

Joys and Concerns

9.28.25

We celebrate with...

Velma and Ron House as they visited their “almost” grandson, Daxton, in Topeka. He was in the Homecoming Court and parade! Melissa Duncan celebrated her grandson’s 2nd birthday! Holly Van Auken shared that the Monarch Festival is Sunday, Sept. 28 at Legacy Park until 4pm. Barbara Holtzclaw thanks everyone for the cards and prayers for her son-in-law at his passing. They will be having a celebration of life for him later in October. Billy Drummond assisted in a big 40 person catering event Friday evening. He is feeling this is getting him closer to his dream of cooking! Brent Smith attended a performance by Josh Stenis and really enjoyed it. Brent reports that Josh is also on an album with OU students. Cathy celebrates a new state school superintendent in a few weeks. Marci is joyful to report on the choir retreat last Saturday. It was held at the home of Melina and Janene Evard. The choir began rehearsing Advent music which will be here in no time at all. Lucas Moore reports the fantastic news that Erin Moore was the recipient of The United Methodist Foundation Scholarship for her seminary studies. Big Congrats to Erin! Lucas Moore also shared that his sister’s friend found a print that his dad had made and he should receive it later this week. Rick Sondag also celebrates a new state school superintendent being named soon. Marilyn Nicely is traveling to Spain! Katie Campbell’s daughter, Lily, is graduating debt-free! She will have a double major in Music Education and Music Performance. Lily will be graduating Summa Cum Laude. She is finishing up at Lincoln Elementary and then will be headed to Blanchard. Congrats Lily! Rod Murrow shared that classical organ master, Ken Cowan, is performing Sunday, Sept. 28th at 3pm at St. Mark’s in Norman. Brenda Wheelock shared that she and Holly Van Auken will be playing at Mid-Way Deli. They will be performing on Friday, October 3rd at 6:30pm. Proceeds will benefit Crop Walk. Peggy Risenhoover reports that Neil is going to perform with The Oklahoma Story Works next weekend. He is very excited to be able to act again! Patrick Stauffer invites everyone to the OU Wind Symphony Concert Sunday, September 28th at 3pm at the Catlett Music Center at OU.

We pray for...

Ron House’s brother, Brad. He lives in Kansas City and is struggling health-wise. Becki Seay’s niece, Kathryn, has an aneurysm and will have open heart surgery Tuesday. Melissa Duncan’s brother, Mike, had a heart attack and had two stents put in. He is also fighting an infection in his foot and had to have part of that foot amputated. Mary Lee reported that Denilyn’s husband fell and broke his nose. Valerie Adair reports her sister, Rachel, had an MRI and is needing a biopsy. Becky LeClair lifts up all our military leaders as they are summoned to Quantico this week. Give them strength, resolve and level heads.

The (Weekly) Shield

The Weekly Newsletter

Sunday - October 5, 2025

Pastoral Appreciation Celebration

Sunday, October 5

12-2 pm

Community Hall

**Join us for a reception honoring the
pastors in our congregation!**

Trunk or Treat & Chili Cookoff

Sunday, October 26, 4 – 6 pm

Join us October 26th from 4-6 pm for the annual Trunk or Treat and Chili Cookoff event. This event has grown over the last few years and we want to see everyone. Bring a family recipe chili, set up a trunk and pass out candy, or just come and fellowship, we would love to see you there!

Lunch Bunch

will meet on

October 7.

(It’s now on the

1st and 3rd Tuesdays.)

BridgeKids is planning for our Halloween Party! We need 9 volunteers on Thursday Oct. 30th to come stand behind doors so that kids can trick-or-treat. We ask that volunteers bring some candy and/or small toys (ie bubbles, stickers, bounce ball, etc) to pass out. We need volunteers here at 9:30 to get in place and we should be done around 10:45. This is a super fun and cute event and volunteers are welcome to dress up too! People who want to volunteer need to email us (bridgekids@ststephensnorman.org) so we can be sure we have the right number of people.



Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

Needs of the NCRS:

Housing Coordinator (housing search, maintenance, etc.)

Family Liaisons

Car donation

Contact Brent for more info at
bsmith103@cox.net

SHINE KIDS IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/05 Sunday Night Live will meet at Sooner Station at 4
- 10/19 Children's Sabbath



For Children's Sabbath we will be collecting cans of soup for the month of "Souper October." Please bring your donations to Room 10. Cans will be used for our food pantry.



Joys and Concerns

9.29.2025 Continued

Brenda Wheelock reports that her dad, Charlie, is needing knee replacement surgery. Before they can proceed he needs to get his meds straightened out. Charlie is in a lot of pain right now. Neil Risenhoover's first cousin lost their house in a house fire. They built that home themselves. Crystal Cruz's nephew got into rehab. Crystal's father is needing dental work and is waiting for clearance from his cardiologist.

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
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Church services Sunday Morning 8:30 am & 10:50 am

On October 5 after second service we will celebrate **Clergy Appreciation** by honoring both our new and current pastor, Jinx Barber, as well as the other clergy who are associated with St. Stephen's. We are blessed by the participation of so many former St. Stephen's and other pastors in the life of our church.

Jinx Barber, current SSUMC pastor

Jeannie Himes, former SSUMC pastor

Jim Eller, retired Unitarian pastor

Dianne Peters, former SSUMC pastor

Dan Peil, retired UMC pastor

Peggy Risenhoover, retired UMC pastor

Kathy Brown, retired UMC pastor

Carolyn Murrow, retired UMC pastor

Please join us for cake after second service.

Be a Hunger Fighter!

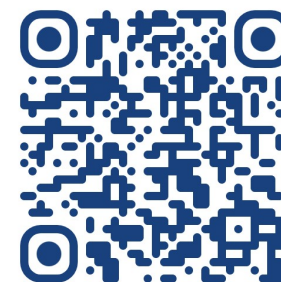
Join us for the Oct. 19 CROP Hunger Walk

You can help fight hunger locally and globally by participating in the 42nd annual Cleveland County CROP Walk to Stop Hunger at 2 pm Sunday, Oct. 19, at a new location—the Adult Wellness and Education Center, 602 N. Findlay Ave.

You can register to raise funds or donate online at our St. Stephen's team page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/st-stephens-norman>. You can also register or donate using sponsor envelopes at the CROP Walk table in the loggia each Sunday preceding the event.



Scan to Donate to
St Stephen's UMC



**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Walk With Us

2025 Cleveland County CROP Walk

Sunday, October 19

**Norman Adult Wellness
and Education Center**

**Go To Clevelandcountycropwalk.org for
details or to register your team**