

# BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## January 18, 2026



*St. John the Baptist by Kreg Yingst*

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**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](http://www.brownsonchurch.org) — 910.692.6252**

**Sunday Worship | 9 & 11:10 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** *O Worship the King* arr. Hamilton  
Amy Shortt, piano

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

**News of the Church Alive** Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Assoc. Pastor for Congregational Care and Connection*

## The Praise of God

**+Call to Worship** God calls us here together – each of us, all of us, our whole selves.  
**We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.**  
Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.  
**Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.**  
Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.  
**Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!**

**+Hymn 463** *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

## Confessing

**Call to Confession** Rev. Cynthia Strickland

**Prayer of Confession** Eternal God, we confess we have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. Amen.

**Kyrie**



Cantor to sing first. Congregation 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** Gracyn Myrick

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.

**Song of Illumination** *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**  
**Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.**  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Scripture Lesson** John 1:29-42 Holy Bible, page 968  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Can I Get a Witness? Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Assoc. Pastor*

Anthem	Witness	African American Spiritual   arr. Patterson
	(9 AM) Quartet (11:10 AM) The Chancel Choir	

## Responding

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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	Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15	Rev. Cynthia Strickland
	<b>God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.</b>	

+Gloria	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	GREATOREX
	<b>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.</b>	

Prayers of the People	
The Lord's Prayer	<b>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.</b>

Invitation to the Offering		
Offertory	<i>Total Praise</i>	arr. Richard Smallwood
	(9 AM) Quartet (11:10 AM) The Chancel Choir	

+Presentation of Gifts	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
	<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</b>	

Prayer of Thanksgiving	(9 AM) Ruth Burgin (11:10 AM) Alex Bowness
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## Departing

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+Hymn 726	<i>Will You Come and Follow Me</i>	KELVINGROVE
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+Benediction

+Congregational Response 306	<i>Blest Be the Tie that Binds</i>	Dennis
	<b>Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.</b>	

*A moment of silence followed by three chimes, signifying the Trinity, concludes Worship.*

Postlude	<i>Rondeau</i>	arr. Henry Purcell
	Amy Shortt, organ	

## Announcements

**The importance of Chancel Flowers.** Chancel Flowers are dedicated by our members to the Glory of God in honor or memory of loved ones. On Monday, they are made into small bouquets by our Flower Ministry Team and delivered to our members who may be sick, in the hospital or grieving in some way. To provide flowers, the 2026 Chancel Flower calendar is posted in the Atrium

**Winter Bible Study** – Join us as we resume our in-depth Bible study on the Book of Matthew Wednesdays from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room. If you have questions or need information, please contact Alice Herrington ([aherrington7@gmail.com](mailto:aherrington7@gmail.com)) or Bill Berger ([bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com](mailto:bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com)).

**The Congregational Care and Connection Team is putting together a "Dine Around" starting in February.** Through "Dine Around," Brownson members will get together for monthly meals in small groups. Members will be placed in groups of 8 to get together once a month for 4 months at each other's homes, restaurants, parks, or wherever the host for the month chooses. It is a fun and easy way to get to know one another! The signup deadline is January 30. Call or email Ann Edgerton to sign up or reach out if you have questions: [annkedgerton@gmail.com](mailto:annkedgerton@gmail.com), (910)638-8260.

**Meet & Greet for Prospective New Members, Sunday January 25, 10:15 AM, Parlor**—If you have been visiting Brownson and want to learn more about church membership, please join Rev. John Hage and members from the New Member Welcome Team for conversation and information about membership. Grab a coffee and donut and stop by!

**PERU 2026 Mission Trip**— We will host an informational discussion and Peruvian lunch on Sunday, January 25 following the second service for anyone interested in our work in Peru and possibly joining the summer mission trip. Sign up so we know how much food to order at: [Brownsonchurch.org/registration](http://Brownsonchurch.org/registration). For additional information please contact Gerald Ostlund at [gerald.ostlund@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.ostlund@gmail.com) or Pastor John Hage at [john@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:john@brownsonchurch.org).

**Lenten Small Groups are on the way!** Titled "*Healing What's Within: Coming Home, Mystics, Music and Meaning*," this year's series begins the week of February 22. These small groups are an incredible way to build community within the church while diving deeply into God's Word. Please be on the lookout for details as we deepen discipleship in our church family.

