

BROWNSON

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

August 30, 2026

Hold Fast — TO WHAT IS — *Good*



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



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

Medley of *God is So Good*, *Rejoice in the Lord Always*, and *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*
Catherine Nazario, piano

Ritual of Friendship

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

News of the Church Alive Minute for Mission

Transformation Team Update

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*
Cooper Carter

The Praise of God

+Call to Worship

God calls us to a life of genuine love.

We come ready to love one another

God calls us to hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

We come ready to let go of what weighs us down and hold fast to what gives life.

God calls us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer.

We come trusting that God is with us in every season.

God calls us to serve, to give, and to welcome the stranger.

We come ready to put our faith into action.

Come, let us worship the God who is good.

And let us hold fast to what is good.

+Hymn 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

Confessing

Call to Confession

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always hold fast to what is good. We hold on to anger, to regret, to shame, to fear, to anxiety, and to the wounds we have carried for too long. We sometimes speak more than we serve, judge more than we love, and seek to be right rather than to show honor. Forgive us. Teach us to recognize what is truly good. Give us genuine love, patient hearts, generous spirits, and the courage to put our faith into action. When life is difficult, help us hold fast. When hope is hard to see, help us persevere. And in all things, teach us to hold fast to you. Amen.

Kyrie



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

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Associate Pastor*
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

Blair Louise Bridges, daughter of Adam and Abbie Bridges

Hymn 488

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
Stanzas 1 and 4

WATERLIFE

Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:9-12
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Holy Bible, page 1036

Sermon

Hold Fast to What Is Good

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

+Hymn 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

HERE I AM

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, *Associate 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.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Solo

A Beautiful City

Schwartz

Collin Conway, baritone

**to learn more about this song, see the music note on the back of today's bulletin.*

+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

Dave Malan

Departing

+Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

+Benediction

+Congregational Response 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

Choir:

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands;

Congregation:

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands; *(clap, clap)
The trees of the field will clap their hands; *(clap, clap)
While you go out with joy.**

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!

5th Annual Church Retreat - All are invited to join us for the Brownson Church Retreat Nov. 13-15 at Caraway Conference Center. The theme for this year's retreat is **"Bind Us Together"** and will be woven through preaching, discussion, music, recreation, fellowship and creative offerings. We also welcome back Rev. Ernie Thompson as the retreat speaker. Rev. Thompson is a retired PC(USA) pastor who served congregations in Greensboro and Wilmington during his ministry. ALL ARE WELCOME! Registration is open and can be found on the Brownson website. Any questions can be brought to Kelli Garbett or Erin Pollock.

Shoe Drive: It's that time of year again...Children are heading back to school so we're holding our **3rd Annual Shoe Drive for Northern Moore Family Resource Center** in Robbins. We're setting an ambitious goal of 200 pairs of new gym shoes for students ages 4-18! We'll be collecting each Sunday through September! Watch for collection containers in the Narthex and Atrium.

Mid-Year Financial Forum: Please join us **today at 11:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall for our Mid-Year Financial Forum. Leaders of the Stewardship Ministry Team will be on hand to provide Brownson's first half of 2026 financial review.

Still Us - September 24, October 22, 2:30-4 PM in Conference Room A: Join Dr. Karen Sullivan for three community gatherings to learn about the exciting progress of the Still Us Foundation and discover meaningful ways to get involved in creating a more dementia-inclusive community. Whether you're simply curious or ready to volunteer, all are welcome!

The **Moms' Book Club** will begin the programmatic year with a September Social at the Wine Cellar in Southern Pines on Wednesday, September 9, at 7 PM. Join us as we catch up from the summer and share our Fall book list! Email Elizabeth Doolin at Elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org if you have any questions.

Staying Connected - As Brownson continues to grow, we want to stay connected and care well for every member of our church family. Staying Connected is an ongoing effort to update contact information and keep our church records current. Over the coming months, we will be asking each household to verify their address, phone, email, emergency contact, and directory preferences, and to provide a current photo for our database. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from one of our Grace Greeters! This is more than an administrative task—it is one way we care for one another as the Body of Christ. Thank you for helping Brownson stay connected!

Prayers and Praise

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our parents and grandparents by Beverly and Chesley Powell.

Christian Sympathy: to Laura Staal upon the death of her father Stuart Samuel VanderHeide on August 22, 2026.

Christian Sympathy: to Crystal Blue upon the death of her mother Laura Whisnant on August 24, 2026.

Music Notes

Stephen Schwartz's *Beautiful City*, written for the Broadway revival of *Godspell*, reminds us that we do not build community out of perfection, but out of hope, perseverance, and the willingness to begin again, "brick by brick, heart by heart." Those words have particular resonance at Brownson, where our own sanctuary was built nearly 90 years ago through the generosity of people who purchased individual bricks to help make its construction possible.

As we continue our All Together journey, the song offers a timely invitation that even amid struggle, disappointment, and brokenness, we can choose to keep building, slowly, faithfully, and together. The "beautiful city" Schwartz imagines is not a city of angels, but a deeply human community, one that includes all of us, in all our imperfection, choosing again and again to build something beautiful together.

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

Kickoff for all Kids Programs is on Sunday, September 13. Brownson Kids (Grades K - 5) and their parents are invited for the kickoff from 5-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of morning opportunities are coming as well, so be on the lookout for more information. If you have questions, please reach out to Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

YOUTH CONNECT

Youth Group Kickoff is Sunday, September 13! All youth grades 6-12 AND their parents are invited to join us 5-7 PM in the fellowship hall for food, games and an informative meeting. Parents will go over paperwork, the fall schedule, volunteer opportunities and more. Please join us! For more information about Brownson Youth please contact Erin, youth@brownsonchurch.org.

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

(10:30 AM) Head Usher: Don Power, Anita Emery, Chan Roberts, Lucy Roberts, Susan Bowness, Bill Berger.

Save the Date!
SEPTEMBER 13
All Together Initiative
Tell Me A Story Event and
Programmatic Year Kickoff

One service at
10:30 AM
with a church family
potluck following worship.

TELL ME A STORY

During the lunch,
we will gather
at the table for a
Tell Me A Story time.

Please bring a
covered dish to share!

During the potluck lunch, we will gather at the table for a *Tell Me A Story* time. We will have conversations about when we have seen Brownson at its best and discuss moments that reveal the church's DNA and core values. We look forward to you joining us for this special time in the All Together Initiative process.