

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

**TODAY,
2 p.m.**

The Trustees will meet in Room 12.

4:30 p.m.

Shine Kids

Saturday, Oct. 3, 12 p.m.

Children's Ministry will meet at The Garage for lunch and then head to the Grand Reopening of Second Chance Animal Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome, so please join the group!

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)

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.

Bridge Kids

Bridge Kids is in need of an occasional volunteer Wednesdays, 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please reach out to Director Julie Morris at bridgekids@ststephensnorman.org for more information.

Plant Caretakers Needed

Join the Plant Care Team! We're looking for someone to water and care for our Prayer Garden. Contact Bob Vandewater at 405-326-8560.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

Becky Seay as she has returned from 2 weeks in Michigan.

Jen McDanel shares that she and Norah went on Norah's first college visit. Jen also shared that Rachel made the Dean's Honor Roll at The University of Denver!

Barb Drummond shared that Laundry Love will have another Norman event Saturday, October 10th.

Carol Mason-Straughan announced that the Silent Auction raised over \$3,000. She thanks all who brought items to be auctioned, those who bought things and a big shout out to Jena Barber for her leadership with the Reconciling Committee!

Kathy Brown is so joyful for the forecasted cooler weather.

Dan Snell was happy to share that Penny Hopkins, who now lives in New York City, was here visiting.

Becky LeClair shared the wonderful works of Kathy Brown, Marilyn Nicely and Holly VanAuken. They went to Norman High School and registered 63 new voters!

Julie Sondag shared that the Jazz Fusion band, "Everything Yes" is coming through this area and are stopping in Norman and Blanchard schools. They are also performing 2 free concerts this week. Monday evening at the Norman Music Institute and Tuesday evening at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Vickie Wood is happy to report that her granddaughter, Darci, is back home and is walking!

Dale Wares is thrilled to announce that after 6 months, his wife's chickens are now laying eggs! (Dale does report that they are noticeably small eggs.)

We pray with

Billy Drummond as he struggles with some life circumstances.



But I Have a Cross on My Car

September 27, 2026

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one."

— Marcus Aurelius

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."

— Billy Sunday

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

But I Have a Cross on My Car | Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

Praise the Lord who is our provider.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Feasting on the Word

♦ Hymn *To Know You More* Black Hymnal #2161

Words in Music *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*
David Wilson-Burns, Baritone Solo arr. by Kyle Johnson

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

Children's Time Jena Barber

Offertory Prayer

**O God, use these gifts to do your will in the world
and prepare us for your coming kingdom.**

In Jesus' 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

**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 David Burklo

♦ Hymn *Jesus, the Light of the World*
Green Hymnal #3056

Scripture Reading Matthew 21:23-32
8:30 Service Ron Mullan
10:50 Service Sharon Ringrose

Sermon But I Have a Cross on My Car
Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Hymn *Seek Ye First* Red Hymnal #405
Remain seated

♦ Benediction

♦ **Sending Forth** *On Eagle's Wings* Red Hymnal #143

Postlude

Liturgists
8:30 Service Kevin Hochman
10:50 Service Dale Wares

Altar arrangement is by Kay Antinoro.

♦ 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.