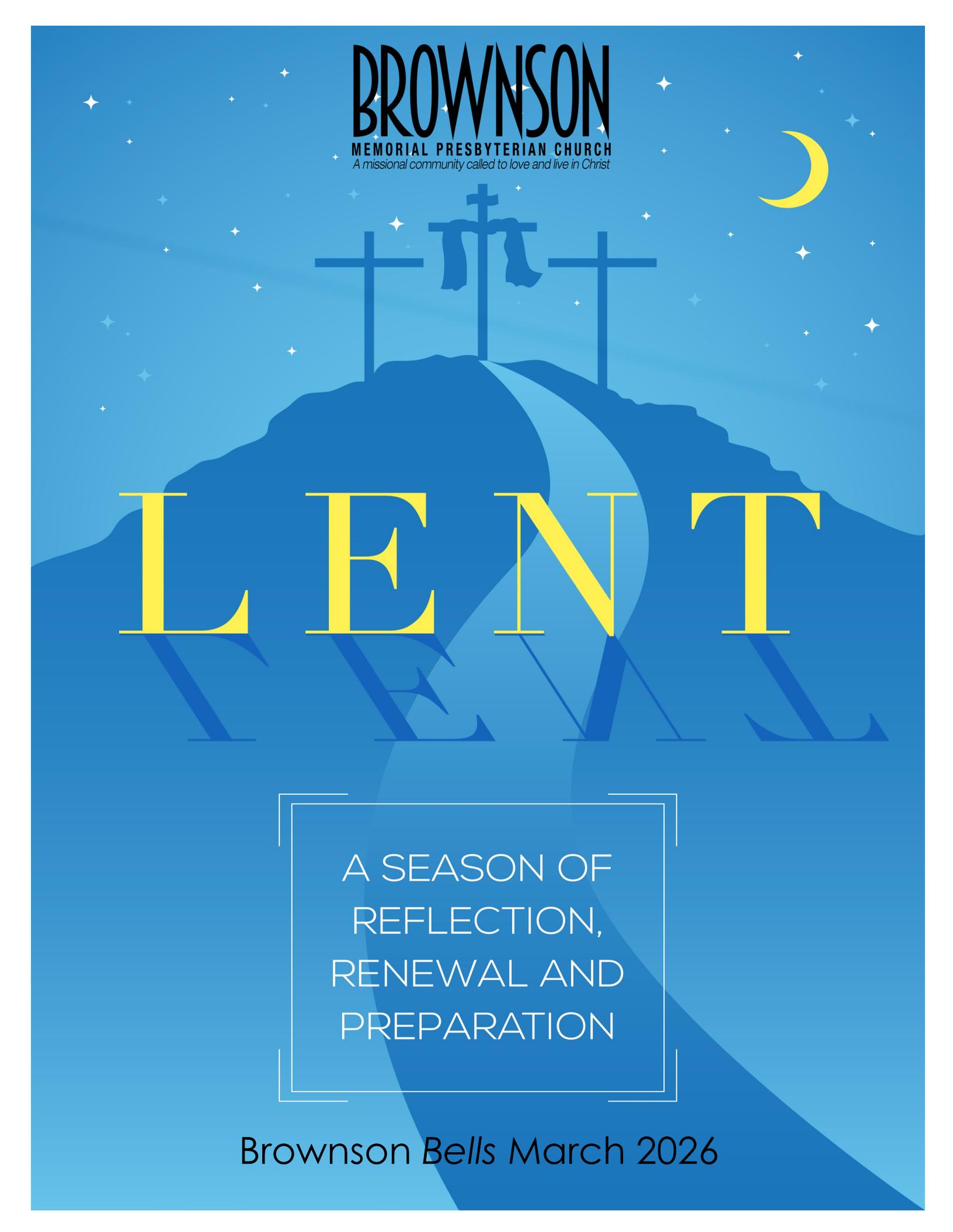


**BROWNSON**

**MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*A missional community called to love and live in Christ*



# LENT

A SEASON OF  
REFLECTION,  
RENEWAL AND  
PREPARATION

Brownson *Bells* March 2026

## COMMUNION CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1 | Sunday, April 5 | Sunday, May 3

# FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES





## Brownson Church Family,

As we enter March, we continue our Lenten journey: *Healing What's Within*.

Someone said to me recently, "I don't need the normal Lent this year. I'm hurting."

