

BROWNSON

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A missional community called to love and live in Christ

Healing from Within

Christ | Mystics | Music | Meaning

2026 Lenten Series

Brownson Bells February 2026



Dear Brownson Church Family,

Lent is a journey—not a rush to Easter, but a faithful walking with Christ toward the cross and the empty tomb. This year, we are inviting our congregation into a Lenten journey shaped by healing, reflection, and hope through our small group series **Healing What's Within: Christ, Mystics, Music, and Meaning**.

Lent has always been a season of prayer, self-examination, and preparation for resurrection life. In the early church, it was a time of preparing for baptism; today, it remains a sacred invitation to return to God with honesty and humility. The way to Easter runs through the cross, reminding us that new life is born as we release what no longer gives life and open ourselves to God's renewing grace.

This series begins with a simple but profound question: *What if Lent—Christ's journey toward the cross—is also a journey of healing? Not abstract healing, but healing that touches our real lives—our stories and wounds, our fears and longings. Drawing inspiration from the work of Rev. Chuck DeGroat, we will explore how spiritual healing begins when we allow God to meet us in our inner lives with compassion and truth.*

Small groups will be at the heart of this journey. Groups will meet at a variety of times throughout the week, making it possible to find a rhythm that fits your schedule. Healing happens best in community, and perhaps God is gently nudging you to be part of one of these groups this Lent.

Our journey begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**:

• **12 PM** – Community Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel Episcopal Church (with the Fellowship of Churches)

• **6 PM** – Ash Wednesday Service at Brownson, with the Imposition of Ashes

As we begin Lent, we name an important truth: healing does not come from us; it comes from God. God's healing is often slow, patient, and mysterious. Lent is not about fixing ourselves, but about making space—trusting that Christ will meet us with grace sufficient for the journey.

My prayer is that this season might be one of honesty, renewal, and quiet transformation for each of us—and for our church family.

Grace and peace,

Pastor John Hage

P.S. Please save the date for a joyful milestone in the life of our church! We will celebrate **Brownson's 90th Anniversary on Sunday, May 3, with one unified worship service**, followed by an **all-church photo and a shared meal**. We hope you'll plan to be part of this special day together.

SESSION DIGEST

The Session of Brownson met for an Elder Retreat on Saturday, January 24. They participated in an exercise to identify personal characteristics held in common.

Paddling Together: Rev. Hage reviewed a passage in John in which we are called to move together. How do we effectively work in unison? It is best to move together, guided by Christ. The concept was illustrated by an exercise of four Elders paddling an imaginary boat. Initially, the effort was poorly coordinated but through communication, a synchronous effort evolved.

Covenant Community Prayer: Rev. Hage opened this section with prayer. The Session Covenant was read. The discussion then centered around the importance of connecting with each other and sharing prayer concerns and joys. The Elders then paired off one-on-one and shared their individual concerns for which the other offered prayer.

Review of 2025 ALL IN Goals and Discernment for 2026.

Budget Review and Approval: The proposed 2026 budget as developed by the Stewardship Team and approved by the Coordinating Council was reviewed in detail by the entire Session. After review and discussion, the budget as stated was approved by Session vote.

All Together Consultant Update: Rev. Hage introduced this topic and provided background. The additional three members of the All Together Recommendation team (Art Edgerton, Betsy Robinson and Anne Friesen) shared their thoughts, lessons learned and recommendations. The Session members were tasked with reviewing the provided information with the anticipation that a more in-depth discussion and final recommendation would take place at the February Session meeting.

90th Anniversary Celebration Update: Carol Haney joined the meeting to provide an update on preparations for the 90th anniversary celebration. The selected date for a focused celebration is Sunday, May 3, 2026. Potential plans include statements from early members/past pastoral staff, special music and a congregational luncheon. An additional community wide celebration is targeted for the fall.



Remembering with Gratitude,
Moving Forward in Faith

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 3

One Service @ 10:30

All Church Picture

Church Family Meal

Adult Discipleship

Lenten Small Groups are on the way!

Titled "Healing What's Within: Christ, 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.

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 Elizabeth Doolin and other group leaders.

Mid-Week Adult Studies

Theology on Tap – A Bible study for the men of the church will begin with the Lenten Series Small Groups. 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! For more information, please contact Bill Berger at bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com.

