

A Letter from Your Senior Pastor...

You Don't Have to Walk Alone: Stephen Ministry Is Here for You

January is often thought of as a time of new beginnings. We turn the calendar page, set fresh goals, and hope that this year will be different – less burdensome, healthier, and more peaceful. And yet, for many, January can feel discouragingly heavy. The holidays are over. The distractions fade. The quiet settles in. And sometimes what we're left with is grief that hasn't gone away, anxiety that hasn't loosened its grip, or a situation that still feels overwhelming. A new year doesn't automatically erase old pain.

That's why we want to remind you of a quiet but powerful ministry in our church: **Stephen Ministry**. Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered, confidential caregiving ministry for people who are going through difficult seasons of life. It is not counseling or therapy. Instead, it is one-to-one, lay shepherding care offered by trained members of our congregation who are willing to listen, pray, encourage, and walk with you for an extended season.

You might benefit from Stephen Ministry if you are:

- Experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one
- Walking through illness or caring for someone who is
- Navigating a difficult situation in your family
- Struggling with loneliness, stress, or anxiety
- Going through a major life transition
- Feeling spiritually dry, discouraged, or overwhelmed

Often, people hesitate to reach out because they think their situation isn't "serious enough," they don't want to be a burden, or it's simply hard to admit we could use help. But Scripture reminds us that **bearing one another's burdens is part of the Christian life** (Galatians 6:2). Stephen Ministry exists precisely for seasons when you need someone steady, faithful, and compassionate to walk alongside you.

Stephen Ministers are carefully selected, trained, and supported. They are committed to confidentiality. They are not there to "fix" you or rush you through your struggle. Their role is to be a tangible expression of Christ's care offering presence, prayer, Scripture, and hope over time. Just as importantly, Stephen Ministry is for *this moment*, not just for the initial moments of crisis. Sometimes the hardest seasons are the ones that don't have a clear ending or an obvious label. If life feels heavy, confusing, or simply exhausting, you are not alone, and you don't have to pretend that everything is fine.

As we begin a new year, we want to be a church that is honest about life, struggle, and grace. We believe God often meets us through the faithful presence of others. Stephen Ministry is one of the ways our church embodies this truth. If you or someone you know might benefit from a Stephen Minister, we encourage you to reach out to a pastor, take a Stephen Ministry info card from the Resource Center outside the Worship Center, or go to the church office for an application to receive care. Asking for help is an act of wisdom, honesty, and courage.

This year, let it be said of Mulder Church that we are a place where **no one has to walk alone**.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jonathan

January 2026

Connecting with God
Growing in Christ
Serving Others



Church Office Closed
Thursday, January 1st

SPRING SEMESTER GROUPS & CLASSES

Our Wednesday nights will
kick off on
January 14, 2026.

Don't forget to sign up for
a group or class.

For more information,
please see the sign up table
outside the Worship Center.

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[Website: mulderchurch.com
Facebook: Mulder Church
Instagram: mulderchurch]

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.

Club Kidstown & Rt 56 Small Groups Spring Semester Kickoff

is . We have something for all students K-6th and nursery is provided for adults attending the adult groups and classes. Hope to see you there!

Memory Verse: "Lord God, with your great power you made the earth and the sky. There is nothing too hard for you to do." Jeremiah 32:17

Save The Dates:

Camp Kidstown - June 3-6 Camp Kidstown is for students currently in 3rd-6th grades. This is a 3 night camp at Camp Chandler, run by Mulder staff and volunteers. Packets will be available on the Kidstown welcome desk beginning February 22nd.

VBS - July 12-15 - Stay tuned for more information about our "What a Mess" VBS!

Traditional Worship



Join us on Sunday, January 11 at 8:00 am for special music by Cains Chapel Men's Quartet.

Worship Choir practices will begin on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30pm.

Easter Cantata practice begins Wednesday, January 28 at 7:15pm in the Worship Center.

The Cantata will be on Palm Sunday, March 29th at 8:00am.

Gospel Choir practice will begin Monday, February 2 at 6:30pm in the choir room.



"Own It" Confirmation Class

Our spring "Own It" class will be on Sunday afternoons **January 25th-February 15th**.

The first 3 weeks will be from 3-4pm and on the 15th we will meet from 2-4pm followed by a parent meeting. This class is for students 5th-8th grade who have decided to follow Jesus and ready to own their faith, join the church and be baptized or reaffirm their baptism.

(If you have a child younger or older than this age range who is ready for this next step, please reach out to Mara or Pastor Jonathan. We would love to help with the next steps).

