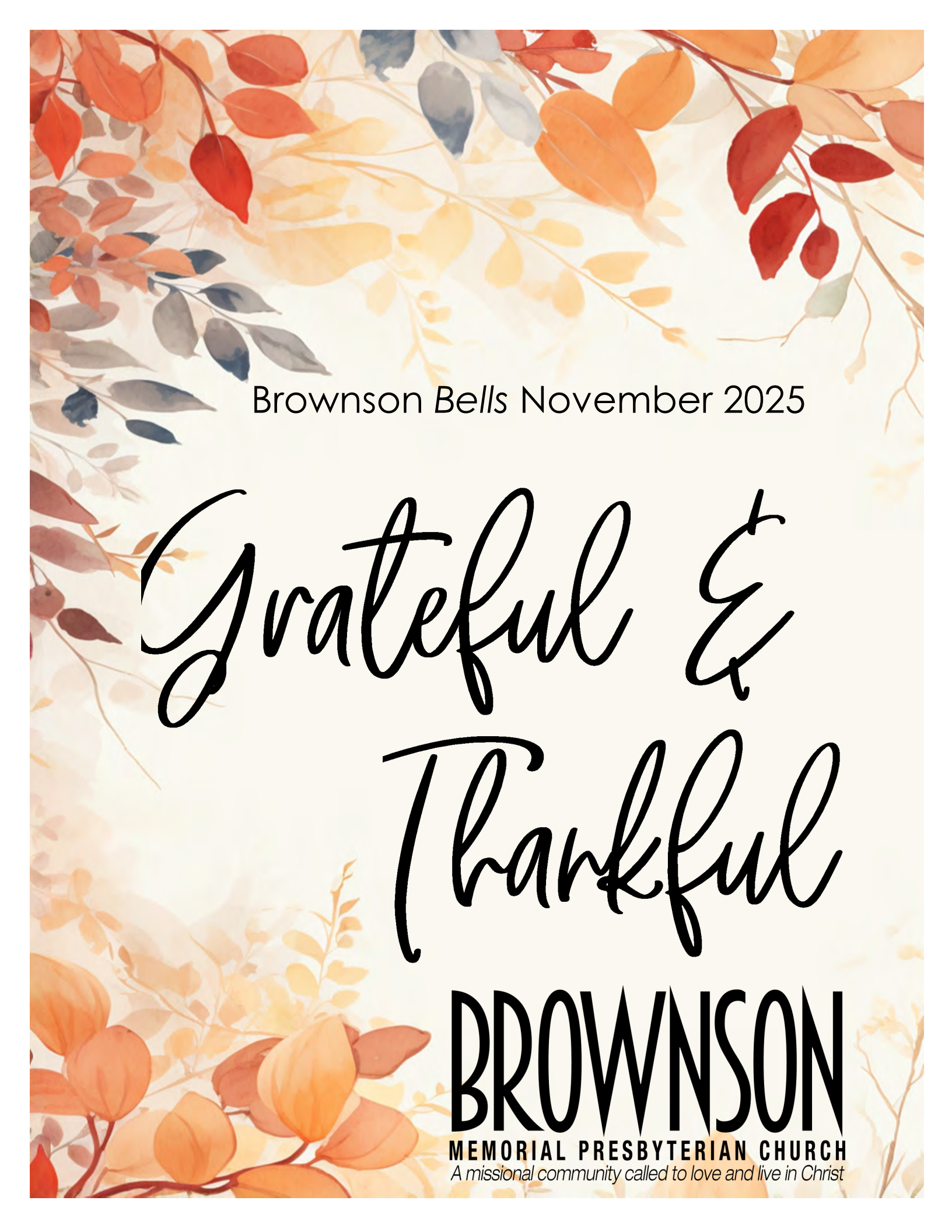




Brownson *Bells* November 2025

Grateful &
Thankful

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

FILL THE TABLE—1,000 GIFTS OF GRACE

Dear Brownson Church Family,

Listen.