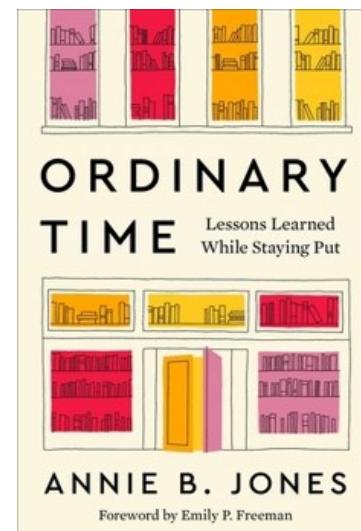
Spring Bible Study on the Book of Matthew: Join Alice Herrington's in-depth Bible study on the Book of Matthew from 10:30 AM – 12 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room. If you have questions or need information, please contact Bill Berger (bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com or 334.398.1941).

Moms of All Ages and Stages – This group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Youth Suite. We read and discuss books, faith, families, and come together for fellowship. Join us on February 11 as we discuss *Ordinary Time* by Annie B. Jones. Please contact Elizabeth Doolin at elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org with any questions.

BROWNSON connects



brownson moms book club
winter & spring 2026
JANUARY 14 - 7PM - DINNER AT VAQUERA
FEBRUARY 11 - 7PM - ORDINARY TIME BY ANNIE B. JONES
BROWNSON YOUTH SUITE
MARCH 11 - 7PM - AWAKE BY JEN HATMAKER
BROWNSON YOUTH SUITE
APRIL 8 - 7PM - THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
BROWNSON YOUTH SUITE
MAY 13 - 7PM - COUNTERWEIGHTS BY SHANNAN MARTIN
BROWNSON YOUTH SUITE
CONTACT ERIN POLLOCK TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL LIST!
YOUTH@BROWNSONCHURCH.ORG



Congregational Care and Connection

As we enter the second month of 2026, we hope that this year brings you joy, peace, and the love of Christ. 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

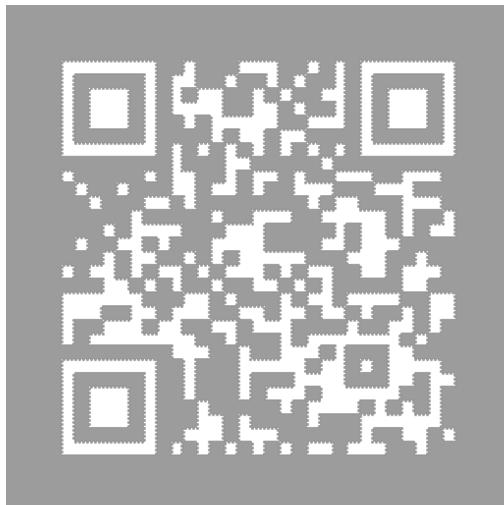
Upcoming Opportunities

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! Call or email Ann Edgerton to sign up or reach out if you have questions: annkedgerton@gmail.com, (910)638-8260.

Chili Cook-Off – Sunday March 8, 4:30—6 PM – Fellowship Hall

Join us for this year's chili cook-off! We will taste test chilis crafted by Brownson cooks, crowning winners for the best of 2026! This is fun fellowship opportunity for members of all ages. PB&J will be provided for our younger eaters who may not be chili fans. If you would like more information, please contact Sharon Ramsey at sharonramsey.nc@gmail.com or sign up to be a chili cook or volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090545AFAB23A31-45644895-chili>





BROWNSON
YOUTH
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Brownson Youth

2026 has gotten off to a great start! After a wonderful holiday break, it was exciting to have everyone back and to be together again. At the end of January, 19 high school youth and 4 adults traveled to Lake Junaluska for the annual ski retreat. It was a great time of fellowship, laughter, worship and, of course, skiing!

February Youth Group Schedule:

February 8: No youth group. Enjoy the Super Bowl!

February 15: 5-7 PM. Youth Group.

February 22: No youth group. Thank you for all your help with the Pancake Breakfast!

High School Bible Study continues to meet before school on Thursday mornings at PineScone. About 18-25 youth show up every week to study God's word, connect with each other, and enjoy some coffee. They started out 2026 studying spiritual disciplines like fasting, prayer and listening for God's voice. It is the favorite part of the week for many of our high school students!

