

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

TODAY

Shine Kids will not meet this week for Labor Day.

Sunday, Sept. 13

9:40 a.m.

The Challenges & Choices Sunday School class invites everyone to join them for an important presentation and discussion next Sunday. Guests will be David Spain of Norman Housing Ministries and president of the Xenia Institute for Social Justice, and Brittini 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.

4:30 p.m.

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

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)

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.

Collection t-shirt donations

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.

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with

John and Mary Moon shared that their daughter, Meredith, received a wonderful promotion at her job at OCCC!

Melissa had a very happy and meaningful Celebration of Life for her aunt, Patsy Skelton, this weekend. She was surrounded by lots of love and connection with her extended family.

Julie and Rick Sondag are traveling to Rick's hometown in Illinois this weekend. Their band, The Mystery Dates, will be performing in a music festival there. 7 of 11 of Rick's siblings will be there! Julie is very pleased that this year's trip should be free of sciatica pain for Rick!

Brent Smith shared that 3 refugee families that had been displaced, were able to be housed.

Barb Drummond reported that Laundry Love served 61 families in Norman last Saturday and gave out 160 hot dogs.

Barb also shared that Billy would start his new job Monday.

Valerie Underwood attended her high school reunion last weekend and got to reconnect to her teacher that gave her her love of poetry.

He is now 91 years old and happens to be Mayor David Holt's dad.

He recited one of his poems he wrote, entitled, Time.

Becky LeClair is joyous for this time of year and for the butterflies.

Allison Hayes brought her precious 2 year old mini goldendoodle, Sophie, to 2nd service and brought joy to everyone!

Jo Paulson is having their wisdom teeth out Friday and is joyous at the promise of ice cream!

Joan Hines celebrated her 90th birthday Sunday!

Peggy Risenhoover celebrated her 71st birthday last weekend!

Jane Osborn also celebrated her birthday last weekend!

Rita Petitt also celebrated her birthday last weekend!

Josie is thankful for kindness.

Debbie Boatman was in 2nd service as she continues to recover from hip replacement.

Becky Seay's grandson's girlfriend was visiting 2nd service.

David Wilson-Burns mother is pain-free after her knee replacement surgery.

Melina Evard was joyous to see and put the sweet puppy in church service.

Velma House is thankful for the depth of musicians, both instrumental, vocal and pianist in our church. She also wants to recognize Marty Marks for his amazing gift of directing the choir this week.

Jackie Farley reported she and Susan had an armadillo invasion of their front yard last week! Susan has since put up a fence to try and mitigate their destructive ways!

We pray with

Stacey Bedgood as her mother, Carla Bedgood, continues to decline while in hospice. Also, continue to pray for Stacey's sister and brother-in-law as they continue to care for her during this season.



Be Ready

September 6, 2026

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

— Dan Millman

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”

— Zora Neale Hurston

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien

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

Be Ready | Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Sharing of Blessings

Passing of the Peace and Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!

**Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful,
for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.**

Let the faithful sing for joy.

Feasting on the Word

♦ Hymn

The Summons

Black Hymnal #2130
vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5

Words in Music

Special Music

Karen Bentley, piano

Sing to Our Kids

Where Children Belong

Black Hymnal #2233

Cheryl Frech

Children's Time

Offertory Prayer

**Ever-present God,
just as Jesus promised to be among us
when two or three gather in his name,
be among us now
that these offerings may become instruments of your love and
justice.**

In the name of Jesus, 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

Come to the Table of Grace

Green Hymnal #3168

Scripture Reading

8:30 Service
10:50 Service

Exodus 12:1-14
Ron Mullan
Crystal Cruz

Sermon

Be Ready

Rev. Jinx Barber

Reflection

Ritual of Holy Communion

Remain seated

Red Hymnal #13

♦ Benediction

♦ Sending Forth

On Eagle's Wings

Red Hymnal #143

Postlude

Liturgists

8:30 Service
10:50 Service

Valerie Underwood
Holly VanAuken

Altar arrangement is by Holly VanAuken.

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

Rev. Jinx M. Barber, Senior Pastor
pastor@ststephensnorman.org

Mary Moon, Care Minister
care@ststephensnorman.org

Alyssa Miller, Youth Minister
youth@ststephensnorman.org

Marci Corey, Director of Music Ministries
music@ststephensnorman.org

Julie Morris, BridgeKids Director
BridgeKids@ststephensnorman.org

Sharon Ringrose, Office Administrator
office@ststephensnorman.org

Jenn McDanel, Children's Minister
children@ststephensnorman.org

Grace Valentine, Youth Assistant
youthassistant@ststephensnorman.org

Julie Sondag, Pianist
music@ststephensnorman.org

Morgan Magelssen, Children's Music Director
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.

♦ Stand in Body or Spirit

Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger.