

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Today & April 26 - Earth Day Celebration

In celebration of Earth Day, free seeds and resources are available in the Loggia today. Around the church you will find meditations, and well-loved hymns and quotes from *Earth Gospel-A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation* by Sam Hamilton-Poore. The City of Norman will hold their free Earth Day Festival at Reeves Park Noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 26.

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. \$1,350 has been raised toward the \$2,500 goal.

Sunday Night Live

April 19, 4:30 p.m. Families please join us for an evening of family fun for all ages with Ms. Venita and a VERY large parachute!

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.

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.

Kennedy Elementary Staff Appreciation

As the school year continues, we invite you to help us show appreciation to the teachers, administrators, and support staff at Kennedy Elementary. These dedicated individuals care for the children in our community every day, and we want them to

know Saint Stephen's is grateful for all they do. You can participate by signing up in the Loggia to recognize a specific staff member, writing a brief note of encouragement, and returning it to Mary Moon's office by Sunday, May 3 (please do not seal the envelope). A \$10 donation is suggested to help provide each staff member with a Sonic gift card. Donations may be made by cash or check (payable to Saint Stephen's, with "Kennedy Elementary" in the memo line). For questions, please contact Mary Moon at care@ststephensnorman.org.

Altar arrangement is by Holly Van Auken.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Marci Corey is thankful to Rod Murrow for covering for Julie this week.

Barb Drummond's niece, Kimmy, had her baby—a boy named Luca.

Becky LeClair gives thanks for the glorious gardens and landscapes here at St. Stephens and lifts up all the volunteers who care for them.

Bryan and Jenn McDanel will celebrate 22 years of marriage on April 17.

Norah McDanel will celebrate her 16th birthday on April 19.

Rita Pettitt shared that Greg's brother celebrated his 80th birthday, including a surprise visit from family in Colorado.

We pray with

Rita Pettitt will have eye surgery on April 14 and asks for prayers during her recovery.

Melissa Duncan shares that her Aunt, Carol Olson, has passed; prayers for her children, Brian and Alichia, and all of Melissa's family.

Dan Snell lifts up the ongoing war and prays for peace and wisdom for leaders.

Helen Flowers asks prayers for her brother, Joel Clay, as he transitions into memory care, and for their family.



Emmaus Is Almost as Far as Damascus

April 19, 2026

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

— African Proverb

"We think we understand the rules when we become adults, but what we really experience is a narrowing of the imagination."

— David Lynch

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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

Earth Day

Emmaus Is Almost as Far as Damascus | The Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

◇ Call to Worship

Followers of Jesus,
by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

Alleluia!

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

Alleluia!

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word
of God.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Feasting on the Word

◇ Hymn

8:30 Service	<i>Bring Many Names</i>	Black Hymnal #2047
10:50 Service	<i>Sing, Sing, Sing</i>	Youth Praise Band

Words in Music *Be Still and Know* By Karen Marrolli

Sing to Our Kids *Where Children Belong*
Black Hymnal #2233

Children's Time Erin Moore

Offertory Prayer

**Almighty God,
by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor
and the offering of our lives.**

**Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving
in union with our risen Lord,
who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.**

Feasting on the Word

Offering Ourselves, Our Tithes, Gifts and Prayers

Offertory

8:30 Service		Julie Sondag
10:50 Service	<i>Let it Be</i>	Youth Praise Band

◇ **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** *Stay With Us* Black Hymnal #2199

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service		Luke 24:13-35
10:50 Service		Becky LeClair Sharon Ringrose

Sermon Emmaus Is Almost as Far as Damascus
Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn

8:30 Service	<i>Day of Arising, vs. 1, 2 & 4</i>	<i>Remain seated</i> Green Hymnal #3086
10:50 Service	<i>I Will Rest With You</i>	Youth Praise Band

◇ Benediction

◇ **Sending Forth** *The Trees of the Field* Black Hymnal #2279

Postlude

Liturgists

8:30 Service		Ron House
10:50 Service		Helen Flowers

◇ Stand in Body or Spirit

Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger.

Contact Us

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.

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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.