

## A Letter from Your Senior Pastor...

### Advent for Exiles

**exile** (*noun*, 'eg-, zī(-ə)l): "the state or a period of forced absence from one's country or home." (Merriam-Webster)

What images pop into your mind when you read the word, "home"? One of the dominant themes of the Bible is about God getting His children back home, home in His *Presence*. In Genesis 3, the first humans' decision to be self-referenced rather than God-referenced sent us wandering. Throughout the Old Testament, we read of God's great project of getting His humans back home in His Presence whether through a portable Tabernacle in the Sinai desert, a permanent Temple in the capital of the Promised Land, and eventually through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in a way that would transcend geographic location.

Even in Jesus' day, God's people still felt like exiles – living in their land yet longing for full restoration. While a large Jewish population remained in Judea, Jewish communities were scattered across the Mediterranean and beyond, a condition often described as exile or diaspora. Synagogues became centers of Jewish communities, and "home" became where they worshiped God as they continued to live faithfully where they'd been scattered.

Advent has become a time of the year when I am especially reminded that we who follow Jesus are all, in a sense, still exiles. Jesus came to bring us home, and yet, as we have been learning in the last sermon series, He went to "prepare a room for us in the Father's House." It's clear we are not yet where we will one day be. I'm not just talking about the home of heaven after we leave this life. I'm talking about the home of new heaven and new earth that will come after the Second Advent when Christ returns and a loud voice from the throne will say, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." (Revelation 21:1-7)

I think "home" might be one of my favorite words. It conjures up what is familiar and where there are rich memories because of the practices and experiences that have taken place there. It is a place I *know* and feel grounded. As our family has grown and moved around (like many of you), home has been different places. We have learned what things most make a place "home." This Advent season, I pray whether you celebrate in a place you've known all your life, find yourself somewhere new(er), mourn people who are missing, that you remember it's better to be in exile with God's Presence of God than at "home" anywhere without Him. God's Presence is no longer bound by geography or a religious system but available right where you are through Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit of God. I pray as we gather for worship each week and light familiar candles and sing familiar songs, that your heart would truly receive from God the hope, peace, joy, love, and light that fill the air of His house, and that as you do you would recognize that, in Him, you are *home*.

Comfort and joy,

*Pastor Jonathan*

## December 2025

**Connecting** with God  
**Growing** in Christ  
**Serving** Others



### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Wednesday, December 3  
at 6:00 PM**

Join us in the courtyard for  
a night of Carols, Cookies,  
Cocoa, & Cider.

If you would like to bring some  
Christmas cookies or brownies,  
or help make cocoa and cider,  
please contact the church office  
at (334) 567-4225 or  
[info@mulderchurch.com](mailto:info@mulderchurch.com).

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION



**Wednesday, Dec. 24th**

**4pm - Contemporary  
Candlelight & Communion  
family service**

**6pm - Traditional Lessons &  
Carols family service with  
Candlelight & Communion**

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# CHILDREN'S NEWS



MARA HOLDEN-CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: MARA@MULDERCHURCH.COM  
JENNIFER TRIPPE-NURSERY SUPERVISOR: JENNIFER@MULDERCHURCH.COM

## Sunday Mornings in Kidstown

**Nursery** provided at 8AM, 9:30AM & 11AM (6 weeks-Pre K)

**9:30AM - Build Up Jr:** K-1st graders meet in Noah's Boat Shop

**9:30AM - Build Up:** 2nd-4th graders meet in Carter Hall

**9:30AM - Route 56:** 5th & 6th graders meet in Rt 56 room (behind Carter Hall)

**11:00AM - Build Up:** K-6th graders meet in Carter Hall

\*Students may be divided into smaller groups by age at 11:00 in the future based on attendance and volunteers.\*



## December 14th

### 9:30 Hour:

- K-4th grade will have "Jammies for Jesus", this is a fun morning where the children are invited to wear their favorite pjs to church. We will hear the Christmas story, have special snacks and play some fun Christmas games.
- Route 56 Christmas Party: 5th & 6th grade students attending the 9:30 hour are invited to wear their favorite pj pants and bring a wrapped gift of \$5 value for a "gift swap game". We will have special snacks and fun Christmas activities.



### 11:00 Hour:

- K-6th graders are invited to wear their favorite pjs and join us for a fun morning of special Christmas activities.

\*Nursery children are also invited to wear pjs that morning.

**December 28th** we will only have Children's activities at the 9:30 hour. We will have nursery for 8:00 & 9:30 services. We will not have an 11:00 service that morning.

