



**St. Stephen's**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# the shield

## This Week in Worship

August 24, 2025

**"Created by God"**  
Jeremiah 1:4-10

Rev. Jinx Barber

## New Study for Seekers Class

New Study for Seekers Class begins Aug. 24: *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*, a book by Jim Wallace.

".... In this book Wallis continues his critical assessment of our current social context. At the same time—but without any confusion—he sees that White Nationalism is a distortion of democracy, and a profound Christian heresy in which the good truth of the Gospel is mobilized to nefarious idolatrous ends. Wallis's wheelhouse is biblical faith. He insists simply that the truth be told about our common pathology and about the deep claim of the Gospel...."

—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

## WHO ARE YOU?

Rev. Jinx started on Sunday, July 6. LET'S CONTINUE WEAR-

ING OUR NAME TAGS so it becomes a habit

again!! If you need a new name tag, there is a

sign up sheet in the loggia. We'll print them

up and have them ready for you next week.



## Candlelight Vigil for Immigrants

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

An Immigrant Vigil will be held Tuesday, September 9, 7:30-8:00 pm in the sanctuary. The vigil is for the St. Stephen's community to grieve together for all immigrants, and especially for our refugee families. Immigration policies dramatically changed this year to be harsh and unwelcoming. Most disturbing is explaining to the refugee youth why they need to know what a red card is (explanation of immigrant rights) and why, as teens, they or their parent may not come home tonight due to an ICE encounter. NCRS volunteers came to know our families very well. The immigrant families and our volunteers thought that they were safe. While the message of concern is softer for those with green cards (Afghans), the message is most direct for our Hispanic families. Volunteers shared their love, their calling, and built trust among the NCRS families that they were safe and that the American society is built in part on trust and that someday those parents, those children could join us and become U.S. citizens and trust in a government that stood by its protections. Now they see attempts to exclude them. We are heartbroken and grieve individually. We feel a tug to grieve together. We are an immigrant nation and it's important to remember those roots.

The NCRS has developed a preparedness plan for our families with guidance and limited protections, but that plan is only good until it's not and detention occurs without due process.

We want to take a moment, in humility to pause, to hold a vigil, and quietly acknowledge the potentially dire situation of our immigrants in this troubled time. To honor the dignity, the humanity, and the love of God for all immigrants. We want to sense the immigrant fear, feel God's cry, feel God lament with us, together, in one sacred place, and grieve for our immigrants.

Please join us for an Immigrant Vigil on September 9th in the Sanctuary.

*Life Happenings*  
*August 17, 2025*

**We celebrate:**

Tim and Melissa Duncan are celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Joe and Kay Antinoro are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Barbara Holtzclaw's son, Kurt, is visiting. Lynn Harper is finished moving. Marci Corey is thankful for a successful handbell festival hosted by St. Stephens last Saturday. Annie Campbell is thankful to have gotten her school schedule. Venita MacGorman enjoyed volunteering as the Sunday School teacher. Teresa Capps reports that Mike O'Donnell received his heart transplant. Brenda Wheelock reports that her sister's heart procedure went well.

**We pray with concern for:**

Becki Seay's friend, Quita Jallet, 92, passed away this week. Sara Culp Quintett is suffering from terrible asthma. Michelle Carr lifts up the family of Ken Kehoe. Ken unexpectedly passed away this week, he was only 47 years old. He has an 11 year old son. Ken's wife passed several years ago from cancer. Michelle also shared the news of the passing of David Levy this week. Brent Smith lifts up one of the Guatemalan refugees who is going to Dallas for her asylum hearing. Joan Berryhill's husband Bob is undergoing his 2<sup>nd</sup> series of treatments for prostate cancer. Joan also has two friends, Patty and Nicky, whose husbands are in the early stages of dementia. Pray for their strength and resilience. Prayers for Elvera Grisham as she is battling heart issues. Prayers for her husband Steve as he cares for her. Nicole Nye raises up her sister Taylor and also her friend Lauren. Ann Taylor who is not feeling well.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO WELCOME REV. JINX BY YOUR OUTWARD AND **VISIBLE** SIGN!!!

We are looking for volunteers to paint the Pastor's office!!! If this is in your wheelhouse and you have time available please see Ron House and he will work with you to set up a time.

**Scripture Readers Needed!**

We are looking for scripture readers for our first and second services! Please sign up on the sign up sheets found on the table across from the office. Thanks!

***This Week at  
St. Stephen's***

***Thursday, August 21st***

5:00 All Staff Long Range Planning Meeting—Room 12  
7:00 DBSA—Room 6

***Friday, August 22nd***

6:30 Living Room NA—Room 11

***Saturday, August 23rd***

8:30 Solutions AA—Room 11

***Sunday, August 24th***

8:30 Worship Service—Sanctuary  
9:40 Sunday School —Various  
10:50 Worship Service—Sanctuary  
3:00 Youth—Westwood Aquatic Park  
4:00 Disciple Bible Study info meeting—Room 12

***Monday, August 25th***

7:00 Finance Committee—Room 12

***Tuesday, August 26th***

6:30 Living Group NA—Room 11

***Wednesday, August 27th***

1:30 Sacred Journey—Room 12  
7:00 Choir—Sanctuary



**Lunch Bunch  
will meet on  
September 2 at  
12:00 pm  
(It's now on the  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays.)**



Hello everyone!

