

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 1

Church Work Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A few areas that require our attention:

- Clear gutters and downspouts. We need a few volunteers who can join us on the roof. Rev. Jinx has purchased a blower that we can use.

- Church Yard Cleanup:

- ◊ Loggia Garden - clean up leaves & pine needles
- ◊ Outside areas around the building - pick up trash, tree branches, rake leaves and trim bushes.

- Inside Church Building

(Trustees will determine at their July 26 meeting)

Bring your tools. We appreciate your help!

St. Stephen's Trustees

Aug. 30, Sept. 6 & 13

Reconciling Committee Silent Auction

Ongoing

Call for Silent Auction Items

The Reconciling Committee is now accepting donations for our Silent Auction benefiting Sisu Youth Services! Reach out to Jena Barber or Carol Mason or email somethingmoveme@gmail.com to learn more, or drop off your gift at the office and make sure it's marked Silent Auction.

OU Wesley Meal - Tuesday, Aug. 25

Please sign up in the loggia to contribute food items or volunteer.

Audio/Visual Volunteers Needed

We're in need of some tech-minded volunteers to help run our new state-of-the-art camera and sound equipment. Reach out to Jinx or email office@ststephensnorman.org to learn more or to sign up.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Please contact Jenn at children@ststephensnorman.org.

New Carpet

Help us protect our new Sanctuary carpet. Only water in closed containers is allowed in the Sanctuary. All other beverages, please leave in the loggia during the services. Thank you, St. Stephen's Trustees.

NCRS Refugee Needs

Thank you to those who were able to donate a refugee

backpack!

New Needs: please see Brent Smith for more info at bsmith103@cox.net.

- Donated or reliable used car (young Afghan couple, recent OU Geology grads need a car)
- Volunteers needed to stuff backpack school supplies (St. Michaels, Tue, Aug 4 at 2:00pm, probably take an hour)
- Drivers (refugee families have recent driving permits and need practice driving, they have a car and car insurance, just need practice driving)
- Need 4-bedroom house to rent in Sep/Oct (under \$1,700/mo, must accept Section 8 housing; Overlook Apts. being sold, Afghan family lease ends Sept 30)

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Marci and Lance Corey celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary last week.

Valerie and Mark Adair celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary last week.

Erin and Lucas Moore celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary last week.

Rick and Doris Riecke will celebrate their 63rd anniversary today.

Velma House celebrated her birthday last week.

Little Thomas Collins, 9 month old son of Heath and Casey Collins is recovering well from viral meningitis.

Brent and Kim Smith returned from their trip to Alaska.

Tim Duncan's art is on display at an art exhibition in Ventura, California.

Joy Hampton's kids made it home safe from Japan despite there being a tsunami.

Jim Eller's son and his partner are rafting down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon this week.

Helen Flowers is traveling to Maine to pick up her daughter and granddaughter before they move to Colorado, the closest her daughter has lived to her since high school.

Rick and Julie Sondag's friend, Scott, had successful cancer surgery.

Tim and Melissa Duncan performed "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," with Melissa singing and Tim playing the banjolele.

The Youth and sponsors returned from their mission trip safe and sound.

We pray with

Will Garcia and his daughter and granddaughter as they travel to Puerto Rico.

Janene Evard as she deals with her ongoing health issues.

Jeff Underwood as his brother in California passed.



The Kingdom Is Like a Mustard Seed

July 26, 2026

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

— Vincent Van Gogh

"To see things in the seed, that is genius."

— Lao Tzu

"The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention."

— John Burroughs

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

Sunday Morning

The Kingdom Is Like a Mustard Seed | Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

Blessed be God whose word gives hope and shapes our dreams,

whose love has conquered death.

Blessed be God who orders our way and guides our steps,
who leads us into life.

Feasting on the Word

♦ Hymn

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

UMH #400

Words in Music

Special Music

Bell Choir

Sing to Our Kids

Where Children Belong

Black Hymnal #2233

Children's Time

Erin Moore

Offertory Prayer

We dedicate our lives to you this day

and seal that promise by way of this offering.

We give out of the abundance of our hearts,

that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many.

Thank you for giving us grateful hearts

and a spirit of generosity for the flourishing of your realm.

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

Dear one,

Exalted one.

Our example,

Our friend.

Daily bread,

Open hands.

♦ Stand in Body or Spirit

**Forgiven people,
Grace shared.**

**Hard lessons,
Wisdom earned.**

**Your world,
Our inheritance,
Our responsibility.**

Amen.

♦ Hymn

A Wilderness Wandering People

Green Hymnal #3113

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

10:50 Service

Dan Snell

Dale Wares

Sermon

The Kingdom Is Like a Mustard Seed

Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn

Remain seated

Rule of Life

Green Hymnal #3117

♦ Benediction

♦ Sending Forth

Postlude

Shalom to You

UMH #666

Liturgists

8:30 Service

Melissa Marks

10:50 Service

Len Thomas

Altar arrangement is by Elaine Hunter.

Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger.

Contact Us

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

1801 W. Brooks St., 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

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Morgan Magelssen, Children's Music Director

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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.