That stayed with me. It reminded me that perhaps God was already ahead of us when we planned this series. We are living in a season of hurting.

Many of us have hit a wall. We come to our limits...  
 When diagnoses arrive...  
 When grief settles in...  
 When the world feels like it is turning over...

We began this journey by naming the ache—by naming what we long for, and by naming what separates us from God, our neighbor, and ourselves. We remembered the importance of stillness. Like oxygen, we need the prayer in Psalm 46: "God, you are our refuge and strength... Be still and know that I am God."

Stillness is not weakness.  
 Stillness is trust.

In the third week, we were invited to notice the small graces in our lives and reach, like the woman reaching out for the hem of Christ's garment. We marveled that God enters the mud of our lives and helps us see.

Our healing comes from beyond us, and we find it when we carry one another, as we reflected on in week five. And now, on Palm Sunday, we remember the wounded healer.

May we continue this journey of healing toward Easter morning.  
 May we find peace in God's presence—not always solutions, but love; not always clarity, but companionship.

If you are hurting, come.  
 If you are tired, come.  
 If you are carrying more than you can manage, come.  
 Come let us follow the wounded healer.

Grace and peace,

**John**

**P.S.** Remember our Healing and Wholeness service on Good Friday at 12 PM.  
**P.P.S.** Join us for *Mindfulness and Music*, Wednesdays at 1 PM in the Sanctuary.  
**P.P.P.S.** One way we heal is by being together. It was wonderful to gather recently with the Fellowship of Churches. See the picture on page 2!

**The Session met on Monday, February 23.**

**Devotional:** The monthly devotional was provided by Elder Anne Friesen. This was based on the scripture passage Mark 4:35-41. Despite storms that we may face in our lives, Jesus stays at our side to provide support. He encourages us to lead with faith, wisdom, and courage while remaining humble.

**Session Activities:** Session members were divided into groups of two to reflect on the content of the 2025 Annual Report and discuss their individual impressions. The feedback shared included gratitude for the many blessings the church has received, the diversity of mission initiatives offered, and the inclusive, intergenerational involvement of those programs. The small groups then individually discussed their interpretation of the portion of the Session Covenant to "Keep our focus on doing what is best for the church as a whole." The feedback provided a meaningful discussion of the importance of keeping focus on the overarching goal for Brownson to serve as a Matthew 25 church and to do so with support for and understanding of each other.

**All Together Initiative** – Over the past six months, Session has been discerning how to strengthen connection within our community of faith. To support this important work, we have engaged outside guidance, that was voted and approved by Session, to help us move forward thoughtfully and effectively. The process will begin in the second quarter of 2026, and more information will be shared with the congregation in the coming weeks.

**2026 Annual Corporate Meeting:** As required by the corporate bylaws, the annual BMPC Corporation meeting was held. The purpose was to elect officers for 2026. The slate of officers nominated and approved by vote included: Lisa Hughes - President; Art Edgerton - Secretary; Scott Kittrell - Treasurer.

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

# 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

# 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

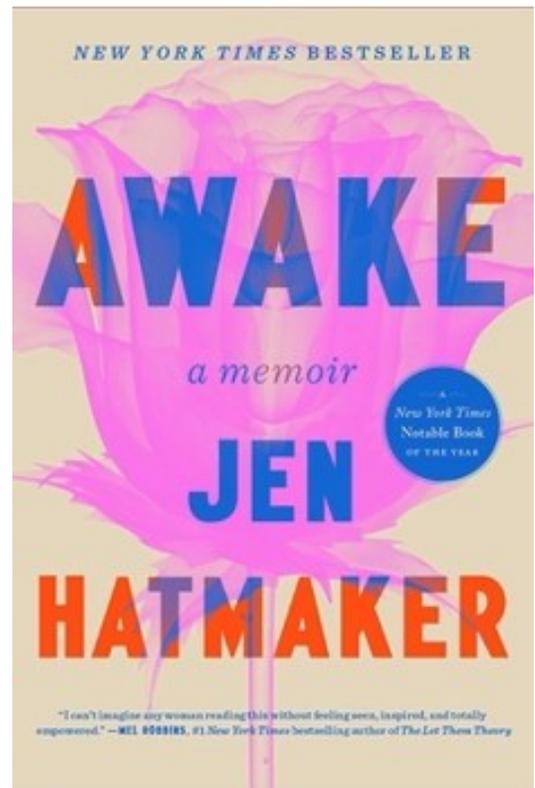
Theology on Tap – A Bible study for the men of the church that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, currently using the Lenten Small Group curriculum. Join us at Hickory Tavern, 9735 US-15 (#501), Pinehurst. All are welcome! Led by Charles Harris and Gerald Ostlund.