This week we continued learning about Communion and made bags of trail mix to share with our neighbors via the pantry. Even the youth pitched in to help finish! A big thank you to Ms. Venita who stepped up to teach Sunday School for the rest of the month.

We have a few events coming up that I want to make sure everyone has on their calendars!

- September 7, 4-6 pm is church wide dessert potluck, Back to School Bash. Bring a dessert to share and join us with indoor games and an outdoor obstacle course.
- September 21, 4-6 on will be the first Sunday Night Live of the year!
- October 5, 4-6 pm we will have Sunday Night Live and are planning a field trip! More information to come.
- October 19 we will have Children's Sabbath Sunday where the children will lead worship. That afternoon we will come together and be a part of Crop Walk!

Lots of other plans are in the works and I will send updates as soon as I have them!

Have a blessed week.

Ms. Jenn



## Youth Shenanigans!

Thanks to everyone who signed up to bring food for

the youth. We are always grateful for those who bring in food, donate money, or have something delivered to our students on Sunday evenings.

Join us this Sunday at 9:40 am in Lyle Hall.

The youth will be meeting at 3 pm at Westwood Aquatic Park for a swimming field trip. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa.

Pick up will still be at 6 pm for this event.

There will be NO evening youth on August 31st due to the Labor Day holiday. We will pick back up on September 7th for the Back to School Bash. This is a church wide dessert potluck event put on by the Children's program, so bring your kiddos and bring a dessert to share. It will be a lot of fun.

If you have a student in grades 6-12 who might want to come hang out with the youth and you have any questions, please contact Alyssa (youth@ststephensnorman.org).



## Help Us Furnish A Home for Our Food & Shelter Family

The cottage we adopt at Food & Shelter has a new family moving in soon – a mom and three children. We need your help to collect new or gently used furniture and household items to welcome the family to their new home.

To learn more and sign up online visit <https://mealtrain.com/gv370e> or use the QR Code. If you choose to make a financial gift, please make checks payable to St. Stephen's and write Food & Shelter Family in the memo line. You can also donate on the church website and add Food and Shelter in the notes section.



☐ Family includes mom and three daughters ages 11, 8 and 8 months.

☐ Mom's favorite colors are purple and teal.

☐ Need volunteers Aug. 29-30 to assist with move in and cottage set up.

☐ Items can be delivered the week of Aug. 24 to St. Stephen's community Hall.

☐ To arrange for delivery of furniture or larger items, call Brenda at (405) 620-1305 or Nanci at (405) 323-0703.

Thank you for your generous support of our Food & Shelter families!

## Dinner & Discussion

Now meets on the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm

Join us on

Thursday, August 28 at 6:30 pm in Community Hall

Catered by Ray's BBQ. Cost is \$20 a person.



## The Music Box

St. Stephen's hosted the Area 9 Handbell Musicians of America's Fall Fanfare this past Saturday at the church. It was an awesome event that brought in handbell musicians from all around the state of Oklahoma. In addition to hosting, Venita MacGorman and I served as faculty for the event and 5 of our own SSUMC ringers registered as well! I'm thankful to our amazing community that welcomes groups of all kinds to use our building for such fun and educational events. Thank you St. Stephen's! –Marci



## Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study, a small group, 34-week study of the whole Bible will be offered by St. Stephen's beginning in early September. This study requires 30-45 minutes daily to read a focused selection of scriptures, along with information in the participant Study Manual. After 6 days of personal study, the group meets to discuss the week's scriptures, aided by a video by one of several Biblical scholars to enhance the group's understanding. The goal is to transform disciples through Bible study, not just to provide new knowledge of the Bible. This year, a discussion group plans to meet Sundays at 4-6 pm in room 11. For more information, come to an informational meeting at 4 pm on Sunday August 24 or contact Don MacGorman (phone: 405-820-6762; email: don.macgorman@cox.net).



**September 7th**  
**4-6 pm**

**Block Party \* Family Fun!**

**\* Games and a bounce house**

**\* Bring ice cream/dessert to share**

[www.ststephensnorman.org](http://www.ststephensnorman.org) \* 405-321-4988



Please help  
St. Stephen's  
keep our  
little food  
pantry stocked.  
Thank you!

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS!

Did you enjoy last year's pledge kickoff potluck dinner? Then you won't want to miss this year's! Mark your calendar for **September 28th at 5:30 pm** for delicious food, musical entertainment, and Great Expectations for 2026. Please note the new time is 5:30 pm.

## Needs of the NCRS:

(Contact Brent Smith for more info at [bsmith103@cox.net](mailto:bsmith103@cox.net))

Ongoing Needs:

1. 4 or 5 Bedroom House (urgent)
2. Housing Chair—coordinate housing searches, etc.
3. Drivers—take family member to Dr. appts, etc.
4. Prayers for the Refugee Families



St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
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Church services Sunday Morning 8:30 am  
and 10:50 am Sunday School at 9:40 am

