

# Announcements

## Upcoming Dates

### Norman Pride Festival & Parade - May 1-3

St. Stephen's will have a booth at Norman Pride Festival Saturday, May 2, and will have a parade float Sunday, May 3. Please join the fun and let people know St. Stephen's is a welcoming and affirming community.

### 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

At 4:30 p.m. each Sunday, children meet for music and enrichment activities.

### 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 service (or both!). Sign up as often as you'd like at <https://tinyurl.com/mtyabzn2>.

### 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](mailto:bsmith103@cox.net).

### New T-Shirts

The new t-shirts are available for purchase now in the Loggia through Sunday, May 3. 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 "Ken-

nedy Elementary" in the memo line). For questions, please contact Mary Moon at [care@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:care@ststephensnorman.org).

Altar arrangement is by Elaine Hunter.

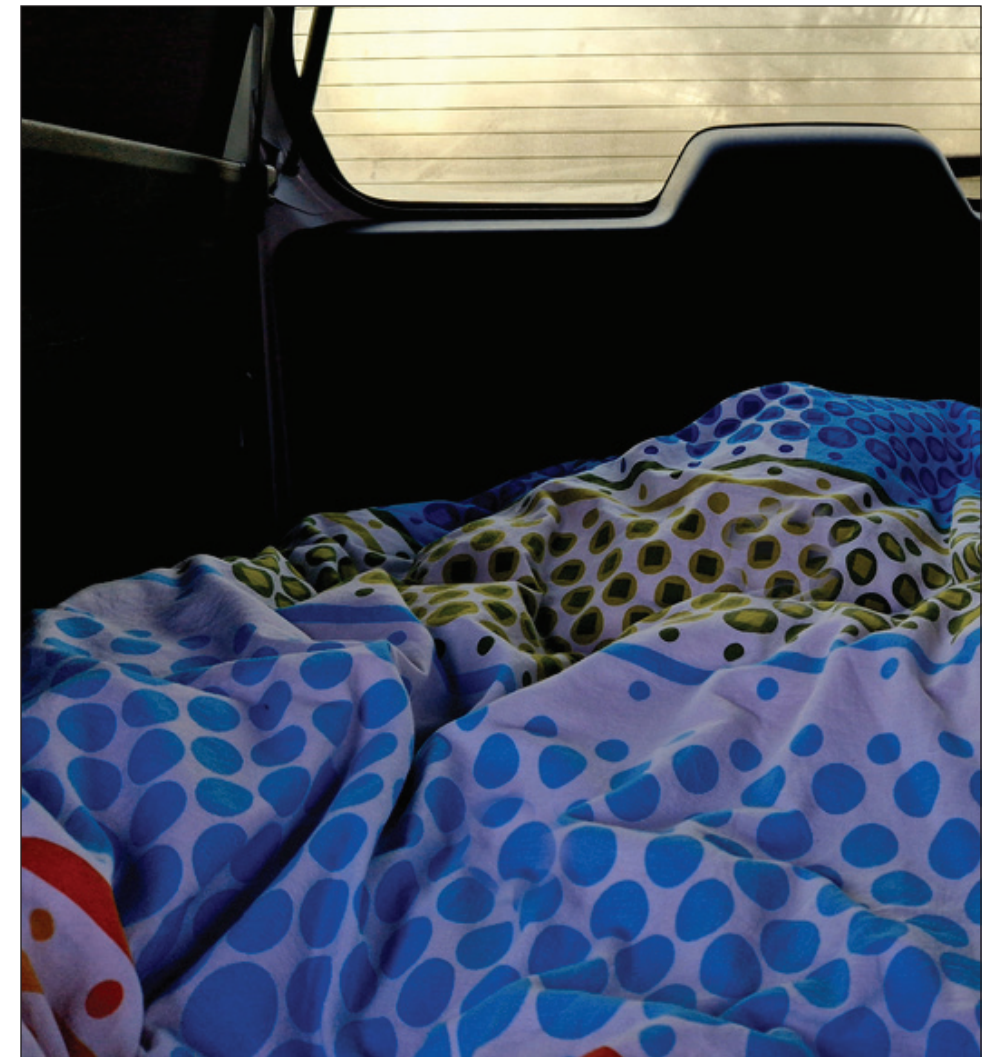
## Joys and Concerns

### We celebrate with

Darci Schmidgall as she defends her dissertation on Friday.  
Helen Flowers as she travels to Maine to visit her daughter and granddaughter.  
Mykhail celebrates his daughter, Mila Rybakov, gaining U.S. citizenship last month.  
Michelle Corr gives thanks for the many cards and kind words received after the loss of her father, Edwin Corr.  
Marci Corey is grateful for the talented youth of St. Stephen's who share their gifts in the praise band.

### We pray with

Darci Schmidgall as she defends her dissertation on Friday.  
Helen Flowers asks prayers for her brother as he transitions into memory care.  
Katie Chinn asks prayers for Jack as he prepares for knee surgery on April 28.  
Crystal Cruz asks prayers for her friend Stacey as she faces serious illness and treatment.  
Melissa Duncan asks prayers for her mother, Barbara Olson, who was hospitalized this week and is now in the ICU. She is improving, and prayers are appreciated for her continued recovery.



## The Acts of the Holy Spirit

April 26, 2026

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

— Coretta Scott King

"We're all just walking each other home."

— Ram Dass

"We are all a little broken. But last time I checked, broken crayons still color."

— Shel Silverstein

---

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

## Eastertide

The Acts of the Holy Spirit | The Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Prelude

### Welcome and Sharing of Joys & Concerns

### Passing of the Peace and Announcements

#### ◇ Call to Worship

Sisters and brothers, let us gather together  
with glad and generous hearts.

**For many signs and wonders are being done among us.**

Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**Let us give what we can to all who have needs**