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](mailto: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](mailto:bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com) or 334.398.1941).

Moms of All Ages and Stages – This book club for moms of Brownson meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Youth Suite. We read and discuss books, faith, families, and come together for fellowship. Join us on March 11 as we discuss *Awake* by Jen Hatmaker. Please contact Elizabeth Doolin at [elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org) with any questions.

# BROWNSON connects



# Congregational Care and Connection

There are so many ways that we can share Christ's love with our Brownson family: through the Wednesday Prayer Group, Stephen Ministry, the Visitation Ministry Team, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Hospital Team, and more. If you feel God nudging you to get involved in the work of care, please contact Elizabeth Doolin at [elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org).

## 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.

## Stephen Ministry

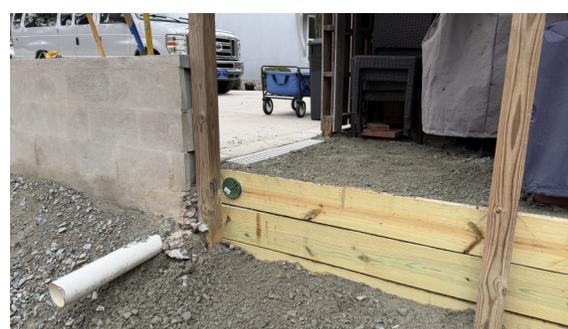
We'd like to have you hear the testimony of a Stephen Ministry Care Receiver. After she and her Stephen Minister completed their formal relationship, she wrote a thank you note to her Stephen Minister. Here are some comments from that letter:

"Often, my Stephen Minister and I would go for a long walk...We caught up on what had happened since our last visit, we explored feelings and how to cope with reactions to what had happened, and we talked through the root of some of those feelings and how to cope with them going forward...When we reached our destination, there was a feeling of renewal, of being able to cope, of hope, of God's presence and of gratitude for the very special person that made that walk with you...It's time for someone else to feel the warmth of walking with a Stephen Minister."

To learn more about this powerful ministry, please contact Rev. Elizabeth, H. Doolin ([elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org)), Jeff Ward ([jeffrey.ward3@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.ward3@gmail.com)) or Gerald Ostlund ([gerald.ostlund@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.ostlund@gmail.com)).

## Handyman Ministry

The Brownson Handyman Ministry has been busy this winter! Intergenerational crews have replaced a shed roof, wired the same shed with power, built a retaining wall and backfilled it with 10 tons of gravel, and built a set of wooden storage shelves. Other recent projects have included rebuilding deck stairs and fixing a broken kitchen drawer. Do you have a need we can help with? Contact: Gerald Ostlund ([gerald.ostlund@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.ostlund@gmail.com)).





## Brownson Youth

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth at the annual Pancake Breakfast! Your donations will go to support dozens of youth who are signed up for the Massanetta, Montreat and Appalachia Service Project trips this summer. If you would still like to make a donation, go to [brownsonchurch.org/give](http://brownsonchurch.org/give) and select Youth Pancake Breakfast from the dropdown menu.

There are a lot of wonderful things planned for March for Brownson Youth! Here's what's coming up for youth group...

**March 1:** Youth Takeover Night. The student leadership team is in charge of youth group this week and is planning a Winter Olympics themed night.

**March 8:** Summer trip registration is due.

**March 15:** This is our annual Christians vs. Romans game!

**March 22:** High school and middle school will split on this night. Middle school will serve at the Coalition while high school does planning and preparation for Youth Sunday.

**March 29:** For youth group the high school youth will be preparing for Youth Sunday while the middle schoolers enjoy games and small group time.

During the month of March, the youth will also continue their study based on the theme of identity and who the Bible says they are. They will learn that they are redeemed, salt and light, branches, chosen and difference makers.

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

# BROWNSON KIDS

*A missional community called to love and live in Christ*

How can it be that Spring is already upon us? We have a lot of exciting things coming up for Brownson Kids as we get ready for Easter!

