

**Welcome to Song of Life!**

Welcome to Song of Life! There are lots of wonderful activities, events, and opportunities for everyone to share in the fellowship and worship we offer here at SoL! Our winter visitors are returning, and our usual classes and groups are resuming their regular schedules. It's a time for reconnecting with the mission and meaning of Song of Life, so come join us in the celebration!

**Sunday, December 3**

**Commitment Sunday Financial Updates**

Financial updates will be given following the 9:30 and 11am worship services in the sanctuary.

**Advent Study Group | 9:30am | SoL Campus**

Ashley and Scott Luther are facilitating this Down to Earth Advent group. Meeting in B3 room. All are welcome!

**District Youth Christmas Gathering | 1:30 to 4pm | Pollack Theaters | Carrie Claypool**

A gathering with Youth Groups from all over the Valley for a Christmas Movie party!! We are renting out a Theater at the Pollack Theaters in Tempe, we will vote on the movie when we get there. There will be other games and contests, like Most Festive Group etc. Cost is 5 dollars per person. See Carrie for details and to sign up by email: cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org

**Wednesday, December 6**

**Wednesday Advent Small Group | 10:30am-12pm | Panera Bread | Pastor Sarai**

Pastor Sarai is leading the Advent small group. Meeting at Panera Bread at QC Marketplace. The same study will be held on Thursdays led by Pastor Mike. All are welcome!



**Area 412 | 6-8pm | SoL Campus | Carrie Claypool**  
Area 412 meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm. Bible study classes for 4th-12th grades, and dinner included!

**Thursday, December 7**

**Joy Circle | 9am | the Burdick's Home**

There will be a special Christmas brunch on December 7th at 9 AM at Linda Burdick's home with brunch at 10 AM. Linda's address is 18723 E. Walnut Creek Road in Queen Creek. Please RSVP so that we make sure we have enough food for everyone. Contact Linda Burdick, rburdick@cox.net.

**Thursday Advent Small Group |**

**6:30-8pm | Linda Zeiler's Home | Mike Wilkerson**

Pastor Mike is leading the Advent small group. Contact info@songoflifeumc.org for the address. If you can't make Thursdays, this is the same study Pastor Sarai will be leading on Wednesday mornings. All are welcome!



**Online Giving**

Did you know that you can give to SoL online? Our general budget is funded 100% by the gifts of people just like you who Love God, Love Others, and want to Change the World. Tithe through a regularly occurring gift or give a one time offering!

**Give today at**

[songoflifeumc.churchcenteronline.com/giving](http://songoflifeumc.churchcenteronline.com/giving)

**Sunday, December 10**

**Advent Study Group | 9:30am | SoL Campus**  
Ashley and Scott Luther are facilitating this Down to Earth Advent group. Meeting in B3 room. All are welcome!

**Wednesday, December 13**

**Wednesday Advent Small Group | 10:30am-12pm | Panera Bread | Pastor Sarai**

**Area 412 | 6-8pm | SoL Campus | Carrie Claypool**

**Thursday, December 14**

**Thursday Advent Small Group | 6:30-8pm | Linda Zeiler's Home | Mike Wilkerson**



**Friday, December 15**

**MOPS | 9:30-11:30am | SoL Campus | Casey DeWitt**

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is fun for the kids, and relaxing for the moms! Meets every 1st and 3rd Fridays. Contact Casey DeWitt (cdewitt@songoflifeumc.org) for details.

**Saturday, December 16**

**House of Refuge Borderland Food Distribution Event | Time | Location | Joe Hauer**

You can make a difference in a family having fresh food this Christmas by volunteering 4 hours of your time at the House of Refuge Borderland Food Distribution Event. Volunteers will help distribute fresh produce to those in our community who need this assistance. Event will occur at 6935 E. Williams Field Road. 12 years and older welcome! Please wear closed toed shoes. RSVP is mandatory to Joe Hauer by Dec. 9th at hauer-science@cox.net or 602-739-0533.

**Note: Men's Group Breakfast Canceled for December**

**Sunday, December 17**

**Advent Study Group | 9:30am | SoL Campus**  
Ashley and Scott Luther are facilitating this Down to Earth Advent group. Meeting in B3 room. All are welcome!

**Youth Gift Exchange | Time TBA | SoL**

**Campus | Carrie Claypool**  
We will hold our annual Christmas White Elephant gift exchange. \$10 limit on gifts. UMYF will resume on January 7th!!

**Book Club**

Song of Life is hosting a Ladies' Book Club for the MOMS Club of Power Ranch, and SoL women are invited to join them for discussion of the book. Book Club meets on the last Monday of the month at 9:30am during the school year (with no meeting in December). Our theme for the year is books that have been made into movies, and we hope to schedule movie nights after the book discussion to watch together. Children are welcome at the meeting, but separate childcare is not provided - we discuss as they play. To join the Facebook group, please contact Jenn Blaes, jennblaes@yahoo.com.