It is one of the most important spiritual practices.

On Monday, I received multiple calls, texts, and heartfelt conversations about food insecurity in our community. After prayerfully listening, it became clear that the Holy Spirit was nudging us to act.

We call ourselves a *missional church*—a people both *called* and *sent* by God. In that spirit, we hear Christ's words in Matthew 25 ringing in our ears:

"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat."

Normally, I would have worked this through our usual processes, but this moment feels like a Spirit-led opportunity to respond quickly and faithfully. So, I ask for your forgiveness, your blessing, and your partnership as we take these steps together.

Fill the Table—1,000 Gifts of Grace

This Sunday is **Commitment Sunday**, a day when we bring our pledges to God as an act of worship. This year, we're also asking every household to bring **canned goods or nonperishable food items** to worship—signs of our shared commitment to feed the hungry.

During both services at **9:00 and 11:10 AM**, you'll be invited to bring your pledge cards and food donations forward to the Communion Table. Together, we will fill the space around that table with visible reminders of God's abundance and our call to serve others in Christ's name.

This Sunday will be a beautiful expression of who we are—a community that listens for God's voice and reaches beyond our walls to share Christ's love in real, tangible ways.

Thank you for your generosity, your faith, and the many ways you make ministry possible. My prayer is that this becomes a visible act of worship for all generations—a moment when we commit ourselves not only to the life of the church but to the mission of Christ Himself.

With gratitude and hope,

John
Pastor John

P.S. If you haven't yet filled out your pledge card—or if you'll be away this Sunday—you can submit your pledge online or drop it off at the church office. You may also bring canned goods during the week; a collection cart will be available in the office.



COMMUNION CALENDAR

Sunday, October 5

Sunday, November 2

Sunday, December 7

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Cooper
Carter



Barbara
Gaylord



John & Mary
Tramazzo
(Robbie &
Mary Grace)

SESSION DIGEST

The Session of Brownson met on Monday, October 20.

Devotional - Elder Bill Berger presented the meeting's devotional, which recounted his personal experience in the Air Force and practicing law. He recounted a story related to an Air Force member who was disabled following a work accident. Bill served as the plaintiff attorney for a subsequent lawsuit with a sizeable judgement won. Bill's client elected to donate all proceeds to charity as he considered it an "Act of God" that allowed him to live and provide blessings to others. What an inspiring illustration of perceiving God's benevolence despite an apparent tragic event.

Endowment Realignment - David Wood, Co-chair of Stewardship Ministry and Michael Gantt, Chair of Brownson's Endowment Committee presented an endowment realignment proposal, previously reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Council on 10/13/25. The proposal involves transferring \$300,000 from the Main Endowment to the designated Personnel Endowment to better manage the expected and beyond our control increased personnel expenses related to higher healthcare costs as dictated by the PC (USA) Board of Pensions. After discussion, the proposal was approved by vote of Session with final passage requiring a second vote at next month's Session meeting.

All Together Proposal - Rev. Hage introduced the "Way Forward Plan and Proposal." This proposal reflects a synthesis of deliberations by the Worship Ministry team to pursue an All Together Planning Process. The vision of the Plan is to strengthen the immediate opportunities for connection and belonging and to launch a deliberate, facilitated process to potentially develop an innovative, inclusive worship model that is truly intergenerational and reflects Brownson's purpose and direction. It was noted that this effort was not a result of any current church struggle but rather designed to discern what opportunities for growth and discipleship might lie ahead. The hope is to identify aspects that make Brownson unique and ways to enhance the mission outreach presence in the community, following the discussion, the "Way Forward Plan and Proposal" initiative passed by Session vote.

Commitment Sunday Fill the Table 1,000 Gifts of Grace

Sunday, November 2

Join us in worship as we commit ourselves and our financial gifts to God and to Brownson Church.

We also invite you to gather gifts of food for our community in need.

Canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta, peanut butter and jelly are all in need at The Coalition for Human Care in Moore County.

Help us fill the Table and be a Missional Community Called to Love and Live in Christ.

Brownson Connects

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. Bring your coffee and donuts to Conference Room C and join the conversation! Led by Austin Vernon.

Mid-Week Adult Studies

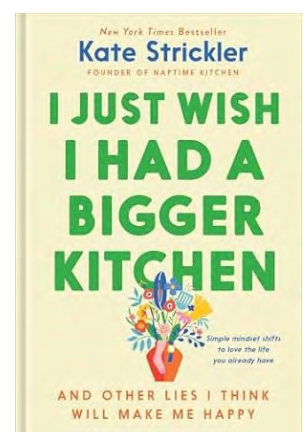
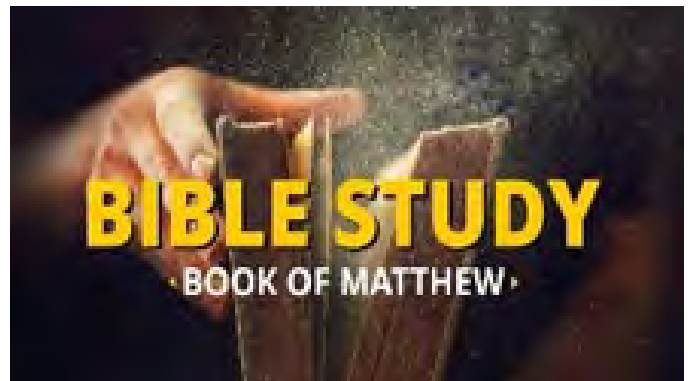
Theology on Tap – A Bible study for the men of the church that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. Join us at Hickory Tavern. 9735 US-15 (#501), Pinehurst. All are welcome! Led by Charles Harris and Gerald Ostlund.

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.

A Fall Bible Study on the Book of Matthew: Join Alice Herington'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 Rev. Austin Vernon (discipleship@brownsonchurch.org) or Bill Berger (bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com or 334.398.1941).

Moms of All Ages and Stages – This group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Youth Suite. We read books, spend time together, and discuss our faith and families. Join us on November 12 as we dive into Kate Stickler's *I Just Wish I Had a Bigger Kitchen: And Other Lies I Think Will Make Me Happy*. Please contact Elizabeth Doolin at elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org with any questions.

BROWNSON connects



Adult Discipleship

Congregational Care & Connection Updates

It is hard to believe that November is already upon us, with the holiday season rapidly approaching. As we move closer to Thanksgiving, I cannot help but be grateful for all the people at Brownson Church who live out our commitment to caring member to member. It is because of you that Christ's light shines throughout this community. Though we are not a heavily "programmatic" ministry, there are so many who quietly show love in many ways. We do however have a few special services coming up to highlight some of our ministries and offer care through the power of worship:

Prayer Shawl Sunday: December 7

If you have been gifted a prayer shawl, you are invited to wear it to church this Sunday. We hope to highlight the impact of this ministry on the lives of many at Brownson who have tangibly felt the love and care of this community through a prayer shawl. As a reminder, if you know anyone at Brownson or beyond who is going through a challenging time, you are always welcome to stop by the church office and pick up a prayer shawl (located in my office closet).

The Longest Night Service: Thursday December 18, 6 PM

While the Christmas season is thought of as one of joy, we know that this can be a difficult time for many. Hardships can make this season a challenging one – from illness and injury, grief and loss, financial difficulties, strained relationships, among many others – we recognize that the holidays can amplify pain. In this service, you are invited to bring your prayers before God as we light candles, sing, and listen to the words of scripture, reminding us that God walks with us in all seasons of life.

Congregational Care and
Connection



Rise Against Hunger

On October 19, over 130 adults, youth, and children gathered to pack 20,000 meals in Fellowship Hall. These meals will feed thousands of food insecure people in Sudan. Thank you to all who participated and helped organize this amazing, intergenerational service opportunity. This is just another wonderful example of us living into our identity as a Matthew 25 church!

