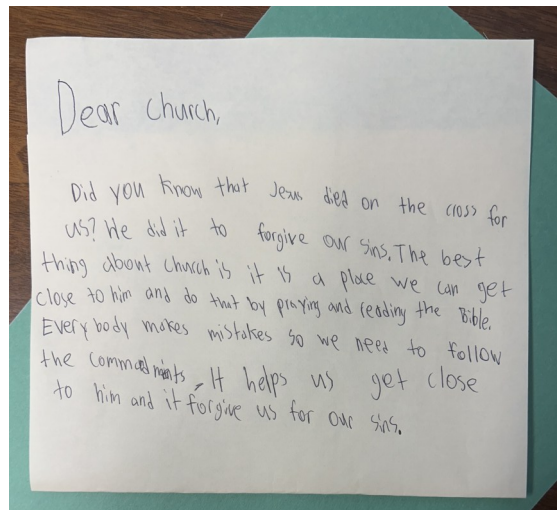
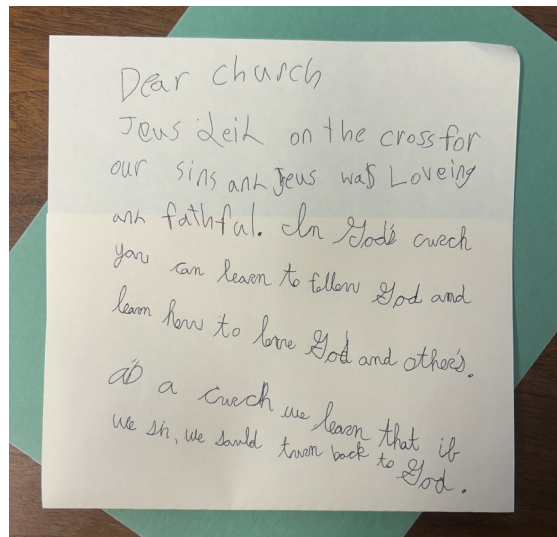
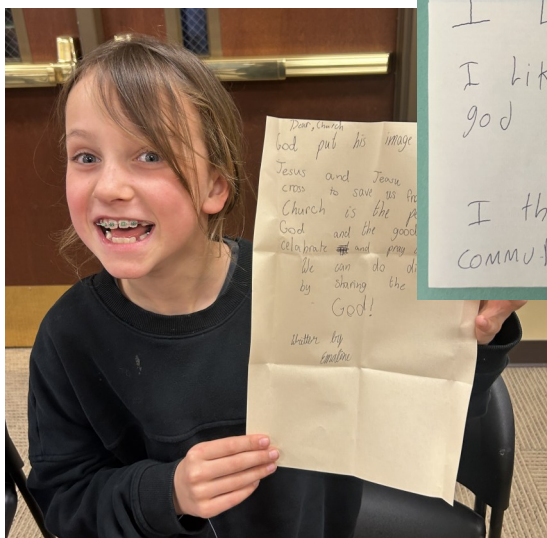
It's been a fun few weeks in Kids Worship as our theme verse has been Matthew 19: 26. Our kids have memorized this memory verse that says: "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'." We've delved into the stories of Jesus turning water to wine, healing the leper, walking on water, and many other miracles that are only possible with God. That led us straight into our Easter study – Jesus can really do the impossible!

Milestones

Thus far, we've wrapped up Milestones about Identity in Christ, Worship and Communion, Bible Exploration, and our most recent – WDJ? I'm sure many of you remember the popular bracelets from the 90's: WWJD? Instead of WWJD, our 1st graders had fun learning about "What Did Jesus Do?" Next up is Kindergarten Milestones!

Summer Dates

- June 15 – 19 – Mission Possible Camp at Camp Monroe
- June 22 – 25 – Vacation Bible School: Rainforest Falls
- July 13 – 17 – Community Camp at Brownson



Mission Statement:

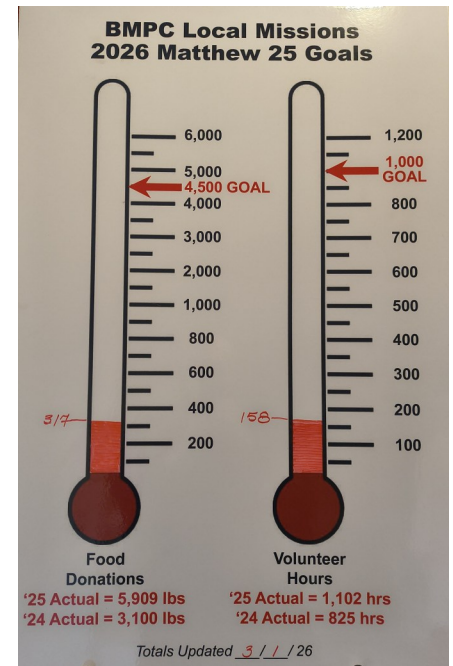
To mobilize God’s people to build relationships and alleviate community suffering.