In Kids Worship, we will be looking at the miracles of Jesus. What a joy to be reminded each Sunday morning, from Mark 10:27, that “everything is possible with God!”

Sunday evening Kids Connect programs continue through our studies of the Parables of Jesus. We have so many exciting events coming up that go right along with these – Birthday Bash (service night), Hungry Hippos, Scavenger Hunts, and more. We’re also looking forward to an afternoon of adventure at Camp Monroe on March 29!

We hope you will commit to worshipping with us and being a part of our family events this Easter season! What a joy to learn, love, and serve together!



VBS—Save the Date

June 22-25 9-12 PM

VBS Sunday | June 28

Register: [brownsonchurch.org/registration](http://brownsonchurch.org/registration)

**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.

Two volunteer opportunities are coming up in March and April.

**Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk** will be **Sunday afternoon March 29** at Union Pines High School. Register or donate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/sandhillinc>. Last year we had over 25 walkers and raised \$2,800. Join us and walk to assist the hungry in our area and beyond.

**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](http://sandhillshabitat.org). The build takes place at 370 Addor Road, Pinebluff.

Our 2026 GOALS Thermometer is about to be updated...we're striving for 4500 pounds of food and 1000 volunteer hours! Please continue to put some extra items into your shopping cart each week and let us know if your groups are volunteering with our partners!

We are so grateful for your donation and for being a part of our cause at Moore Free Clinic. Your generosity makes this organization possible—Leslie Laws



**MOORE  
FREE & CHARITABLE  
CLINIC**

Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.

## What our Partners have to say!

Thank you so much for your continued support—financial, meals provided to our families and all of your volunteers. It means so much to Family Promise and our work with families. We can do what we do because you do what you do! Thank you again for all your blessings—Peggy Hendrix



We are so grateful for the support of Brownson for our preschool at NMFRC. Without it, Hope Academy wouldn't exist...Thank you—Clare Ruggles

Adult and Teen Challenge wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the new partnership and financial support. We also need and covet your prayers. We look forward to sharing success stories with you all this year. God is so good to us and we pray the blessing of God be poured on you each individually and upon the ministry of Brownson!



# Global Missions

Peru 2026

Join us on a mission trip to Peru. Whether you are interested in going with a group to visit the students this summer August 2-8 with an optional excursion to Machu Pichu, or to support this mission financially, we would love to have you join us!

For more information on the trip, contact  
Gerald Ostlund | [gerald.ostlund@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.ostlund@gmail.com)



## Appalachia Service Project

Appalachia Service Project recently hosted their annual Youth Leadership Summit at their year-round center in Jonesville, Virginia. Senior high youth are nominated by their church or community group and selected by the ASP Leadership Team. This year only one in four nominees were selected including Brownson's Ella Hall who has participated in our summer mission trip every year since 2020 when we started with ASP, to help make homes in central Appalachia warm, safe, and dry. Here is a photo of Ella enjoying fellowship on the big porch in Jonesville during the summit.