The children have been rehearsing on Sunday evenings preparing to sing in worship on November 2. They have learned the hymn *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* and how they can be one too!

The children and youth will also be preparing to sing in part of our annual Christmas Cantata on **December 14**. Cantata Sunday is a special Sunday at Brownson when our Chancel Choir along with instrumentalists present beautiful Christmas music during the worship services. We are excited for the children and youth to add their voices this year! A generous donor has paid for the children to have choir robes, and we are grateful! If you would like your child or youth to participate, please contact Ms. Amy, Mrs. Kelli, or Mrs. Erin for more information. If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir, contact Ms. Amy. There is a place for everyone!

Our bell choir has resumed rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and will ring in worship on November 16.

Our Chancel Choir will be “day trippers” at the Church retreat on Saturday, November 8. We will use part of that time to have a focused rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata and the rest of the time to participate in all the retreat has to offer. We are grateful to our Chancel Choir for giving so freely of their time and talents, not only for the Saturday retreat, but for the Wednesday rehearsal and for the meaningful music they bring to our worship services each Sunday.

For all these musical things and many more, we say, “Thank You!”

Amy

MUSIC NOTES

Christmas Decorating

Join us on Saturday, November 22 at 9 AM to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. It's a great event for all the family to participate. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Questions: Mollie Calhoun (703-507-5547) or Debbie Brooks (910-527-5113).

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in honor of in memory of a loved one that will don the steps of the Chancel on Christmas Eve, please use a yellow special offering envelope found in the pews to make your dedication and donation. The deadline to sponsor a poinsettia is December 16. Following our 6 PM service on Christmas Eve, you may take a poinsettia home with you.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR MEETS TO REHEARSE
ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM IN THE MUSIC
SUITE—ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE HANDBELL CHOIR MEETS TO REHEARSE
ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5:45 PM IN THE
HANDBELL ROOM.



Brownson Youth

Here's what November will bring for Brownson Youth:

November will kickoff with the annual Sunday Serve on November 2. This is a time for the youth to give back to the congregation that gives them so much support. They will do yardwork, help with heavy lifting, clean gutters and even spruce up some things on Brownson's campus all in an effort to live out their calling to show Christ's love to others. It is one of their favorite weeks of the year!

On November 9 there will be no youth group because of the church retreat.

November 16 the youth group game will be Glow in the Dark Capture the Flag. This is always tons of fun! They will also learn that they are unconditionally loved through studying verses in John.

And on November 23 the youth will celebrate friendships with each other and with God during Friendsgiving. This is a time to express our gratitude and to talk about what friendship really means. It is also a time to learn about how God is our friend.

There will be no youth group on November 30 as we celebrate Thanksgiving!

Brownson Youth is so thankful for the adult volunteers that help youth group run so smoothly. It could not be done without them so a huge thank you goes out to Ken MacDonald, Andrew Benbow, Cooper Carter, Time Beidleman, Emily Zalneck, Dixie Parks, Ginger Monroe, Chelsea Morrison and Little C Freberg.



What are we thankful for in Brownson Kids?

- Nursery workers who love our all our Brownson babies! Thank you Miss Barbara, Miss Taniya, Miss Brynn, Miss Natasha, and Miss Elizabeth. We are so grateful for you!
- Volunteers galore - Volunteers who so generously give of their time to ensure that our kids are loved and shown the love of Jesus!
- Sunday morning Kids Worship – Worshipping alongside a group of children who are so excited about their faith is contagious!
- Kids Connect – Laughter, joy, fun, learning, and hosts of kids bringing their friends!
- 4th Sundays with Families – It's incredible to hear the singing, listen to the stories, and watch the parents connecting with one another.
- New bells to ring and new songs to sing!
- Scripture that reminds us to "let the little children come to me." As we tell Bible stories and play silly games and have all the wiggles, we are reminded of this encouraging scripture!
- A church that loves our kids and supports our Brownson Kids ministries!