Local Missions

Being a Matthew 25 Church, we strive to contribute to the well-being of the most vulnerable in our community, to help those struggling with food insecurity, poverty, racism, lack of affordable housing, addiction, and mental illness.

Local Missions has the 2026 Goals Thermometer up and running! We will need your help to meet our food poundage goal of 4500 pounds and our volunteer hours goal of 1000 hours.

Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build is Friday, April 10 and Saturday April 11. Habitat needs 6 volunteers each day (but we can always have more) and you can sign up at sandhillshabitat.org. The build takes place at 370 Addor Road, Pinebluff.



Congregational Care and Connection

Good Friday Healing and Wholeness Service – April 3 at 12 PM – Sanctuary

Though Good Friday is the day that we grieve the death of Jesus, this Good Friday we will also explore how healing might be possible even in the darkest moments. What is God growing within us, even when we cannot see it? How might we find wholeness, even when things feel hopeless? I hope this Good Friday is in an invitation to grapple with these questions, as we seek God’s healing and wholeness together.

Parents’ Night Out

Brownson Church is excited to host a Parents’ Night Out on Friday, April 17th, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. Children are invited to a fun night of activities at church while parents can have a few hours to themselves!

Childcare will be offered for children ages 6 weeks to fifth grade. Our childcare providers include Brownson staff, background checked & child safety-trained adult volunteers, along with Brownson youth. Any youth volunteers will be accompanied by adult volunteers or staff.

RSVP is required. Please RSVP no later than April 9 so we can ensure we have enough volunteers to care for all of our kids. All children will be dropped off at the Brownson Learning Center. Our friends ages 0-3 will be in our nursery spaces, and our bigger friends will rotate between the youth suite and the fellowship hall. A pizza dinner will be provided.



Worship & Music Notes

We are excited to welcome **Moore Brass** to Brownson for our 90th Anniversary Celebration on **Sunday, May 3 at 10:30 AM**. Moore Brass, a local traditional brass quintet, will play an extended prelude at the beginning of the service so plan to arrive early! They will also join our choir on John Ferguson's festive arrangement of the beloved hymn "The Church's One Foundation". You don't want to miss this special Sunday as we celebrate 90 years of God's faithfulness!



MOORE BRASS

Brownson Learning Center

The Brownson Learning Center, in partnership with Brownson's Property & Grounds, has teamed up to have new play equipment installed near the Education Building. The former playground was often unusable due to poor drainage and sand buildup in the area, leaving massive puddles and often ice when it got cold. Over the years, the BLC has an annual Bike-A-Thon that raises money for their programs. They have saved enough for a large initial payment. The BLC will provide 80% of the funding while the church will provide the remaining 20%. The children at the Learning Center cannot wait to play on the new structures! For the safety of the littlest students, a structure for two and under has also been installed! We still have a bit of fundraising to do to fully cover the cost of this project, so if you are feeling led to give, you can go online and make a donation using Brownson Learning Center in the dropdown menu. Visit brownsonchurch.org/give.



**CELEBRATE
THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY!
APRIL 19, 2026**

**Dramatic interpretation
of the Book of Ruth
by Janee Cates and Gracyn Myrick**

**Women of Courage:
The Faith to Find Home**

**Original artwork by
Shirley McIver**

**Flowers by
Brownson's Flower
Ministry**

**Reception in Atrium
Following 11:10 Service**

Special Music



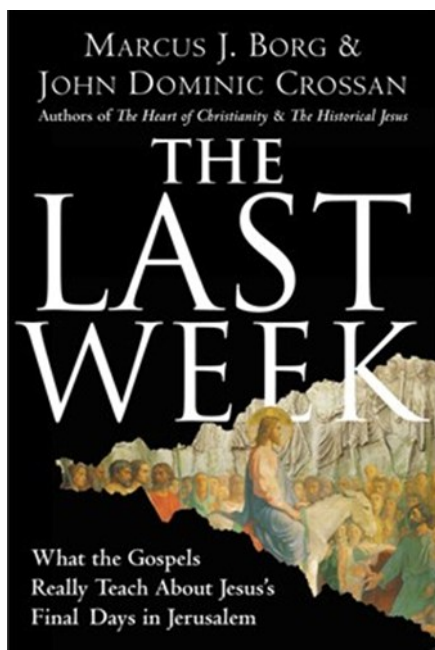
**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Brownson Church Library

The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM in the Cornerstone Building.