**ASP**  
Appalachia  
SERVICE PROJECT®

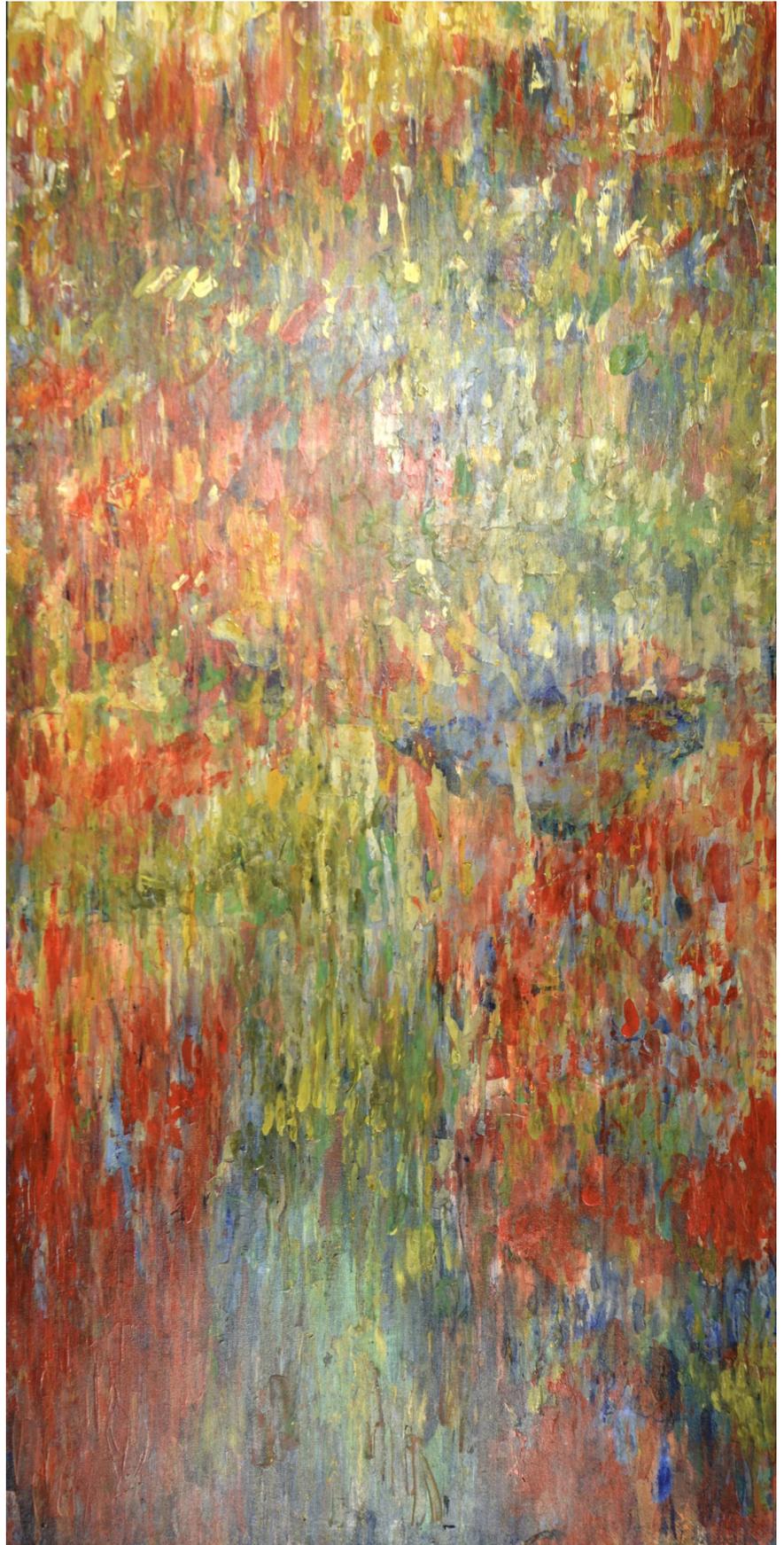
# Worship & Music Notes

Easter Sunday is the high feast of the Christian year – a day when we proclaim with joy and conviction: *Christ is risen!*

At Brownson, one of our most beloved traditions takes place at the close of each Easter worship service. Joined by choir, brass, and timpani, we lift our voices in the triumphant “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel.

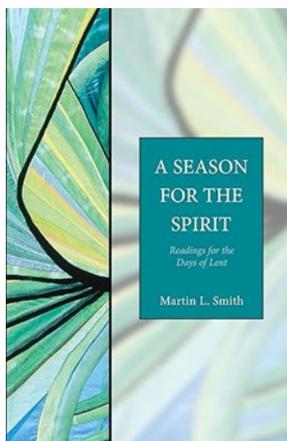
In a beautiful expression of the communion of saints and the shared song of faith, we invite **anyone who has ever sung or would like to sing “Hallelujah Chorus”** to come forward at the end of the service and join the choir in leading this powerful proclamation of the Resurrection. No rehearsal is necessary – only your voice and your joy.

Whether you sang in high school, college, church choir, years ago in a community chorus, or you just like to sing in general, you are warmly invited to be part of this Easter celebration. Together, surrounded by the brilliance of brass and the thunder of timpani, we will stand and declare the good news *Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!*

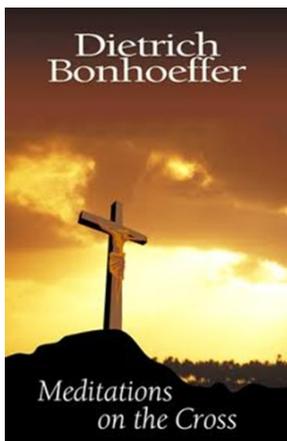


# Brownson Church Library

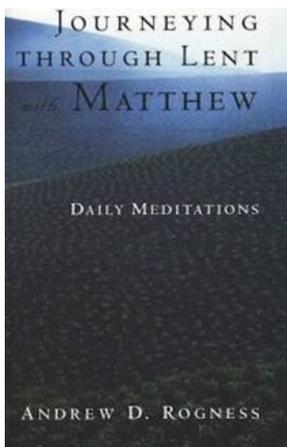
The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM in the Cornerstone Building.