**so that all people, no matter who they are,  
may regard us with good will.**

Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

**For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.**

*Feasting on the Word*

#### ◇ Hymn

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5

Black Hymnal #2238

### Words in Music

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me*

Arr. by K. Lee Scott

### Sing to Our Kids

*Where Children Belong*

Black Hymnal #2233

### Children's Time

Jena Barber

### Offertory Prayer

**Holy and generous God,  
you have anointed us and we are yours.**

**Bless these tithes and offerings**

**that they may become green pastures and still waters**

**for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. 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

*They Will Know We Are Christians*

Vs. 1-3

Black Hymnal #2223

### Scripture Reading

8:30 Service

Acts 2:42-47

10:50 Service

Stephanie Parks

Rita Pettit

### Sermon

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Rev. Jinx Barber

### Reflection

#### Hymn

*When God Restored Our Common Life*

*Remain seated*

Black Hymnal #2182

#### ◇ Benediction

#### ◇ Sending Forth

*The Trees of the Field*

Black Hymnal #2279

### Postlude

### Liturgists

8:30 Service

Dan Snell

10:50 Service

Rita Pettit

## Contact Us

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

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

405-321-4988 | [www.ststephensnorman.org](http://www.ststephensnorman.org)

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

## Staff

**Rev. Jinx M. Barber, Senior Pastor**

[pastor@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:pastor@ststephensnorman.org)

**Mary Moon, Care Minister**

[care@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:care@ststephensnorman.org)

**Alyssa Miller, Youth Minister**

[youth@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:youth@ststephensnorman.org)

**Marci Corey, Director of Music Ministries**

[music@stephensnorman.org](mailto:music@stephensnorman.org)

**Julie Morris, BridgeKids Director**

[BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org)

**Sharon Ringrose, Office Administrator**

[office@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:office@ststephensnorman.org)

**Jenn McDanel, Children's Minister**

[children@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:children@ststephensnorman.org)

**Grace Valentine, Youth Assistant**

[youthassistant@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:youthassistant@ststephensnorman.org)

**Julie Sondag, Pianist**

[music@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:music@ststephensnorman.org)

**Morgan Magelssen, Children's Music Director**

[childrensmusic@ststephensnorman.org](mailto: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](http://rmnetwork.org).

◇ Stand in Body or Spirit

Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger.