

The (Weekly) Shield

The Weekly Newsletter

Sunday - January 25, 2026

Meet the Roundtable Guest Speaker

We are excited to welcome Dr. Sam Perry as guest speaker this Sunday to speak on a specialty of his, White Christian Nationalism. He is well-known especially in scholarly circles for his hard critique of this conservative movement in the U.S.

Samuel Perry is the Sam K. Viersen Presidential Professor of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma. An award-winning scholar and teacher, Dr. Perry is among the nation's leading experts on conservative Christianity and American politics, race, families and sexual behavior. He is currently recognized as among the top sociologists in the world in terms of research productivity and impact.

Along with well over 100 peer-reviewed articles published in leading academic journals, Dr. Perry is also the author or co-author of five books, including *Growing God's Family* (NYU, 2017), *Addicted to Lust* (Oxford, 2019), *Taking America Back for God* (Oxford, 2020, with Andrew Whitehead), and *The Flag and the Cross* (Oxford, 2022, with Philip Gorski). His most recent book is entitled *Religion for Realists: Why We All Need the Scientific Study of Religion* (Oxford, 2024).

Sunday Night Live

4:30—6:00 pm.

We will meet weekly with Music Time, Snacks and a Discovery Time.

We will NOT meet March 15, April 5, or May 10, 2026.

Liturgists and Scripture Readers Needed

St. Stephen's UMC is looking for **Liturgists and Scripture Readers** for the 2026 Year and we are inviting you to sign up! Liturgists and Scripture Readers are needed at both the 8:30 and 10:50 Services. Please feel free to sign up as many times as you like. Thanks!

2026 Peace Roundtable

The 2026 Peace Roundtable address will be on "Christian Nationalism and the Role of the Church in Society Today" on January 25, 4:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Sam Perry, OU Professor of Sociology.

Our anthem this morning, Until Love is Spoken by Karen Marrolli, was purchased and donated to the choir in memory of our beloved Sharon Gray from grateful friends. We hope the deep and meaningful message of this song is a blessing to all of you as it has been for the choir.

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<https://tinyurl.com/mtyabzn2>

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Joys and Concerns

1.18.26

We celebrate with...

Kevin Hochman celebrates his wife, Ann and his brother, Mark's birthdays! Barbara Holtzelaw will be celebrating her 91st birthday next week. Joan Hines was in 2nd service. Marci Corey is thankful to Mykhail for his hard work on the baptismal fount. Holly VanAuken is thankful for the life of MLK Junior. Jenn McDanel hired two new nursery workers, Ava and Annabelle. Fran Roberson had two visitors with her in 2nd service celebrating her birthday, Leslie and Julie. Erin Moore finished her first semester in seminary with all A's. Mary Gann celebrates the monks who are walking to Washington D.C.

We pray for...

Jim Osborn as he has a heart procedure Monday. Becky LeClaire lifts up all immigrants. Melissa Duncan lifts up her brother, Mike Olson, as he is battling depression. Holly VanAuken lifts up all of those in Denmark and Greenland. Valerie Adair's family has had 4 major life events in the past few weeks. Susan Arn lifts up Mary Moon as she navigates the needs of the congregation. Jackie Farley lifts up her brother-in-law who is recovering in rehab at Mercy Hospital. Ron and Velma House are both still ill with the flu and covid. Erik Paulson lifted up Mandy Burnam's grandmother, Helen, 88, who passed away. Brent Smith lifted up all those fighting for democracy and the sovereignty of Greenland. Fran Roberson lifts up the loss of two amazing women, Arletta Fink and Anne Taylor. Erin Moore lifts up all Islamic people.

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
405-321-4988

1801 W. Brooks, Norman OK 73069

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