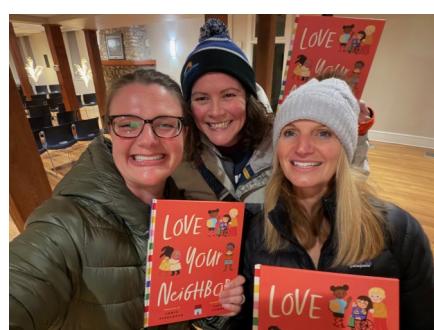


we want to invite our entire church family to join us for the annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 22 at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. This is a fundraiser for the youth and all monies raised will go toward summer trips to Montreat, Massanetta and Appalachia Service Project (ASP). We want to send the youth out this summer to grow in their faith, serve others, build relationships, and have a little fun along the way and your donations help make that possible! The Pancake Breakfast is a wonderful time for our church to connect and enjoy a delicious meal together too. Please join us for this fun event in support of Brownson's youth ministry and all of the wonderful things they are doing.

In 2025, the money raised at the pancake breakfast:

- Reduced the program cost for everyone going on the ASP mission trip from \$375 to \$250
- Paid for all adult chaperone costs for Massanetta, Montreat and ASP
- Paid for a portion of the cost of Montreat housing
- Helped cover the cost of feeding 8 Montreat participants three meals a day for a week
- Reduced the participation cost for both Montreat and Massanetta
- Covered the cost of gas needed for transportation to and from all summer trips
- Paid for construction supplies, equipment rental, and food for the ASP participants
- Impacted 32 youth and adults who participated in the youth summer trips

THANK YOU for your generosity and for making these things possible in 2025! And thank you for considering making a donation in 2026!



Mission Statement:

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

Local Missions

The Local Missions Ministry Team is excited about 2026! After exceeding our goals for 2025, we are increasing them for this year! We're asking for your help in donating 4500 pounds of food and serving 1000 volunteer hours! Brownson Church can do this!

This year, our volunteers started on a cold MLK Day, serving hot chocolate to the walkers before they walked from the park, up Pennsylvania Ave to the West Southern Pines Cultural Center.

Our weeks at the Family Promise home will be February 16-19 and May 4-7 for the first half of 2026. We will continue to provide dinners and overnight host(s). This helps the organization save money by not having to pay staff to perform these services. If you would like to learn more about Family Promise and how you can help, contact Sara Conti at 937-725-3016 via phone or text.

Brownson Buddies Homework Helpers has started the second semester of the school year. Every Monday, our volunteers are assisting twelve students to become better readers through assigned tasks, reading books, and playing reading games. Do you have any reading games, flash cards, and/or early reading books that your children have outgrown? Brownson Buddies will gladly recycle and reuse them during our tutoring sessions. Contact Sara Conti or Caryl Schunk if you have supplies to share.



Global Missions

Peru 2026

Calling all ages - join us for an update on our mission at the L'Eppe School for the Deaf in Peru. Whether you are interested in going with a group to visit the students this summer (first week of August) or just want to know more about our important partnership, join us:

January 15 | 12:30 PM | Conference Room A
Peruvian Lunch Provide

RSVP to Gerald Ostlund | gerald.ostlund@gmail.com



BROWNSON

KIDS

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It seems impossible to believe that the season of Lent is almost upon us. A few exciting things have been happening in the life of Brownson Kids: studying the parables in Kids Worship, continuing our study through the Old Testament in Kids Connect, the beginning of the 2nd Grade Milestone on Worship and Communion, and our 3rd Grade Bible exploration and Bible presentation. We're also gearing up for summer as calendars begin to fill – summer planning is in full swing!

February Dates to Remember:

February 8 – 2nd Grade Milestone Session at 10:00, No Kids Connect

February 15 – 3rd Grade Milestone Session at 3:30 PM, Sunday of Service for Kids Connect

February 22 - 2nd Grade Milestone Session at 10:00, 3rd Grade Milestone Session at 3:30 PM

Summer Dates to Remember:

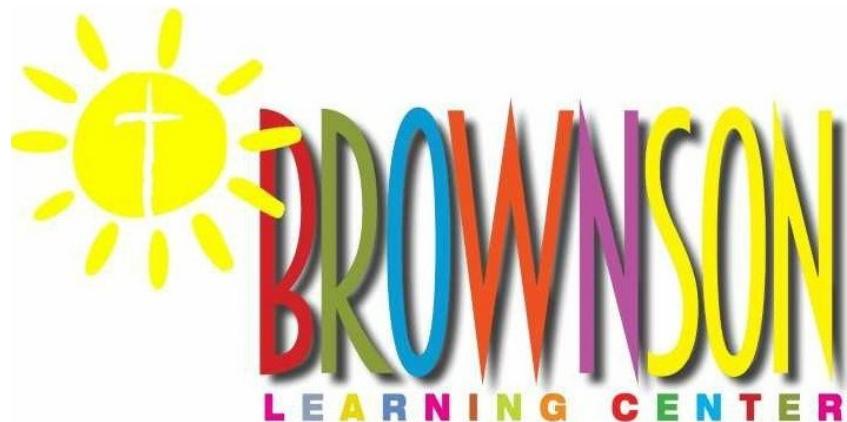
June 15 – 19 – Camp Monroe for 3rd – 5th Grade