For information, please contact Bill Berger at: [bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com](mailto:bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com)

**Sunday, January 18 | 3:30 PM- MLK Community Worship Service**

A powerful afternoon of worship with outstanding choirs and an inspiring message that will lift your soul. Come together in united fellowship. Location: WSP Center (Old Southern Pines Primary School Auditorium) 1250 W. New York Ave., Southern Pines, NC

**Monday, January 19 | 10:00 AM- 2026 MLK March**

A decades-long tradition and a visible witness to unity as we walk together from downtown to the WSP Center Auditorium.

Route: Start at Downtown Park → End at WSP Center Auditorium

**Save the Date**  
**VBS**  
**June 22-25**  
**9:00—Noon**

## Music Notes

Richard Smallwood, a gospel singer and recording artist nominated eight times for Grammy Awards, passed away on December 31, 2025. He was 77. Smallwood's songs were performed and recorded over the years by artists such as Whitney Houston, Stevie Wonder, Destiny's Child, and Boyz II Men. Singer Chaka Khan wrote after his death, "His music didn't just inspire me, it transformed me. He is my favorite pianist, and his brilliance, spirit, and devotion to the music have shaped generations, including my own journey." *Total Praise* became a modern-day hymn that touched people from all types of backgrounds and walks of life. You can go into any kind of church — a Black church, a white church, a nondenominational church — and you might hear that song. Somehow it found its footing throughout the whole Christian world.

## Sunday Morning

### NURSERY

During the 9 & 11:10 AM services, Brownson has a full service nursery for children 3 and under, where loving staff are ready to welcome your children. The nursery is located in the Education Building. Please see an usher for assistance.

### CHILDREN

Kids, pre-K through grade 5, are invited after Moment with the Children at both services to join Kids Worship. Parents, if your child is participating, please fill out a Brownson Kids sticker for each child, place it on them before they come to the front. Stickers are in the pews.

### ADULT GROUPS

**The Living Word Today**— Non-partisan current events are discussed each Sunday morning using *The Wired Word* curriculum with Biblical references. Conference Room A at 10 AM or Zoom. Log in to Zoom.com: Meeting ID: 825 8501 9818 Passcode: 664945.

**The Ligon Bible Class**—This class studies: *The Present Word* quarterly curriculum. Join us in Conference Room B at 10 AM. Led by Don and Linda Branch.

**Donuts and Devotionals**—Join us in Conference Room C at 10:15 AM. We discuss some of the most important stories in the Bible. Led by Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin and others facilitators.

### HIGHER GROUNDS

Everyone is welcome to join in a time of fellowship, coffee and donuts in the Atrium during the 10 o'clock hour.

## Kids & Youth Connect Groups

### KIDS CONNECT

No kids programs tonight. Enjoy your long weekend!

If you have any questions about kids programs, please reach out to Kelli at [children@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:children@brownsonchurch.org).

### YOUTH CONNECT

There is no youth group tonight because of the MLK holiday. Please keep our high schoolers in prayer as they're on the ski trip this weekend. High school Bible study is Thursday morning 7:30-8:15 AM at PineScone Southern Pines.

If you have any questions about youth ministry, please contact Erin Pollock at [youth@brownsonchurch.org](mailto:youth@brownsonchurch.org).

## Serving Today

**Thank you to our Greeters serving today:**

**(9 AM)** Head Usher: Chris Jordan, Paula Zellers, Marjorie Heffner, Kelley J. Kibler, Chris Kibler, Mary Hamblen.

**(11:10 AM)** Head Usher: Don Power, Betsy Robinson, Anita Emery, Susan and Alex Bowness, Pat Henry.

## Prayers and Praise

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor and memory of our family members, given by Anne and John Krahnert.

## Mid Week Adult Bible Studies

*The Brownson's Men's Groups, Mom's Group and Presbyterian Women invite everyone of the church to join in their Bible Study and fellowship.*

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**— Tuesday, January 20, 7 AM at Sizzlin' Steak or Eggs, 1850 US 1, Southern Pines. Led by Bill Berger.

**PW Circle 7**—Wednesday, January 21 at 11 AM in Conference Room C.