

A Letter from Your Discipleship Pastor...

Greetings!

A few weeks before leaving Kentucky to move to Wetumpka, I went on a weekend retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani monastery. On a walk through their wooded trail, I heard the distinct *rap-tap-tap-tap* of a woodpecker. It swooped overhead before perching on a tree that had seen better days. The tree had stubs where limbs used to be jugged out from the trunk and bark was peeling off. With my limited knowledge of bugs and trees, I guessed that some 6-legged critter has made its home in the tree, killing it from the inside out.

The woodpecker meticulously went to work *rap-tap-tap-tapping* his way through a section of the tree, splinters flicking to the ground. I sat down and watched for a long while, wincing at each tap of the woodpecker, reminding myself often that trees don't have nerves or pain receptors. But I wondered if the woodpecker was actually helping the tree, ridding it of a bug that had been harming the tree. It looked painful, but helpful.

Painful, but helpful. I think that's an apt description of the work of discipleship—of becoming more like our Rabbi, Jesus. It seems to me that when most of us first take seriously Jesus's call to follow Him, the work of discipleship can be hard but manageable, like clipping dead branches off a tree. We stop cursing, start reading our Bible, and try to forgive our enemies. I've noticed that many Christians stop there, though. Yet we're still plagued by the anger underneath the cursing, the stubbornness that prevents us from living out the words of Scripture, and the hurt our enemies caused.

God has handled the effects of the infestation—the dead branches in our lives—but we haven't let Him do the hard work of rooting out the infestation itself. I think God doesn't just want to do the work of trimming off the dead parts of our lives; He wants to remove that which is causing the dead parts of our lives. Jesus came not to clean up our lives, but to *change* our lives from the inside out. That's the true work of discipleship.

Like a woodpecker pecking a tree within an inch of its life, that process of life-change can be painful. God will dig into every area of our lives—past wounds, family trauma, unresolved baggage, hidden sins. But He offers hope and healing for each and every one of these. At Mulder, we seek to equip and empower you to invite Him to do that deep work of discipleship. We host Celebrate Recovery for all the hurts, habits, and hangups in your life. We offer community through Sunday School and Grow Groups to create relationships of accountability and encouragement. We can pair you with a Stephen Minister to journey alongside someone in seasons of crisis and grief. We can recommend counselors or prayer practices to allow God to dig into the deepest parts of your soul. It takes faith and vulnerability on our part, but God is faithful to do the good work of transforming our lives when we invite Him into that work.

Will you accept the invitation of our Creator to allow Him to change you from the inside out?

In Christ's love,

Pastor Hunter

March 2026

Connecting with God
Growing in Christ
Serving Others



March 8, 2026

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



Reminder

No afternoon or evening activities
Sunday, March 22nd
or
Wednesday, March 25th

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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.

Wednesday Nights in Kidstown, 6-7pm

Club Kidstown (K-4th Grade) & Rt 56 Small Groups

All ages meet for Bible Story, scripture memorization, games, activities and a snack

K & 1st graders meet in Noah's Boat Shop

2nd-4th graders meet in Carter Hall

5th & 6th grade boys in Route 56 & girls in John the Baptist room.

Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16

****No Kidstown Activities on March 25****
Enjoy your Spring Break!

Easter Candy

We are collecting Easter candy donations until March 18. Please consider donating a bag of individually wrapped candy for our annual egg hunt. Collection bins are in the hallway outside the worship center and at the Kidstown desk.



Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 29, 12:15pm (Immediately following the late service)

We will have a hunt for 1-5 year olds on the lawn outside Kidstown and one for K-4th graders on the playground. Please bring a basket, bucket or bag to collect eggs.

Camp Kidstown 2026

Camp Kidstown packets are available outside the church office and at the Kidstown welcome desk. Camp Kidstown is for kids currently in 3rd-6th grade. We will be at Camp Chandler June 3rd-6th.



Easter Cantata

Join us for Mulder's Easter Cantata Sunday, March 29 at 8AM.

The Worship Choir is looking for a pianist for the 8AM traditional service.

If you would like to join the choir or for more info contact Kathy Corbman at kcorbman@elmore.rr.com.

