

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

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.

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

Barb Drummond shares that Billy got a new job that is remote and pays more! Billy is very happy. Barb's husband also got a promotion at his job.

Karleene Smith and Jim Osborn both lifted up all those who helped with Church Work Day.

Marci Corey is thrilled to have the Marks family, Marty, Melissa, Isaac and Bellamy lead us in worship in both services.

Marci is also excited that our choir starts rehearsals again this Wednesday, August 5th at 7pm. She also extends a warm welcome to all who would like to join this joyous family.

Becky LeClair introduced a dear friend and visitor, Mary Mowdy, who lives in Hawaii.

Amber Mathis and Allysa Miller closed on their new house and have moved in!

Brenda Wheelock's daughter, Robin, was visiting from Philadelphia. They are all getting ready to go on a road trip to Colorado.

David and Jenn Wilson-Burns celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary in Las Vegas! It is also their 31st anniversary belonging to St. Stephens!

Allison Hayes' parents, John and Margo, were visiting and celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Helen Flowers' precious granddaughter, Addison, was visiting before she moves to Colorado.

Dale Wares shared that he is very happy that his neighborhood is having a resurgence of young families moving in. The neighborhood had a popsicle party Saturday night and 21 kids were there!

Rick Sondag celebrates the cooler weather.

Dan Piel celebrated his birthday Sunday.

We pray with

Cathy Suttle's mother, Yolonda Suttle, has passed. Services are pending.

Rob Carr's uncle, Owen Weber, has passed.

Venita MacGorman suffered a stroke while visiting her daughter in California. Venita is out of the hospital in California but is in rehab there for several weeks.

Stacey Bedgood's mother, Carla, has entered Hospice due to an age related decline. She is stable at this point and is not in an immediately life-threatening stage.

Debbie Boatman as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.



Stones We Carry

August 2, 2026

"Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned."

— Gautama Buddha

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.."

— Paul Boese

"The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived."

— Robert Jordan

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

Stones We Carry | Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

God lifts us from death to life
and preserves us for God's purposes.

With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

Feasting on the Word

♦ Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

Red Hymnal #560

Words in Music

SSUMC Choir

Anthem

Sing to Our Kids

Where Children Belong

Black Hymnal #2233

Children's Time

Jenn McDanel

Offertory Prayer

**We give thanks to you, O Lord,
for your sustaining presence and abundant grace.**

Receive now these gifts we bring to you

out of your generous provision in our lives.

May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine,

relieve the oppressed in time of trouble,

and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son,

in whose name we pray. 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

Make Me a Servant

Black Hymnal #2176

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Ron Mullan

10:50 Service

Holly Van Auken

Sermon

Stones We Carry

Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn

Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone

Remain seated

Green Hymnal #3104

♦ Benediction

♦ Sending Forth

As We Go

Green Hymnal #3183

Postlude

Liturgists

8:30 Service

Ron House

10:50 Service

Susan Arn

Altar arrangement is by Becky LeClair.

♦ 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

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.