**Save the Date:** Spring semester of Club Kidstown Wednesday night kickoff will be January 14th.

## Stay up to date on what's happening in Kidstown, join our Remind.

For all ages, Nursery-6th grade text @mulderk to 81010.  
Specifically for Route 56 (5th & 6th grade) text @ekf7A to 81010.  
You can also us out on Facebook at Mulder Holden.

## Traditional Worship



## Christmas Cantata December 7th 8:00 AM

Join us for our annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 8th at the 8AM service.

\*\*Mulder Church is looking for a worship choir/traditional service pianist . \*\* Contact Kathy at kcorbman@elmore.rr.com.

## Building Committee Update

The committee met on November 9th to hear a presentation from a local architectural firm. We are currently awaiting a formal contract to begin the process of designing a master plan for our property.

More information will follow once the contract is complete and signed. Please continue to pray for the process. 2026 is going to be an exciting year!



The Mulder Praise Band will be in the Christmas on the Coosa parade Saturday, December 13.

Come out and join the fun. The parade starts at 6pm.

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Justin Rollan	3 Nicholas Daniel Lauren Grace Harp *Derek & August Sims	4 Kristi Smith *Eric & Serina Rhodes	5 Harper Burdette	6 *Danny & Janet Weldon
7 Dana Burdette Melissa Easley Vershone Graham	8 Hank Draughon Linda Hatfield Holden Lewis Terry Horne	9 *Jason & Lindsey Payton	10 Sam Hudson *Steve & Valerie Dixon *Jason & Jessica Mann *Jonathan & Shelby Melton	11 Shiloh Hunter Joey Holmes *Joe & Patty Lambretch	12 Cameron Boling Misty Horsley Grayson Rhodes Luke White	13 Barbara Arant
14 Jenny Hamilton Courtney Jarome Molli Kirkland David Payne *Larry & Earline Deloney	15 Ron Hilyer	16 Tricia Smith Abby Wilson *Brad & Meg Stone	17 Shannon Lushington Cindy Wilson	18 Emmitt Brown Frank Mundy Amy Smith Kristi Smith Hannah Stinson	19 Mary Ellis Baker Jimmy Taylor *Mike & Casey Hudson	20 Will Reeves
21 Tatum Gober Ryder Horsley David Rudd *Johnny & Pam Bergmann	22 Madeline Schimmer *Ray & Eleanor Haner	23 Dylan LaPorte Seth Walker Davis *Jim & Patricia Ward	24 Justin Freeman Rich Gaines	25 Amanda Jennings	26 Jackson Celka Dianne Illarmo	27 Tucker Cochrane MaryGrayson Forbus Tonya Kurth *Ken & Ann Caver *Jerry & Lynda Hicks
28 Kenny Harris Ally Lewis *Marc & Dana Dendy	29 Meghan Cochrane *Ryan & Sherri Davidson	30	31 Heather Boling Rodney Smith *Dan & Tawanna Aude			

## Financial Info for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year - 7/01/2025-10/31/2025:

Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Contributions vs. Budget	Contributions vs. Expenses
\$381,887	\$374,489	\$313,014	-\$7,398	\$61,475



## CHAT & CHEW CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Tuesday, December 9 at 11:30am in Carter Hall

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season  
with food, fun and musical entertainment.

Please sign up on one of the bulletin boards in the hallways  
or classrooms so we can prepare enough food.



**Mulder Church**

3454 Firetower Road  
 Wetumpka, AL 36093  
 Phone: (334) 567-4225  
 E-mail: [info@mulderchurch.com](mailto:info@mulderchurch.com)  
[mulderchurch.com](http://mulderchurch.com)

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## Ascend Student Ministries

### Ascend Student Christmas Party

Students grades 7-12 are invited to our annual Christmas Party on December 7th from 4-6pm at Mulder Church in Carter Hall. We will have food, fun and games. Bring a \$10 gift if you would like to participate in the Dirty Santa game. Hope to see you there!



### Luminary Fundraiser

During our Christmas Eve services, luminaries are placed around the worship center in honor of or in memory of individuals we will list on screen at the beginning of each service. Each luminary cost \$5 and 100% of proceeds go toward students' youth accounts. If you wish to purchase luminaries just get with one of our students. Student forms are available outside the church office. All names and funds are due by December 14th.

### Strength to Stand: January 17-19, 2026

Our winter trip is just around the corner. If your student has a reserved spot, please note that the **total balance is due by January 11th**. If you need your current balance or have any questions, please contact the church office [info@mulderchurch.com](mailto:info@mulderchurch.com).



**Stay Connected** - Follow the youth Instagram page at "mulderyouth" and check out the youth Facebook page by searching Mulder Youth. If you wish to be added to the text message group, contact Tonya in the church office.