Building Committee Update

The Building Committee is excited to announce that the congregational survey will be available through March 14. The survey includes questions that will assist the committee in decisions moving forward. We encourage you to complete the survey during this time period. The link is listed below.

There will also be two In-person opportunities to attend a Survey Interview, the first on Sunday, March 8 at 3 pm and the second as part of our monthly Chat N Chew on Tuesday, March 10 at 11:30 am. Both sessions will be held in Carter Hall. Please sign up in the hallways or classrooms if you plan to eat lunch on March 10.

Thank you for participating by completing the survey online or attending a session in person!

Survey link:

<http://sslarch.com/mulderchurch>

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Heather Beagles Frank Rose	2 Tony LaPorte	3 Jeremy Gober Ray Haner Kathy Hilyer Rudy McDonald	4 Beverly Barganier	5 Alicyn Moore Roman Pritchett	6 Karson Whatley	7 Dana Dendy Marlie Fuller Dave White
8 Jonathan Bulkley Ashley Williams	9 Eileen Draughon Devin Smith Glenn Wilcox Kristen Wright *Jerry & Linda Hatfield	10 Sherri Davidson Lacie Mitchell	11 Winston Littlefield Winston McBride Heather Phillips Brian Ward	12 Haley Bethea Heather Colquitt Gracie Stokes *Stephanie & Andy Hollon	13 Denise Buckley Chris Jones	14 Ella Courson
15 Johnny Bergmann	16 Joann Copeland Jeulia Hendrick *Brent & Kim Speer	17 Norma Busby *Matt & Caroline Morse	18 Jones Melton Glenda Ray Lee Sims	19	20 Amanda Freeman Lauren Wright	21 Caroline Flomer Brad Stone *Jonathan & Tawny Wyatt
22 Bab Brand Ryan Dendy Margaret Kaylor	23 *Brian & Belinda Celka *Jimmy & Kelley Fuller	24 Lilly Warren	25 Amelia Lushington *Jeremy & Jessica Gober	26 Tait Wright	27 Melinda Wright *Richard & Michelle Meeks	28 Charlie Skipper *John Michael & Maranda Evans
29 Brantley Bozeman Brent Carter Michael Kirkland Kim McBride Jake Yarbrough	30 Lane Brooks Georgia Daniel Katie Farthing Judy Harris Stephanie Schimmer	31 Bron Owen Scott Stokes Patricia Ward *Phil & Judy Savage				

Financial Info for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year - 7/01/2025-1/31/2026:

Budget \$673,919	Contributions \$728,288	Expenses \$553,828	Contributions vs. Budget \$54,369	Contributions vs. Expenses \$174,460
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Chat & Chew March 10 at 11:30 am in Carter Hall

Join us for food and fellowship.
The menu is grilled chicken, potato salad and slaw.

Please sign up so we prepare enough food.
Sign up sheets are on the bulletin boards
and in classrooms.

Donations accepted to cover meal costs.

For more info, contact Tracie Setzer at
334-300-4002.

Celebrate Recovery

Mulder's Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program for anyone struggling with hurts, habits, and hang-ups of any kind. It is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.

Friday Nights, 6-8:30PM in Carter Hall

For more information please contact
Tracy Pfannkuche at (334)296-2774 or
Audra Pfannkuche at (334)300-8273.

Mulder Church

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Ascend Student Ministries



Ascend Student Summer Mission Trip

Our Ascend Student summer mission trip with TEAMeffort is scheduled for June 14-19, 2026. We'll be serving the community of Copperhill, Tennessee with construction-based projects. Cost is \$450. Space is limited. Registration packets are available outside the church office. A \$100 deposit and completed student forms are due by March 22, 2026. For more information, contact Tonya in the church office.

Youth Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm

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

Youth Sunday School, Sundays at 9:30am

Students grades 7-12 are invited for a Sunday school lesson in the youth room. Snack provided.

Ascend Student Ministry, Sundays, 4:30-6:00pm

Students grades 7-12 are invited to Sunday afternoon activities from 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", check out the youth Facebook page by searching Mulder Youth or for more information contact Tonya in the church office.