June 22 – 25 – Rainforest Falls VBS (register here—brownsonchurch.org/registration)

July 13 – 17 – Camp Monroe's Community Camp at Brownson



Brownson Learning Center



"As I have loved you, so you must love one another" John 13:34

Winter always brings the utmost in creativity to the Learning Center students and staff. As the weather turns colder, we find ways to engage our students indoors and to ignite their curiosity about winter weather, arctic animals, and our community helpers. We also use the holidays in February to teach our children about kindness, friendship, and the ultimate love of Jesus, who shows us how to love. Our classes have so much fun making cards and art projects for each other, writing each other's names and learning how to show friends that they matter.

We also are excited to be presenting our first Brownson Learning Center art exhibit on February 17 at 5 PM in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall. Each of our classes are creating works of art using the techniques or styles of famous artists and can't wait to present them to everyone. In addition, a group of our oldest Prekindergarten students have spent many weeks studying artists and art techniques and have created masterpieces that will be on display through the end of February. We invite you to come join us and see what wonderful, engaged, creative students we have in the Learning Center.





"There is the music of heaven in all things, and we have forgotten how to hear it until we sing" is a famous, often-quoted sentiment from 12th-century German Benedictine Abbess and mystic, St. Hildegard of Bingen. It reflects her view that creation vibrates with divine harmony, which humans can reconnect with through music, in particular song, viewed as the highest form of prayer.

Hildegard believed that music and song bridged the gap between heaven and earth, reuniting humans with the ecstasy of paradise.

Today, her words and music are celebrated as a way to find spiritual grounding, wonder, and a connection to nature.

Join Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries, **on Wednesdays at 1 PM in the sanctuary during the season of Lent (February 18 – April 1)** for a time of music and mindfulness as we explore the healing music practices of the ancient mystics.

COMMUNION CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1

Sunday, April 5

Sunday, May 3

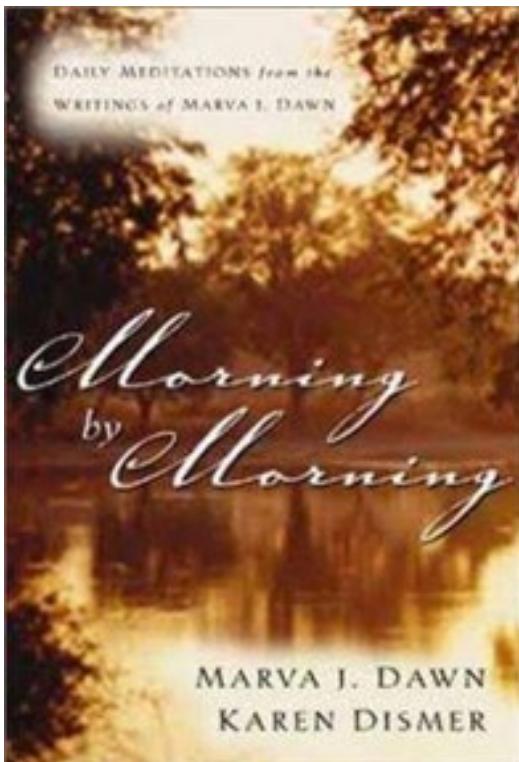
Worship & Music Notes

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.

