

## Joys and Concerns

3.15.26

### We celebrate with...

Brent Smith shares that the upcoming NCRS Potluck, March 28<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm, is an event the refugees are very much looking forward to. 6 countries will be represented: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Columbia, Guatemala, Ukraine and Venezuela. Mike Thompson raises up the awesome OU Women's Softball Team! Valerie Underwood raises up Norman High School Boys Basketball team who took State! Barb Drummond's niece, Kimmy, and her husband, Fernando are expecting their baby any moment. Melissa Duncan's daughters' friend is engaged. Holly VanAuken's 9 year old neighbor, Ben, is recovering from his heart surgery. Julie Sondag shared that she and Rick's daughter, Evie, has returned from Hawaii and is now engaged. Don MacGorman shared that he, Venita and others attended an amazing concert, Rhythms of the World, in Moore. The groups included several ethnic groups from the Cleveland County area. Dale Wares and his grandson will be traveling to NYC for Spring Break. Teresa Capps shared that her son, Jeremiah, is going for his third interview. Nora McDanel will be working at Andy's Frozen Custard after her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in late April. Brenda Wheelock shared the news that Cleveland County area placed 31<sup>st</sup> out of 500 Crop Walks across the United States! Jim Ellers' niece is pregnant and is planning on naming the baby after Jim's sister. Jackie Farley shared that Susan Arn celebrated her birthday last week. Jackie also shared that her brother and his wife were visiting.

### We pray for...

Becky LeClair shared her concern about the misinformation being shared about the Shelter vote. Clarity and truth is needed on this issue. Dan Snell has two colleagues with relatives in Iran. Teresa Capps shared that several Tinker employees have been deployed to Iran. Rachel McDanel is traveling to Pennsylvania to visit her girlfriend. Traveling mercies please. Erin Moore is asking for traveling mercies for Linden as she travels with the McFarlin UMC Youth group this week. Len Thomas and Sharon Ringrose shared that their son, Elijah, and his friends, are cutting their Arkansas camping trip short due to inclement weather. Their daughter, Rose, is headed to Portugal with her boyfriend on vacation. Traveling mercies for all of them. Jackie Farley's friend, Dennis Brigham, passed.

# The (Weekly) Shield

The Weekly Newsletter

Sunday - March 22, 2026



### Meet Our Refugee Families

March 28, 5:00—7:00 pm

Join us for a potluck meal and short program as our refugee families come to share their food and fellowship in Community Hall. Bring your dish to share in this international celebration of the NCRS families representing 6 countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Columbia, Guatemala, Ukraine and Venezuela.

### Sunday Night Live

4:30—6:00 pm in Community Hall

Join us for Music, Snacks and Discovery Time!

We are 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>

### Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services

The Maundy Thursday service is April 2 at 6:30 pm. Join us as we commemorate the Last Supper. This service focuses on the "New Commandment" Jesus gave his disciples: to love one another as he has loved us. We will gather to reflect on the institution of Communion and the humble act of service Jesus demonstrated by washing his disciples' feet.

The Good Friday service is April 3 at 7:00 pm. On this solemn evening, we gather for a service of shadows and scripture. Through music and readings, we will remember the crucifixion of Christ. It is a powerful time of quiet contemplation as we wait in the darkness for the hope of Easter morning.

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

Donate now!



### 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>

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

1801 W. Brooks, Norman OK 73069

[www.ststephensnorman.org](http://www.ststephensnorman.org)

[office@ststephensnorman.org](mailto: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.

### Finance Committee

March 30, 7 pm

Room 12

We have raised \$1200 of the \$2500 needed for the free queer library! Thanks to those who have donated so far!

Lunch Bunch  
will meet on  
April 7th.

### Peace Roundtable & Potluck Lunch

March 22, 12:30—3:00 pm

### Community Hall

Dr. Sam Perry is our speaker for this year's Peace Roundtable. Dr. Perry will share his views on the dangers of Christian Nationalism to our democracy and how we can respond to it. Join us Sunday afternoon, after the second service, March 22, 12:30 -3:00. Potluck sign up sheets are in the loggia.

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!

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