Brownson Kids

9



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

Local Missions

Mission Statement:

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

Local Missions is extremely grateful for our generous congregation! Whether it's shoes or food or time, our members are always willing to give.

Brownson Buddies is underway for our fourth year! Tutors will be working with 10-12 3rd graders after school on Mondays.

In addition, it's time for our biennial coat drive to help our friends at Southern Pines Elementary stay warm this winter. There will be a large box in the Atrium beginning November 2 where you can place new or gently used coats. Any extras will be shared with our families in the CARE group.

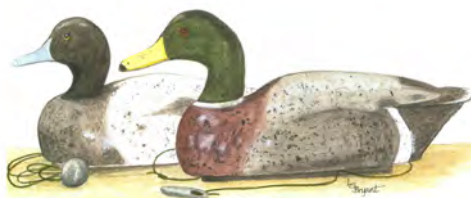
SAVE THE DATE...Wednesday, December 10 to help our families in Robbins do their Christmas shopping at NMFRC. Watch the bulletin this month to learn how to sign-up!



Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women's Missions Fundraiser kicks off on Sunday, November 2 in the Atrium between services.

Plan to purchase beautifully designed note cards by Brownson member and artist Linda Bryant.

New designs are available this year along with classic favorites.

You can purchase sets of eight for \$12.50 in the Atrium every Sunday in November.

They make great gifts and all proceeds benefit the mission work of the Presbyterian Women of Brownson Church.

Circles

CIRCLE 2 2 nd Tuesday—10 AM Room C	Elaine Sills elainemorgansills@gmail.com	910-690-5379
CIRCLE 3 2 nd Monday—11 AM Room C	Sandra Olbon foxhuntlane@gmail.com	910-603-4804
CIRCLE 4 1 st Thursday—10:15 AM Room C	Kathy McPherson kathy@clanmcperson.com	910-420-0413
CIRCLE 6 2 nd Monday—10 AM Room B	Libby Marsh 72bulbqueen18@gmail.com	910-690-9600
CIRCLE 7 3 RD WEDNESDAY – 11 AM ROOM C	Lisa Beck eliza.beck7@gmail.com	910-639-5827

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Brownson Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Library

