

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Norman Pride Today

Join us as we participate in the Norman Pride Parade at 7 p.m. today! We'll meet at 6:15 p.m. at the Depot. If you'd like to help with the float, we'll be at the church starting at 4 p.m.

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

Will not meet this week.

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.

Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday is approaching, and we would love to celebrate your high school senior. If you have a student graduating this year, please contact Alyssa so we can make sure they receive the recognition they deserve.

Kennedy Elementary Staff Appreciation

This is the last week to support the staff at Kennedy Elementary. Please sign up in the Loggia to recognize a staff member, write a brief note, and return it to Mary Moon's office today (do not seal the envelope). A \$10 donation is suggested to 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). Questions? Contact Mary Moon at care@ststephensnorman.org.

Altar arrangement is by Kathryn Adkins.

I Choose Love

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.
I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.
I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.
I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Marci Corey expresses heartfelt gratitude for Rod Murrow's many years of faithful service to the music ministry at St. Stephen's as he steps back from this role. We also hold Rod and Caroline in prayer as they navigate this transition.

Marci Corey gives thanks for Venita, Amber, and Marles, who shared Native American flute music in worship on Sunday.

Velma House was glad to see Mary and Andy Peters visiting in worship from Texas.

Phillip and Leslie Bohan-Bothwell celebrate their 35th anniversary this week.

Melissa Duncan shares that her mother, Barbara Olson, is home from the hospital and received encouraging news.

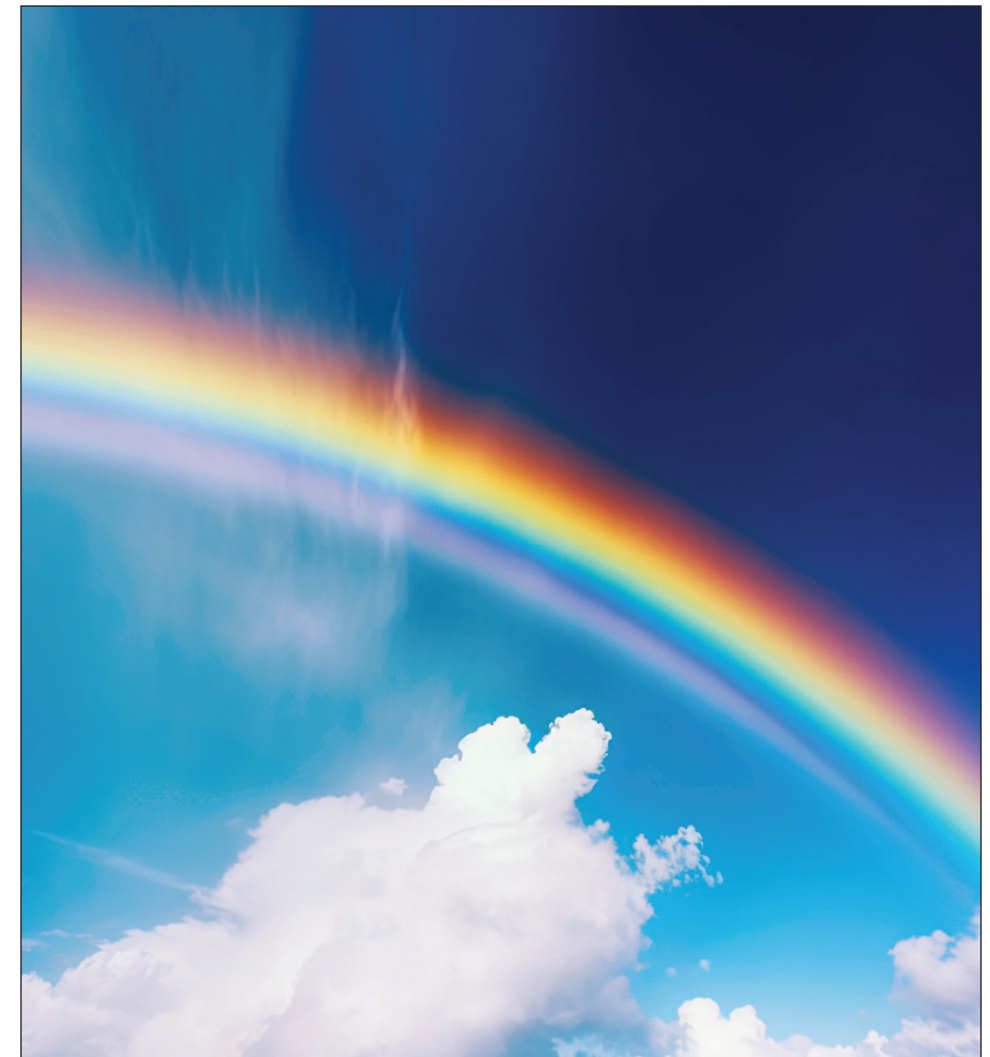
Sally Mellon celebrates being able to enjoy time in the sun.

We pray with

Susan Arn asks prayers for her brother-in-law, Rich, as he faces advanced cancer and difficult decisions.

Steve and Elvera Gresham ask prayers for their family following the tragic death of a 10-year-old relative in St. Louis.

Rebecca Huskey asks for traveling mercies for her niece, Annabeth, a first-year college student, as she travels to Copenhagen for study abroad..



Our Heritage

May 3, 2026

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."

— Ambrose Redmoon

"We are all different, which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity life would be very boring."

— Catherine Pulsifer

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

— Desmond Tutu

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

Our Heritage | The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

◇ Call to Worship

Let us offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God,
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Feasting on the Word

◇ Hymn *Welcome* Green Hymnal #3152

Words in Music *Welcome to God's Love*
By Mark Miller & Lindy Thompson

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

Children's Time Cheryl Frech

Offertory Prayer

**Almighty God,
receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding
goodness.**

**Make our lives to be an acceptable offering
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

◇ Doxology Red Hymnal #94

Prayer for One Voice & The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

◇ Hymn *Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*
Green Hymnal #3122

Scripture Reading Acts 7:55-60
8:30 Service Jackie Shipp
10:50 Service Barbara Lacks

Sermon Our Heritage
Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

◇ Stand in Body or Spirit

Ritual of Holy Communion

UMH #13

Hymn *I Choose to Love*
Remain seated See lyrics in Announcements

◇ Benediction

◇ Sending Forth *Draw the Circle Wide* Green Hymnal #3154

Postlude

Liturgists

8:30 Service Stephanie Parks
10:50 Service Michelle Carr

Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger.

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

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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.