

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

August 17, 6:30 p.m.

Admin Council

Aug. 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

Aug. 19, 12:30 p.m.

Adult Education

Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m.

OU Wesley SovalPalooza Involvement Fair

Aug. 23, 4:30-6 p.m.

Get ready to kick off a new season at our Fall Kickoff next Sunday! Bring a favorite dish to share, enjoy games and fellowship, and cool off with the foam cannon to end the afternoon. Invite your friends and join us for a fun start to the fall season.

Aug. 25, 5-9 p.m.

OU Wesley Welcome Week Cookout

Aug. 30, Sept. 6 & 13

Reconciling Committee Silent Auction

Ongoing

OU Wesley Welcome Week Cookout - Tuesday, Aug. 25

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Help welcome OU students! St. Stephen's will have a table at the OU Wesley Welcome Week SovalPalooza Involvement Fair on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. (setup at 6:30). Sign up in the Loggia to volunteer! There will be camp staff present to assist.

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.

NCRS Refugee Needs

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)
- 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

Julie Sondag raises up the opportunity to attend the Norman City Council meeting Tuesday at 5:30pm and have our voices heard.

Sally Mellon has restored vision and was able to drive herself to church!

Jennifer and David Wilson-Burns' son, Christopher, left early Sunday morning. He will be a biological observer on a fishing boat in Alaska for up to 4 months.

Barbara Holtzclaw is thankful to have full-time caregivers that will allow her to attend service and sing in the choir.

Rick Sondag is thankful that Audrey is home. She is directing an opera and needs her dad's help with creating a spider costume. This warms Rick's heart because he made her Halloween costumes while she was growing up....She still needs her dad.

Jenn McDanel shared that it is Rachel's 19th birthday! Rachel also just got back from a trip to Cancun and is leaving this Saturday headed back to DU.

Helen Flowers' daughter, Kimberly, and granddaughter, Addison, were visiting with us before they move to Colorado.

Jade Cheshire filed for an official name change and goes before a judge on Sept. 2nd.

Jackie Farley and Susan Arn had friends from China visit them last week and had a lovely time visiting, swimming and sharing a meal.

Barb Drummond shared that Laundry Love is back up and running. They provided their services to over 30 families in Moore last weekend and fed over 100.

Mari Corey is thankful the choir is back and extends a warm invitation to all that would like to join!

Teresa Capps and her husband Gary will celebrate their 43rd anniversary on the 14th!

Teresa Capps' grandson, Sage, celebrated his 2nd birthday!

We pray with

Jim Eller's brother, David Eller, passed this past week.

Deb Boatman continues to recover at home from her hip replacement.

Venita MacGorman continues her recovery from her stroke. She is in a rehab facility in Santa Barbara, California.

Don MacGorman as he heads to Dallas for further investigation on his vision issues.



Aaron's Itchy Beard

August 16, 2026

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

— Margaret J. Wheatley

“Community cannot feed for long on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered sisters and brothers.”

— Howard Thurman

“Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.”

— 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

Sunday Morning

Aaron's Itchy Beard | Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

God has forgiven us and drawn us close,
reconciling us through Jesus Christ,
who has lavished upon us
the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord!

Feasting on the Word

♦ Hymn

Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother
Black Hymnal #2225

Words in Music

River in Judea
SSUMC Choir
Arr. by John Leavitt

Sing to Our Kids

Where Children Belong
Black Hymnal #2233

Children's Time

Jena Barber

Offertory Prayer

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy than we could
imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound
to embrace all those in need. 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

Parent of all, beyond border and sky,
Holy the breath in the vulnerable's cry.
Your kingdom is built by our hands, not our wait—
On Norman's cold streets and at empire's fenced gate.
Give daily bread now where inflation takes its toll,
Protect our immigrant kin from the border patrol.

Forgive our quiet when war drums arise,
And heal the deep rifts where our unity dies.
Lead us past apathy, comfort our grief,
Give strength to build justice, not merely relief.
For Yours is the sanctuary born in our stand,
To build up Your kingdom with love in our hand.
Amen.

♦ Hymn

A Place at the Table
vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5
Green Hymnal #3149

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service Psalm 133
Ron Mullan
10:50 Service Barbara Lacks

Sermon

Aaron's Itchy Beard Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn

Remain seated
The Servant Song
Black Hymnal #2222

♦ Benediction

♦ Sending Forth As We Go Green Hymnal #3183

Postlude

Liturgists

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

Altar arrangement is by Sue Simeroth.

♦ 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.

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.