

# Announcements

## Upcoming Dates

### TODAY, 4:30-6 p.m.

Please join us this evening for Sunday Night Live. We will have a game, snacks, music and super fun dance play! Bring your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors! Can't wait to see you!

### Now Through Sept. 13

Reconciling Committee Silent Auction

## Ongoing

### 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)

### Silent Auction Recipient

The organization the Reconciling Committee is raising money for with the proceeds from the silent auction is Sisu Youth Services, found at [sisuyouth.org](http://sisuyouth.org). Sisu is a low-barrier, identity-affirming space in Oklahoma City where unhoused transition-age youth find the shelter and support they need to pursue the life they want. In a country where 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+, low-barrier shelters that explicitly affirm and protect trans and queer kids are tragically rare, making Sisu a literal lifeline and a model of care that few cities are fortunate enough to have. Help us raise funds by purchasing something in the silent auction on Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 and 13.

# Joys and Concerns

## We celebrate with

Venita MacGorman is home from California. She will continue to recover from her recent stroke at home.

Marci Corey's sister is getting married next Saturday! Marci, and many of her family members, will be traveling to Northern California to celebrate this wonderful event.

Jenn McDanel shared that Rachel is back in school at the University of Denver. Rachel also has 2 jobs at school this year, both will be in her residence hall.

Jenn also shared that Bryan will be getting an epidural Tuesday to help relieve his back pain.

Julie Sondag celebrated her dad's 94th birthday. Julie also shared that one of Sunday's hymns, "Here I am, Lord" is her mother's favorite.

Rick Sondag shared what a wonderful event St. Stephen's was a part of on Saturday at OU. We had a booth there, along with 300 other entities and over 3,000 students attended. We shared what St. Stephen's is and that we welcome ALL!

Debbie Boatman continues to recover from her hip surgery.

Peggy Risenhoover shared that Neal's dad is settling in well to his assisted living facility.

Peggy's daughter also came through her surgery well and the prognosis is wonderful.

Barb Drummond shared that Laundry Love will be in Norman this Saturday and she can also use more volunteers.

Barb also shared that her family continues to be blessed in all things work related.

Barbara Holtzclaw's son, Wesley Williams, was visiting here during 2nd service.

Holly VanAuken was joyful for the unexpected rain and cloud cover earlier this week.

Becky LeClair shared her appreciation for the beautiful altar flowers provided by Leslie Cornwell.

## We pray with

Jackie Farley as her first cousin, Maxine, passed away Saturday at the age of 94.

Becky LeClair's friend, Sue, who has cancer and is having surgery on Sept. 2.

Teresa Capps shared the news that the state of Oklahoma is privatizing Community Mental Health Centers across the state. In Norman, around 3,000 clients will be facing a lot of changes. No physicians will be moving to the new facility. This is an urgent concern as disruption in any medication routine can cause tragic results. Also, in Norman alone, 42 employees have resigned and some others will be losing their jobs. Please pray for all involved.



# I Am That I Am

August 30, 2026

"The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience."

— Frank Herbert

"Attention is the beginning of devotion."

— Mary Oliver

"The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become."

— Charles Du Bos

---

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

I Am That I Am | Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

### Passing of the Peace and Announcements

#### ♦ Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

#### Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

#### Let us worship God!

*Feasting on the Word*

#### ♦ Hymn

*Be Thou, My Vision*

Red Hymnal #451

### Words in Music

*Go Gently, Go Lightly* Marty Marks, Directing

Arr. by Nancy Raabe by Joseph Martin

Marles Bradley, Flute (1st service)

Katie Campbell, Flute (2nd service)

### Sing to Our Kids

*Where Children Belong* Black Hymnal #2233

### Children's Time

#### Offertory Prayer

Holy God of holy ground,  
like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven's  
purposes on earth.

Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence;  
bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your  
will;

in the name of the triune One. 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

*Here Am I*

Black Hymnal #2178

### Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

8:30 Service

Tim Duncan

10:50 Service

Helen Flowers

### Sermon

I Am That I Am

Rev. Jinx Barber

### Reflection

#### Hymn

*In the Desert, On God's Mountain*

*Remain seated*

Green Hymnal #3029

vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6

#### ♦ Benediction

#### ♦ Sending Forth

*As We Go*

Green Hymnal #3183

### Postlude

#### Liturgists

8:30 Service

Melissa Duncan

10:50 Service

Jackie Farley

Altar arrangement is by Kathryn Adkins.

♦ Stand in Body or Spirit

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

Julie Morris, BridgeKids Director  
[BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org)

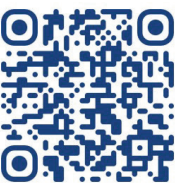
Sharon Ringrose, Office Administrator  
[office@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:office@ststephensnorman.org)

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).