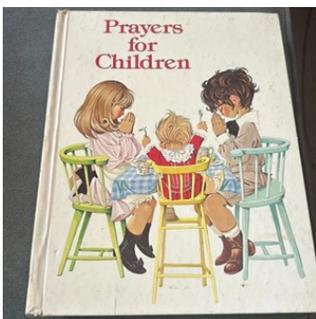
**A SEASON FOR THE SPIRIT** by Martin Smith  
Originally commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1991, *A Season for the Spirit* provides forty daily meditations for Lent, leading us on a journey of discovery in which we find that Christ, through the Spirit, embraces every aspect of our humanity.



**MEDITATIONS ON THE CROSS** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
The cross and the resurrection were central themes for Bonhoeffer's theology. These excerpts from sermons and letters contain his personal and faithful words about the crucifixion and the power of the cross for all Christians.



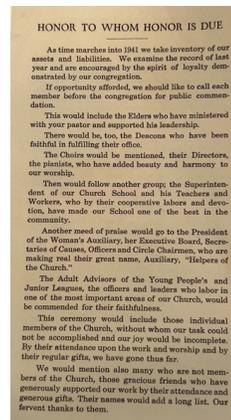
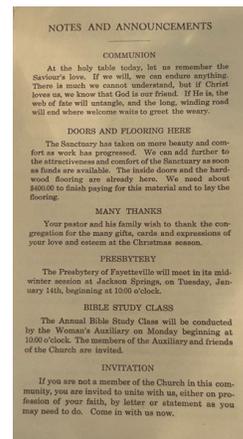
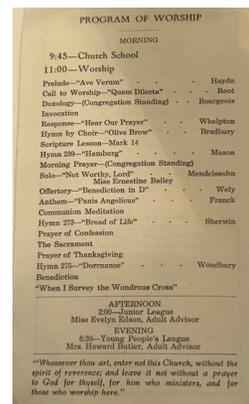
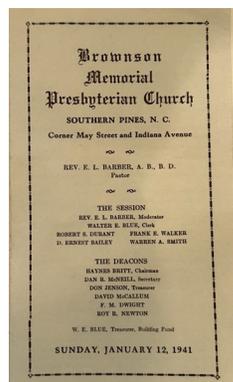
**JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT WITH MATTHEW** by Andrew Rogness  
In this Lenten devotional, each reflection focuses on a key point in Matthew and includes a prayer and inspirational verse, as well as questions for individual reflection or small-group discussion.



**PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN** by Janet and Ann Grahame Johnstone  
64 pages of literary prayers brought to life by the exquisite and highly fashionable artwork of the Grahame Johnstone sisters.

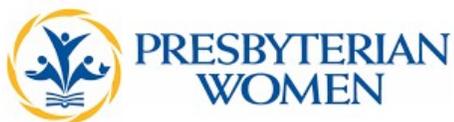
Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church Library  
*"Resources to help grow your faith"*

## From the Archives





*Brownson Presbyterian Women  
Spring Gathering  
March 16, 2026  
9:30 AM | Social Time & refreshments  
10 AM | Program  
Fellowship Hall*



Janet Sue Rush, renowned  
International Motivational  
Speaker and Consultant,  
at our Spring Gathering,  
presents:

*“How to Enjoy Failure,  
Be Amused by Rejection  
and Thrive on Stress”*

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## BIRTHDAYS

### March 1

Nicole Benbow  
Mike Conry  
Priscilla McLeod  
Kellyann Irwin  
Melissa Murphy  
Dana Ritter  
Jeremy Strickland  
Patty Williams  
Samuel Wood

### March 2

Lizzy McClymont  
Braden Mulhau  
Natalie Watson  
Maggie Greenbacker

### March 3

Bonnie Hanley  
Peggy Miller  
Beverley Pellom  
Beverly Powell  
Ava Vonderkall  
Susan Wood