*"Resources to help
grow your faith"*

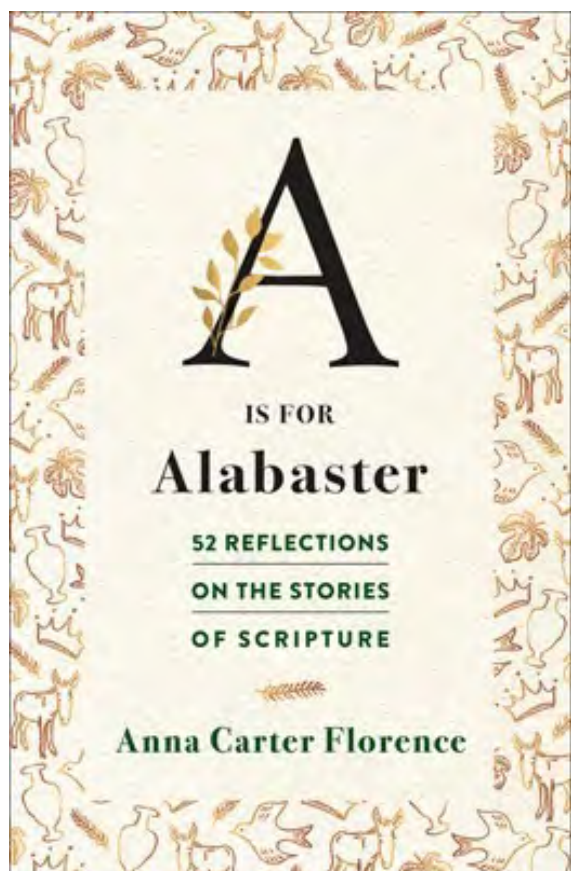
Brownson Church Library

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

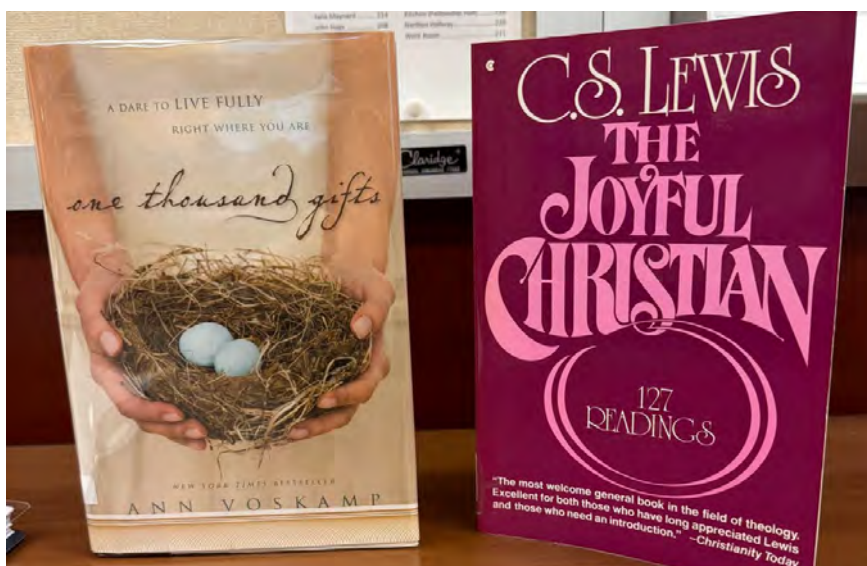
STAFF PICK | Elizabeth Doolin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
and Connection

I was recently feeling stale in my connection to scripture and ordered this book on a whim, hoping for a devotional that would offer inspiration. *A is For Alabaster* did not disappoint! Anna Carter Florence, a professor of Homiletics at Columbia Theological Seminary, offers this collection of fifty-two reflections in the form of an *abecedary*: an alphabetical primer covering both the Old and New Testaments. She touches on stories both familiar and obscure, illuminating their depths in ways that felt fresh and exciting. In her introduction, she describes the book this way: "a glimpse of how reading the Bible *could* be; how *we* could be, with a little more room and freedom." This is how reading scripture through her eyes felt: like a dive into cool waters, swimming through the adventure and possibility of God's kingdom as revealed in scripture.

This book will soon be available to check out from our shelves at 220.6 FLO.



***A is For Alabaster: 52 Reflections on
the Stories of Scripture*
by Anna Carter Florence**



***One Thousand Gifts* By Ann Voskamp**

What if you discovered that the life you already have is the life you've always wanted? What if joy and gratefulness is possible right where you are? Ann Voskamp invites you to embrace everyday blessings and embark on the transformative journey of thankfulness and chronicling God's gifts.

Find it on our shelves at 248.4 VOS

***The Joyful Christian* By C.S. Lewis**

C.S. Lewis, himself a convert, wrote of being "surprised by joy" when he discovered his belief in Jesus Christ. In these 127 devotional readings, selected from Lewis's many works on faith and spirituality, Lewis offers inspiration for all those who hunger and thirst after joy.

Find it on our shelves at 230 LEW

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November 1
Will Harris
Tori Little
Penn Morris
Kasjen Pomplun
November 2
Nancy Ahlfeld
Sheila Rock
Spencer Roy
November 3
Julian Beneviat
Maggie Neller
November 4
Mary Tart
November 5
Bob Andradé
Ginny Campling
David De Blasio
Gerald Ostlund
Olivia Moran
November 6
Franklin Butler
Sharon Ramsey
November 7
Jim Simeon
Harry Webb
November 8
Janet Barr
Steven Graves
Jack Platt
Mollie Calhoun
November 9
Miriam Hage
Amanda Picerno
November 10
Audrey Haro
Jayne Smith
Sue Ulrich
November 11
JoAnn Erickson
Joan Puckett
Ravon Sheppard
November 12
Hannah Bullock
Lolly Nazario
November 13
Bill Berger
Brennan Bullock
Carol Haney
November 14
Laurie Morris
Sarah Parrish

