

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

TODAY

9:40 a.m.

The Challenges & Choices Sunday School class invites everyone to join them for an important presentation and discussion today. Guests will be David Spain of Norman Housing Ministries and president of the Xenia Institute for Social Justice, and Brittni Kelly, Director of Homeless Services at City Care, who will talk about the current challenges facing Norman's unhoused population and proposed responses such as the new Shelter to Home initiative. They hope you will join them in Community Hall.

12:15 p.m.

Bids close for the Reconciling Committee Silent Auction.

4:30 p.m.

Shine Kids will meet and learn about Yom Kippur from our friends at the Jewish Federation of OKC.

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)

It is a joy to report that the August Fish Basket raised \$839.00 for the NCRS! This brings the total donations to \$3,670 for 2026 from the St. Stephen's community (including family, friends, and friend network)! Our pledge was \$2,000. So, great work! Thank You, St. Stephen's!

Silent Auction Recipient

The Reconciling Committee is raising money for Sisu Youth Services, found at sisuyouth.org, with the proceeds from the silent auction.

SHINE Kids

Shine Kids are collecting old t-shirts of any size, color, condition that can be cut up for a service project. Please bring them to church when you have a chance. They are collecting 1 gallon ziploc bags for the Crop Walk, which can be dropped off at the church.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Rev. Jinx celebrated his 51st Birthday on Saturday!
Allison Hayes (and her pup Sophie) joined the church!
Barb Drummond reports on the continued success of Laundry Love.
Jackie Shipp and Susan Arn both lift up the Silent Auction opportunity in the loggia. 100% of the proceeds will go to sisuyouth.org.
Mary Lee reminded us that The Challenges and Choices Sunday School class has invited all the congregation to next Sunday's presentation and discussion on the unhoused population. It will be held in Community Hall in between services. The speakers will be David Spain and Brittni Kelly.
Erin Moore went through her first DCOM (District Committee on Ministry) meeting with success.
Marci Corey is thankful for our guest pianist Sunday, Karen Bentley.
Venita MacGorman was in attendance in 2nd service Sunday!
Jade Cheshire had her name officially changed last week.

We pray with

Vickie Wood as her granddaughter, Darcie, is experiencing Down Syndrome Regression Disorder. She is losing vital skills like walking.
Janene Evard who is at home recovering from a fall.
Charles Choate, who is a hospice nurse, lost an 84 year old client of his.
Cheryl, a first-time visitor, asks for prayers, as her wife, Jill, passed away Sept.1st from bone cancer.
Stacey Bedgood asks for continued prayers for her mom, Carla Bedgood. Carla continues to decline and is in hospice care.



Youth Sunday

September 13, 2026

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

— Helen Keller

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

— Vincent Van Gogh

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

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday | Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

Blessed are we when it is not our greatness that speaks, but our littleness.

For it is our vulnerability that is the truest thing about us, the place where mutual connection is possible, where competition ends and community begins.

And oh how blessed are we in our fragility and dependence and brokenness,

Knowing that You, O God, hold all things together.

There is no cure for being human...but for each other, we are all good medicine.

by Kate Bowler

♦ **Hymn** *You Are the Seed* Red Hymnal #583

Words in Music *Oceans* Linden Moore & Amber Moore

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

Children's Time Linden Moore

Offertory Prayer

God when we're tempted to throw up our hands and surrender.

Anchor us and hope.

Remind us of what is ours to be done.

Those small, faithful acts that add up to something bigger than ourselves.

Something that looks a lot like realized hope. Amen

by Kate Bowler

Offering Ourselves, Our Tithes, Gifts and Prayers

Offertory Jo Paulson & Z Paulson

♦ **Doxology** Red Hymnal #94

Pastoral Prayer Grace Valentine

Prayer for One Voice & The Lord's Prayer

♦ Stand in Body or Spirit

Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming.

May your powerful presence become obvious not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth.

Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our existence to you.

We recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings, putting hate and bitterness behind us.

We are torn between our faith in your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair.

Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.

So it is, Amen. *by James Burklo*

♦ **Hymn** *Let Our Earth Be Peaceful* Green Hymnal #3159

Scripture & Speaking

Luke 19:1-10 Hattie Prince
Speaker Jo Paulson

Colossians 3:23-24 Aurie Green
Speaker Amber Moore

John 13:1-17 Abraham Carr
Speaker Grayson Vidrine

Micah 6:8 Lizzy Chinn
Speaker (10:50 Service) Makenna Morris

♦ **Hymn** *The Trees of the Field* Black Hymnal #2279

♦ Benediction

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

Postlude

Altar arrangement is by Elaine Hunter.

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.

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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.