

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

June 15-18 - Friendship Camp

Interfaith summer camp for elementary-aged children. This year's theme is "All You Need Is Love."

Ongoing

QueerLit Collective

St. Stephen's UMC is raising funds to provide a free queer library, which will be established to offer unrestricted access to queer literature for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and allies. \$1,400 has been raised toward the \$2,500 goal.

Sunday Night Live

Sundays, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Community Hall
Join us for music, snacks and discovery time!

Liturgists and Scripture Readers Needed

St. Stephen's UMC is looking for volunteers for the 2026 year. Please sign up for the 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. service(or both!). Sign up as often as you'd like at <https://tinyurl.com/mtyabzn2> to sign up.

Dishes

There are several dishes in the kitchen that belong to congregation members. Please come get them this week.

Needs of the NCRS

The NCRS needs volunteers for the following: Bookkeeper; Housing Chair & Housing Assistants; Prayers for the NCRS refugee families and volunteers; Drivers (dr. appts, etc.). Contact Brent for more info at bsmith103@cox.net.

Norman Pride Dates & Shirts

St. Stephen's is a sponsor of the Pride Festival (as always)! We'll have a vendor booth at the May 2 festival and a float in the May 3 parade. We have a new t-shirt design this year! Watch for signage to get a peek at the new design, and be ready to purchase a shirt to show your St. Stephen's pride — and to support the Reconciling Committee.

Altar arrangement is by Joan Berryhill.

Pianist today is Rod Murrow.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Susan Arn and Jackie Farley as they head out on their next traveling adventure to renew and recharge! They will return in May.

We pray with

Susan Arn and Jackie Farley as Susan's brother Steve and Jackie's brother Jerry both have health issues.

We also pray for Susan's brother-in-law, Rich Capel. He has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is having surgery April 17. Prayers also for Susan's two nephews and all the Capel family. Rich lives in Amsterdam, New York.



Behind Closed Doors

April 12, 2026

"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way."

— John Muir

"Pets are humanizing. They remind us we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve and nurture and care for all life."

— James Cromwell

"Happiness is a warm puppy."

— Charles Schultz

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church is a progressive Christian church that is open and affirming of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, economic brackets and walks of life. We celebrate the diversity within our congregation, and see ours as a safe church for open thought.

Order of Worship

Animal Blessing

Behind Closed Doors | Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

◇ Call to Worship

Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;

and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

Feasting on the Word

◇ Hymn

All Things Bright & Beautiful

Red Hymnal #147

Words in Music *Special Music*

By Rod Murrow

Blessing of the Animals

Sing to Our Kids *Where Children Belong*

Black Hymnal #2233

Children's Time

Cheryl Frech

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you are our portion and our cup.

In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest.

Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. Amen.

Feasting on the Word

Offering Ourselves, Our Tithes, Gifts and Prayers

Offertory

◇ Doxology

Red Hymnal #94

Prayer for One Voice & The Lord's Prayer

Beloved Source of All Being,

Whose presence fills the wide Oklahoma sky and dwells within every heart in Norman,

May Your name be held in quiet wonder.

May Your vision of wholeness flourish among us;

May Your love be the map we follow,

Binding Earth to the heavens in a single breath.

Feed us this day with the bread of life and the hope of the empty tomb,

Providing exactly what we need to sustain our spirits.

Forgive us the moments we have turned away from love,

As we open our arms to embrace and forgive one another.

In this season of Eastertide, lead us through the shadows of doubt and deliver us from the coldness of indifference.

For Yours is the heartbeat of the universe,

The power that rolled away the stone,

And the glory that shines in every rising sun,

Now and through all the ages to come.

Amen.

◇ Hymn

Spirit of God

Black Hymnal #2117

vs. 1, 2 & 3

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service

John 20:19-31

Tim Duncan

10:50 Service

Linden Moore

Sermon

Behind Closed Doors

Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn

Breath of God, Breath of Peace

Remain seated

Green Hymnal #3145

◇ Benediction

◇ Sending Forth

The Trees of the Field

Black Hymnal #2279

Postlude

Liturgists

8:30 Service

Melissa Duncan

10:50 Service

Cheryl Frech

Contact Us

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

1801 W. Brooks Ave., Norman, OK, 73069

405-321-4988 | www.ststephensnorman.org

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.

Staff

Rev. Jinx M. Barber, Senior Pastor

pastor@ststephensnorman.org

Mary Moon, Care Minister

care@ststephensnorman.org

Alyssa Miller, Youth Minister

youth@ststephensnorman.org

Marci Corey, Director of Music Ministries

music@stephensnorman.org

Julie Morris, BridgeKids Director

BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org

Sharon Ringrose, Office Administrator

office@ststephensnorman.org

Jenn McDanel, Children's Minister

children@ststephensnorman.org

Grace Valentine, Youth Assistant

youthassistant@ststephensnorman.org

Julie Sondag, Pianist

music@ststephensnorman.org

Morgan Magelssen, Children's Music Director

childrensmusic@ststephensnorman.org



To donate to St. Stephen's UMC, use the QR code.



St. Stephen's UMC is a Reconciling congregation. To learn more, visit rmnetwork.org.