

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

September 20, 2026



The Day Laborers by James Janknegt

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

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

Minute for Mission

Music at Brownson

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Associate Pastor*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music Ministries*

The Praise of God

+Call to Worship

We will sing to God and bless God's name forever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

Let us worship, singing together of God's grace.

+Hymn 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Holy Manna

Confessing

Call to Confession

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

Prayer of Confession

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy. Amen.

Kyrie

Keaton and Campbell Garbett



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

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

Cash Zotto, son of James and Shelby Zotto

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

Scripture Lesson

Jonah 3:10-4:5

Holy Bible, page 845

Matthew 20:1-16

Holy Bible, page 899

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon	Better than Fair	Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, Associate Pastor
+Hymn 475	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	Nettleton

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 Heidelberg Catechism 4.021 What is True Faith? True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture, it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.	Rev. John Hage, Senior Pastor
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+Gloria	<i>Gloria Patri</i> 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.	GREATOREX
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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

Anthem	<i>Christ Has Broken Down the Wall</i> The Chancel Choir	arr. Mark Miller
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+Presentation of Gifts	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.	OLD HUNDREDTH
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+Prayer of Thanksgiving	Keith Walvoord
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Departing

+Hymn 307	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	CWM Rhondda
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+Benediction

+Choral Response	<i>In the Lord</i> 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.	TAIZE'
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+Postlude		Amy Shortt, organ
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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!

Shoe Drive - 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! Drop in collection containers in the Narthex and Atrium.

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!

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!

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 Garrett or Erin Pollock. **Deadline to register is TODAY.**

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday October 11, 4PM

Please join us for this special service celebrating the gift of God's creation - especially the gift of our pets! All are welcome, and pet owners are invited to bring their pets. *All pets must be up to date on vaccines; dogs must be leashed; cats and small animals must be in a carrier.* If your pet does not respond well to social situations, you are welcome to bring a collar, tag, or picture of your pet. We will also be accepting donations of dry dog and cat food to contribute to the Sandhills Coalition Pet Pantry. Contact Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin with any questions.

Meet & Greet for Prospective New Members, Sunday, September 27, 9:30 AM, Parlor. If you have been visiting Brownson and want to learn more about church membership, please join Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin and members of the New Member Welcome Team for conversation and information about membership.

Hospital Admission Reminder - If you are ever admitted to Moore Regional Hospital, please remember to **list Brownson as your church affiliation** when you check in. This helps the hospital notify us so we can **pray for you, reach out, and visit you** during your stay. **We want to be there for you when you need us!**

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

Kids Connect meets tonight 5 – 6:45 PM, starting in the Gaga pit. We will have dinner, then move into our Bible study and fun games! If your kids haven't plugged into a 9:30 AM class, we have a spot for everyone. If you have questions about Kids programs, please contact Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

YOUTH CONNECT

Youth group tonight 5-7 PM in the youth suite is HIGH SCHOOL only! Remember that Beach Trip registration is also due today for any high school youth planning to participate. High School Bible Study is Thursday morning 7:30-8:20 AM at PineScone Southern Pines. For more information about Brownson Youth please contact Erin, youth@brownsonchurch.org.

Music Notes

Our Chancel Choir is preparing to present a major choral work in the worship service on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1. We invite all singers to sing this amazing work with us. Our rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 PM. Only 7 rehearsals until the presentation so don't delay. Contact Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries, for more information.

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 (begins October 4) - 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.

Prayers and Praise

Celebrations: The rose on the Baptismal Font, given by the Coleman Baby Rose Fund, is in celebration of the birth of Harvey Whitaker Howard, grandson of Paul Whit and Jane Howard, born September 9, 2026.

Serving Today

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

(10:30 AM) Head Usher: Steve Brooks, Debbie Brooks, Frank Quis, Rick and Ruth Burgin, Duck and Shirley Ruffy