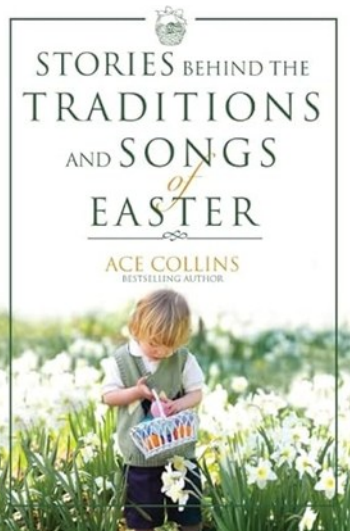
THE LAST WEEK by Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan

The Last Week reveals the moving story of someone who dared to face imperial wrath to bring a new way of life.



Brownson Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Library

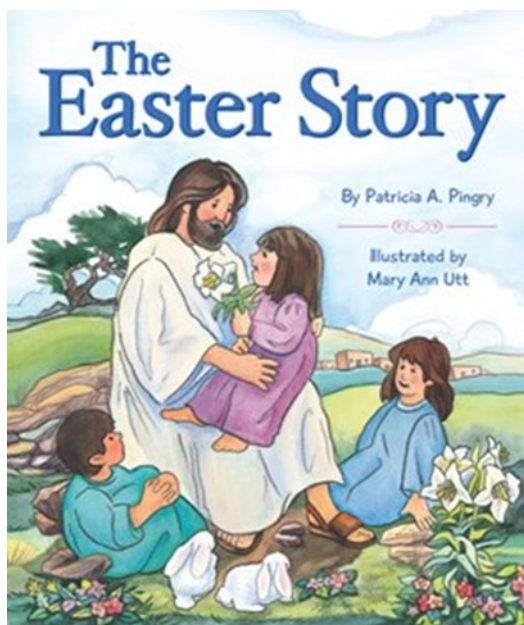
*“Resources to help
grow your faith”*



**STORIES BEHIND
THE TRADITIONS
AND SONGS OF
EASTER**

by Ace Collins

Covering the treasured customs of Easter, from Easter eggs to sunrise services, a selection of spiritual insights, real-life tales, and captivating legends reveals the events and backgrounds that shaped the most beloved traditions and songs of Easter.



THE EASTER STORY
By Patricia A. Pingry

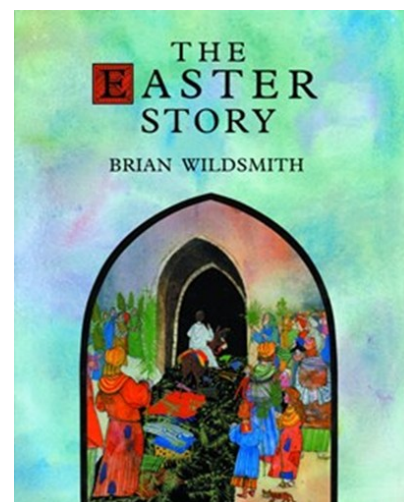
This board book introduces young children to Jesus the man, from his teaching to his healing. And it gently reveals the meaning of Easter and the story of Christ's death and Resurrection.

Recommended for ages 2-5

THE EASTER STORY
by Brian Wildsmith

In clear, reverent language and shining gold-toned paintings, award-winning author/illustrator Brian Wildsmith has written in clear, reverent language an enchantingly simple perspective that will engage even the very youngest child.

Recommended for ages 5-10.



Rev. John Hage
Senior Pastor
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Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin
Associate Pastor for Congregational
Care and Connection
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Kelli Garbett
Director of Children and their Families
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Erin Pollock
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Stacey Ostlund
Church Administrator
stacey@brownsonchurch.org

910.692.6252
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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)

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9–4 PM
Sunday Worship: 9 & 11:10 AM
Livestream Worship: 11:10 AM

BROWNSON
MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Brownson Church
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Southern Pines, NC 28387



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STAFF TEAM