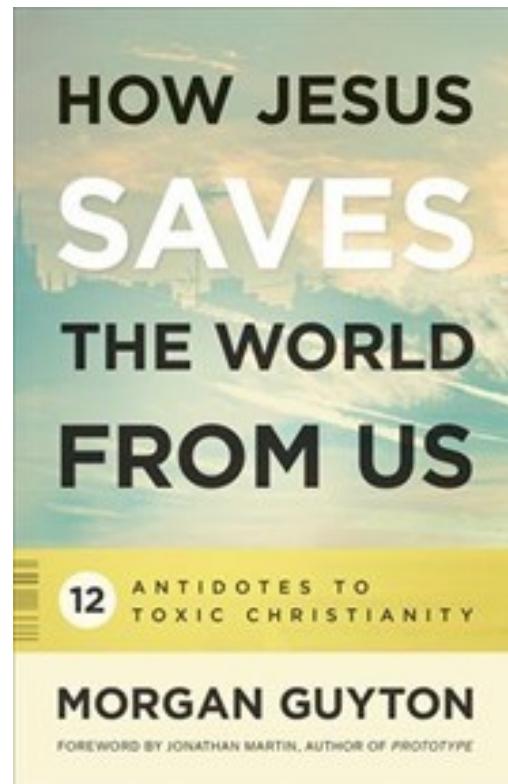


Morning by Morning

By Marva J. Dawn

Morning by Morning takes readers through a year of daily devotional readings selected from the best, most inspiring passages of Dawn's writings. Each meditation opens with a Bible verse or line from a favorite hymn and then offers reflections drawn from Dawn's books or articles. The devotionals each close with a prayer starter. An additional section in Morning by Morning provides meditations for twelve special days in the church year, including Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost.

Find it on our shelves at 248 DAW



How Jesus Saves the World From Us

By Morgan Guyton

This is a book for Christians who are troubled by what we've become and who want Jesus to save us from the toxic behaviors and attitudes we've embraced.

Find it on our shelves at 243 GUY



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



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

February 1
Leigh Ann Earhart
Anne Friesen
Don Wells
February 2
Dale Erickson
Jaden Roy
February 3
Emma Krein
Jack Krein
Bill Parker
February 4
Joan Boeger
Ken Laws
Brian Milam
February 5
Dottie Black
Ashlee Ciccone
Natalie Eddins
Kyle Entzminger
Jan Fisher
Keaton Garbett
Jean Martin
February 6
Mary Winborne Hall
Bob Harling
Hollis Mang
Burt Ozment
Rob Pollock
February 7
Collin Ames
Lisa Beck
Cooper Carter
Davis Edens
Cindy Wells
February 8
Andrew Lewis
Bobby Maynor
February 9
John Hall Greenbacker
Teresa Little
February 10
Sarah Ellen Dean
February 11
Heide Hotchkiss
Mac Strickland
February 12
Angela Ivey
Lucy Roberts
February 13
Jim Hicks
Katharine McLeod
Lynnae Benton
Emily Zalzneck
February 14
Trent Carter
Richard Chatham, Jr
Sandy Hemingway
Michael Holliday

February 15
Taylor Norbury
Sandy Riggan
Corley Walker
February 16
John Anderson
Zoe Anne Cagle
Nick Ellis
Trina Grantham
February 17
Clark Groseth
Isabella Haro
Tim Lovin
February 18
Christine Hall
Mary Hendricks
Joyce Reynolds
February 19
Harvey Jarmusz
Archer Jarmusz
Ellen Jordan
Tom Reams
February 20
Briar Haddock
Will Herring
Ashlee Huntley
Haley Moore
Tammy Watson
February 21
Carter Garbett
Amy Holmes
Carolyn Maynor
February 22
Hunter Cagle
Bill Eastman
Jack Hildebrand, Jr.
Brittni Sanborn
February 23
Amanda Bass
Lera Dayne Holmes
Harriet McCollum
February 24
Sherry Kimbell
February 25
Jossh Bean
Josh Franken
Ben Martin
Sue Nicholie
Jim Saunders
Scottie Scott
Abby Smits
February 26
Pamela Guest
Alicia Riggan

February 27
Amanda Bullock
Hannah Butkus
Martha Butler
Jack Fields
Max Marino
Sandra McCrimmon
Carol Schunk
February 28
Marion Gauthier
Molly Jaimes
Llew Lewis
Albert Parks

ANNIVERSARIES

February 9
Josh & Mandi Beneviat
February 10
Roy & Barbara Ross
February 14
Scott & Jessica Kittle
February 24
Wyman & Courtney McGuirt
Bill & Sheila Rock
February 28
Jim & Louise Pryor

Rev. John Hage
Senior Pastor
john@brownsonchurch.org

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin
Associate Pastor for Congregational
Care and Connection
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Kelli Garbett
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Erin Pollock
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Amy Shortt
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Kacy Depenbrock
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Dick Hart
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Lia Keane
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Jody Marley
Bookkeeper
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Stacey Ostlund
Church Administrator
stacey@brownsonchurch.org

910.692.6252
www.brownsonchurch.org

2026 Session of Brownson

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

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 Krahert | Kara Vonderkall
Keith Walvoord | Lisa Hughes | Mandy Berg
Patrick Depenbrock | Pat Henry | Roy Cameron
Ryan Morrison | Ruth Burgin
Hardin Freberg (Y) | Ella Hall (Y)

STAFF TEAM



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