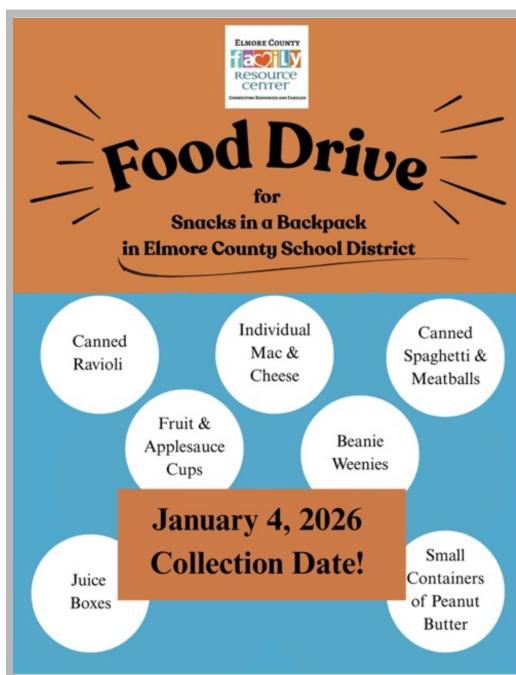
For more information or to sign up, contact Mara at mara@mulderchurch.com.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Kylee Smith Chris Wright	3 Bradley Boone Bryson Boone
4 Evan Flaherty Emma Wasden	5 Amanda Ballou Gavan Baxley Ann Caver *Scott & Donna Stokes	6 Angela Schmick	7 Carrington Dozier Mara Holden Greg Pate *Matthew & Cathy Lillis	8 Anthony Auen Zena Banker Ava Bozeman Sharon Kegley	9 Clark Dorsey Wren Lombardi Audra Pfannkuche	10 Sutter Morgan Chandler Morse Chris White Jason Wilson *Devin & Amy Smith
11 Joe Lambrecht Tracie Setzer	12 Janie Ables Dian Roberts Rebecca Wright *Hunter & Haley Bethea	13 William McBride Isabella Payne	14	15 Russell Alston Vincent Whaley	16 Gabe Dean	17
18 Aaliyah Sims	19	20 David Rogers *Matthew & Kelli Morgan	21 Jordan Gober Hanna Lombardi Lindsey Whatley	22 Ella Grace Hill	23 Leigh Walker	24 Grace Garrison *Jason & Beth Bielen
25 Carol Corwin Tracy Holley *Jack & Debra Burnside	26 Ryan Lombardi Tillman Scarborough	27 Joe Addison Mark Baker Mason Spiers Charlie Stokes *Clark & Cheryl Dorsey	28 Anita McGowin Luke Williams	29	30 Bessie Stephens Sarah Daniel *Bo & Peggy Penn	31 *Erwin & Roxann Becker

Financial Info for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year - 7/01/2025-11/30/2025

Budget \$494,207	Contributions \$475,856	Expenses \$388,251	Contributions vs. Budget -\$18,351	Contributions vs. Expenses \$87,605
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“Snacks in a Backpack”

In partnership with Elmore County Family Resource Center, Mulder Church collects specific snack items the first Sunday of every month to send home with students in need in our community.

WHAT? Items listed on the Food Drive flyer found on the Resource Center or on our Facebook page. Our goal is 25 backpacks a week, which is about 100 backpacks a month!

WHEN? Only on first Sundays when you come to church (We don't have a place to store food between collection dates)

WHERE? The hallway outside the Worship Center near the Welcome Desk

CAN I ALSO HELP PACK THE BACKPACKS? Yes! To sign up for one of our monthly serve days to pack the backpacks, email info@mulderchurch.com, and we'll put the coordinators in touch with you about adding you to the packing schedule.

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 E-mail: info@mulderchurch.com
mulderchurch.com

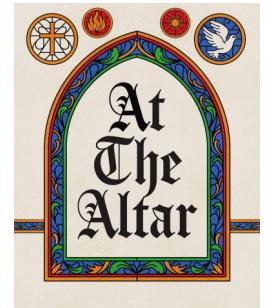
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Ascend Student Ministries

Strength to Stand: January 17-19, 2026

Please be in prayer for our students January 17-19 as they travel to Pigeon Forge, TN for the Strength to Stand Youth Conference. 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 Tonya in the church office.



Youth Wednesday Nights kick off on January 14th, 6-7pm

Students grades 7-12 are invited to Wednesday night activities in the Worship Center.

Ascend Student Ministry Spring Kickoff, Sunday, January 25th

Students grades 7-12 are invited to Sunday afternoon activities in the Worship Center, 4:30-6pm. Doors open at 4pm. Our Ascend Student services include worship, teaching, games and small groups.

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.