### March 4

Luke Bullock  
Jeffrey Ellis  
Sofie Frankena  
Barrett Goulden  
Jim Tart

### March 5

Hudson Brisson  
Anna Blair Brisson  
Jeff Clay  
Jack Hage  
Charlene Kinelski  
William Saylor

### March 6

Betty Joyner  
Dondra Kujawski  
Lib Shaw

### March 7

Eleanor Doolin  
Jared Garbett  
Robbie North  
Will Pittman  
Austin Smith

### March 8

Liam Entzminger  
Linda Gurnik  
Rebekah Herring  
Alice Herrington  
Wesley Little

### March 9

Ryan Garry

### March 10

Jadah Cole  
Peggy Floyd  
Juan Gauthier  
Trish Harris  
Kelley Kibler  
Katy McGiffin  
Dick Piper  
Dave Wiggins

### March 11

Wells Kuester  
Mike Murphy  
Bruce Rosenberger

### March 12

Payne Carpenter  
Mary Foster  
Will Hunter  
Samuel Kessell  
Linda McKarney  
Pam West

### March 13

Ben Eddy  
Larry Riggan  
Allison Smith

### March 14

Megan McCrimmon  
Kathryn Palmer  
Kelly Palmer  
Linda Stout

### March 15

Jacoline Beann  
Lily Moran  
Charlie Rivers  
Allen Williams

### March 16

Gracie Bell  
Leigh Blanton  
Steve DiMarco  
Katie Jarmusz  
Allyson Metro

### March 17

John Kimbell  
Roger Parramore  
Henry Rohrer  
Patrick Soderlund  
Lloyd Sullivan  
Mason Sullivan

### March 18

Kate Eddins  
Jack Stone

### March 19

Peggy Flygar  
Pat Henry  
Scott Wilson

### March 20

Jane Pajak  
Jim Steele  
Margaret Strickland

### March 21

Marshall Byington  
Katherine Ewing  
Barb Nuenighoff  
Myrna Sandall  
Michael Whatley

### March 22

Linda Anderson  
Jerry Dunn  
Charlie Taylor

### March 23

Allison Harris  
Cooper McCrimmon  
Kellye Parks

### March 24

Dixie Parks

### March 25

Megan Hunt  
Patrick Kirkland  
Gates Moore  
Emily Neller

### March 26

Charles Harris  
Michael White

### March 27

Jackie Dean  
Jean Hutchins  
William Mang  
Sam McGuire

### March 28

Rich Conti  
Pat Copley  
Thomas Dean  
May Fitch  
Pat Henderson

### March 30

Annie Futrell  
Donna Harrell

### March 31

Patricia Smith

## ANNIVERSARIES

### March 3

Rick & Jeanie Riordan

### March 5

Bill & Jeanie Eastman

### March 7

Jim & Karen Fisher

### March 10

Brittini & Kendall Sanborn

### March 13

Kyle & Carrie Simmons

### March 14

Llew & Page Lewis  
Jack & Melody McClellan  
Steve & Allison McLean

### March 15

Mark & Sara James  
Reinemann

### March 17

Matt & Brynn Franks

### March 19

Chase & Leigh Blanton

### March 25

Barry & Angela Ivey  
Bill & Carol Saylor

### March 28

Jack & Pat Dempsey

### March 29

Dan & Emily Neller

Rev. John Hage  
Senior Pastor

[john@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:john@brownsonchurch.org)

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin

Associate Pastor for Congregational  
Care and Connection

[elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org)

Kelli Garbett

Director of Children and their Families  
[children@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:children@brownsonchurch.org)

Erin Pollock

Director of Youth and their Families  
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Amy Shortt

Director of Music Ministries & Organist  
[music@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:music@brownsonchurch.org)

Kacy Depenbrock

Director of Brownson Learning Center  
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Dick Hart

Facilities Manager  
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Lia Keane

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Jody Marley

Bookkeeper  
[finance@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:finance@brownsonchurch.org)

Stacey Ostlund

Church Administrator  
[stacey@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:stacey@brownsonchurch.org)

910.692.6252

[www.brownsonchurch.org](http://www.brownsonchurch.org)

## 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  
*A missional community called to love and live in Christ*

Brownson Church  
330 S. May Street  
Southern Pines, NC 28387



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STAFF TEAM