November 15
Mandie Beneviat
Lynn Joyner
Martha Lou Kirkland
Will Minkus
Ryan Riggan
November 16
John De Blasio
Melanie Gayle
November 17
Wes Little, Jr.
JC Simpson
November 18
Joe Boals
Halle Hunt
Courtney McGuirt
Lauren O'Brien
Drake Sanborn
Stuart White
November 19
Emmy Lou Blue
Mike Carlson
Betty Crowder
Caroline Eddy
Natalee French
Cheryl McNeill
November 20
Stephanie Ames
Loretta Breausseale
November 21
Robyn Lam
Zachary Wilson
November 22
Anita Emery
November 23
Shannon Carpenter
Marissa Hall
Russell McAllister
C.S. Morris
Gloria Revere
Freddy Vinson
November 24
Nick Blanton
Dixon Ciccone
Kathy Desmond
Marvin Hage
November 25
Don Branch
Mary Pat Buie
Arden Doolin
John Pandich
November 26
Chris Hall

November 27
Bo Boals
Ellie Collins
David McNeill
November 28
Jon Bachelder
Paul Whit Howard
Thompson Patti
Bud Seifert
Bill Seskey
November 29
Holly MacDonald
Anne Martin
Lauren Polkow
Lillian Stokes
November 30
Bo Kuester
Augusta Smith
Fulton Smith, Jr.
Kaylee Wilson
Erin Pollock

ANNIVERSARIES

November 3
Terry & Lynn Connolly
Jim & Tracie Marino
November 4
Vincent & Jessica Collogan
Patrick & Amelia Kirkland
November 6
Phil & Pennie Duggins
November 8
Jim & Kimball Saunders
November 9
Russell & Ann McAllister
November 10
Art & Ann Edgerton
November 11
Matt & Kathryn Fanning
November 12
Duck & Shirley Rufty
November 14
Rudy & Neely Fleischmann
David & Alice Sherrod
November 16
Logan & Ashleigh Beck
November 19
Bob McCall & Pamela Guest
November 23
Chuck & Sue Davis
Warren & Sandra McCrimmon

November 24
Rich & Sara Conti
November 25
Chris & Ally Markotich
Gerald & Stacey Ostlund
November 26
Ryan & Sarah Ordway
Chan & Lucy Roberts
November 28
Jeff & Julie Gilbert
November 29
Walker & Judy Oldham
November 30
Ken & Cindy Goodman



Brownson Learning Center

Fall is such an exciting time in the Learning Center as there is just so much to observe changing in the world around us! The Brownson Learning Center spent time last month at the pumpkin patch, collecting and observing leaves and pumpkins, and even had some very special visitors from the fire station. We also spend November talking with our students about thankfulness and generosity. Even our youngest students can understand that we are able to give because of God's great goodness and generosity to us. We at the BLC are so thankful for all our families and for our wider church family who continue to offer us their generous support.



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

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)

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Brownson Church
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Southern Pines, NC 28387



Rev. John Hage
Senior Pastor
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Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin
Associate Pastor for Congregational
Care and Connection
elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org

Rev. Austin Vernon
Associate Pastor for Discipleship and
Missions
discipleship@brownsonchurch.org

Kelli Garbett
Director of Children and their Families
children@brownsonchurch.org

Erin Pollock
Director of Youth and their Families
youth@brownsonchurch.org

Amy Shortt
Director of Music Ministries & Organist
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Kacy Depenbrock
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Dick Hart
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Lia Keane
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Jody Marley
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Stacey Ostlund
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STAFF TEAM