

Joys and Concerns

2.22.26

We celebrate with...

Julie and Rick Sondag got to see Evie for a few hours this week. Evie and her boyfriend are headed to Hawaii. Barb Drummond reported that they served 55 families in Norman with the gift of clean laundry and fed 150 people. She is so thankful for this mission and the volunteers that support it. Billy Drummond celebrates his 24th birthday! Jackie Farley shares her joy of the time spent with the OU Women's basketball alumni this weekend. Darcy Schmidgall accepted a tenure position at West Virginia University. Brent Smith raises up Chris Suit as he makes his final move to Connecticut. Both Chris and Sally were pillars at St. Stephens and will be greatly missed. Peggy Risenhoover was able to go visit her daughter in Dayton, Ohio. Peggy was able to get some much needed rest and relaxation. Angela Wicker was very happy to be back in service with her mother, Paula Weyerman. Angela has recovered from pneumonia and Paula took a fall and has been in the hospital and rehab for 6 weeks. Paula now has 24 hour care at her home.

We pray for...

The McDanel family at the loss of Jenn's father, Herman Coleson of Texarkana, Texas. His memorial service will be at St. Stephens Friday, March 6th at 10 am. Michelle Corr's father passed away. Peggy Risenhoover's husband, Neil, is having knee replacement repair surgery. Peggy Risenhoover lifts up the Muslim community. Rick Sondag as he prays for courage for our nation's leaders to stand up to bullies and continue to do the right things for our country. Holly VanAuken shared that Brenda Wheelock is snowed in in Philadelphia. Prayers for all those affected by the winter weather on the East Coast. Jackie Shipp's sister is facing breast cancer surgery and radiation. Jackie Shipp's lawn person, of a long time, is in custody now in Guatemala with no hopes of returning soon. Jackie Farley's friends' son is in need of prayer. Darci Schmidgall and family will be moving to West Virginia this summer for her new position. We will miss them greatly. Joy Hampton raises concerns that the federal government is wanting access to our voter registration records. Lucas Moore's mother will be moving here soon. Sharon Ringrose's father's second wife, Carol Ringrose, passed away. Maureen Bynum is in failing health.

The (Weekly) Shield

The Weekly Newsletter

Sunday - March 1, 2026

**Lunch Bunch
will meet on
March 3rd.**

**(It's now on the
1st and 3rd Tuesdays.)**



Needs of the NCRS:

1. Bookkeeper
2. Housing Chair & Housing Assistants
3. Prayers for the NCRS refugee families and volunteers
4. Drivers (dr. appts, etc.)

Contact Brent for more info at
bsmith103@cox.net.

Sunday Night Live

4:30—6:00 pm in Community Hall

Join us for Music, Snacks and
Discovery Time!

Sunday March 1st after 2nd service will be Acolyte Training.

This is for ALL kids from 3rd-5th grade. Even if you have had training, this is a refresher and we need everyone to join us. (kids have requested pizza lunch and it will be provided for them). Training should take about 30 minutes.

Beginning Sunday March 1 we will be collecting candy and other small items (no eggs are needed) to fill eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt! Please drop your donations in the container in the loggia and let Ms. Jenn know if you have any questions!

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!

<https://tinyurl.com/mtyabzn2>

Help us establish
a free queer
library at St.
Stephen's UMC.

Donate now!

QUEERLIT
COLLECTIVE



What's the ask?

QueerLit Collective is a Tulsa based nonprofit organization with a simple mission: to establish unrestricted access to queer literature for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and its allies.

As they grow and expand into OKC, we'd like to establish a FREE library at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church.

The total cost is \$2,500 to establish a new library.



Show Your Support

The national and state political landscape is not supportive of queer Oklahomans. Take this opportunity to show your support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community!



Gain a New Perspective

One established, St. Stephen's library would be accessible at all hours the church is open. Books available will share the perspectives and experiences of queer authors as well as allies who have supported queer family members.

Ready to Donate?



<https://tinyurl.com/Queer-Library>

WWW.QUEERLITCOLLECTIVE.ORG

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
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1801 W. Brooks, Norman OK 73069

www.ststephensnorman.org

office@ststephensnorman.org

Church services Sunday Morning 8:30 am & 10:50 am

For our Youth!

Spring break retreat is fast approaching. Our dates are going to be Thursday March 19th through Sunday March 22nd. Alyssa will need male sponsors for this trip, so if you are interested and have any questions, please reach out to her.

Adult Ed Meeting

March 18, 12:30 pm

Room 12

Fiction Club

March 24, 7:00 pm

Room 12



Have a green thumb?

We need a new plant care person. Please contact the church office if you can help!

Church Work Day

March 14

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Peace Roundtable & Potluck Lunch

March 22, 12:30 pm

Community Hall

St. Stephen's is offering a **Contemplative Service** in the style of Taizé at 6:30 pm Thursday, February 26, and continuing most Thursday evenings during Lent. It will be a meditative service without a sermon. Instead, for roughly 40 minutes, we will gather quietly to sing hymns, listen to scripture readings, and offer silent and spoken prayers, as we meditate powerfully together on Jesus' final journey leading to his cross in Jerusalem.

Please turn in
your pledge cards!

Scan to Donate to
St Stephen's UMC