**Please join them to discuss:**

January 2018: "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood

February 2018: "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Wednesday Advent Small Group | 10:30am-12pm | Panera Bread | Pastor Sarai**

**Area 412 | 6-8pm | SoL Campus | Carrie Claypool**



**Thursday, December 21**

**Thursday Advent Small Group | 6:30-8pm | Linda Zeiler's Home | Mike Wilkerson**

**Sunday, December 24**

**Advent Study Group | 9:00am | SoL Campus**  
Ashley and Scott Luther are facilitating this Down to Earth Advent group. Meeting in B3 room. All are welcome!



**Starting Dec. 3:  
Service Times >> 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00am**

**Dear Song of Life Family,**

As you know, we were fortunate to work with church growth consultant Jim Griffith. He was very positive about our community!

His recommendations can be grouped into three main areas:

1. Refocus on Queen Creek.
2. Concentrate on fewer things, but do those really well.
3. Update the image of our property inside & out.

The Leadership Board has started working as a team, along with others from the congregation, to further develop specific next steps to address each of the areas.

We are looking for individuals to join action teams and help us accomplish the various ministries.

- Membership Action Team
- Finance Action Team
- Stewardship Action Team
- Building Action Team
- Trustee Action Team
- Visitor Action Team
- Marketing Action Team
- Leadership Board – Lay Leader
- Leadership Board

We have an incredible family with much to give to our community. If you are interested in additional information regarding any of the positions, please contact Rev. Sarai Case at rev.sarai@songoflifeumc.org or Laura Hauer at hauerla@cox.net.



Advent & Christmas Sermon Series: Down to Earth



Nothing in all the vast, created universe could prepare us for God coming down as a helpless infant, or for Jesus the son of God intentionally positioning himself as a mere servant, identifying with the lowest of lows. It's enough to confound the mind, to make the heart contrite. This Advent, God's great surprise changes everything.

Continue the dialogue with our Advent Small Groups meeting Wed/Thur starting Nov. 29 & 30 See times & locations on front page here. Books can be purchased at Cokesbury, Amazon, and even Kindle! If you're not currently involved in a small group, you're invited to join either of the following or start a new one!

January Sermon Series: Renovate

Grab your tool belt for physical renovation. For spiritual renovation, turn to God. Nehemiah's goal was to rebuild the wall and gates of Jerusalem, a physically daunting undertaking. But he also knew that as the Jewish people returned to their homeland, they would need spiritual renovation—an equally difficult mission. Thankfully, spiritual renovation is not a do-it-yourself project, and Renovate, part of Armstrong's The Connected Life series, emphasizes how we need God's great power in us to renovate our lives through the Holy Spirit. Inspired by the book from author and pastor Jacob Armstrong.



Advent 2017  
There's Something for  
Everyone this Christmas @SoL!

The focus of Advent extends far beyond the hyped marketing glitz that serves as a siren call to the lures of consumerism idolatry. Advent is the expectation that Jesus will come in the present to birth in us God's new work. It is a season of active preparation as we welcome Jesus down to earth.

Choose how you will celebrate Advent and Christmas this Year!

**Option 1:** Come to worship! Bring a friend, neighbor, colleague or family member with you! Come to encounter Christ in another, pray, sing songs to God, and soak in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Option 2:** Dig a little deeper. If you're already involved in a small group, discuss and decide together if you'd like to use the small group materials for Down to Earth during your gatherings. If you're not yet part of a small group, there are 2 small groups going on that you can join:

- Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm @Panera Bread in the QC Marketplace
- Thursday, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Call the office for information on the book being used and how to get it.

**Option 3:** Can't work a small group into the schedule? Or already planning on going to the small group, but are looking for even more? Then Devotions for the Season is for you. This short book provides a daily look at scripture and theme. Use it alone or with the whole family.



In addition to these, our SoL Teens and SoL Kids ministries will also incorporate the Down to Earth theme into their lessons and discussions.

Christmas Eve Worship Times – 10:00am, 7:00pm, and 9:00pm

Happenings Every Sunday

Adult Study Group | 10:45am

Each Sunday the Adult Study Group meets at a different home for fellowship and Bible study. For further information please contact Joe Hauer, hauerscience@cox.net or Jerry Shanks at geraldsha@gmail.com.

Bible Buddies Adult Study Group | 10:45am

Join this friendly, loving, fun group while also learning more about God. The study is called "Covenants with God" by Rosanne Osborne and booklets will be available. Meetings are held in the Franklin home in Trilogy Sundays following the 9:30 am service. Contact Howard or Susan Franklin: 4513 E. Indigo St., Gilbert AZ 85298, 480-294-1427.

San Tan Small Group | Sundays | 9:30am | Dan & Nita Moore's Home

SoL Kids | 11:00am (PreK-6th)  
Nursery Available | 9:30-11am (0-4 yr)  
Youth Group | 6-7:30pm

Coming Up:

Looking ahead to holiday season, there are several events that you will want to add to your calendars:

Worship at 8:15 is back on Dec. 3rd!

Starting with the beginning of Advent, there will be 3 services on Sunday mornings: 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00

It's Christmas Time!

Christmas Eve Worship Times: 10:00am, 7:00pm, and 9:00pm

Operation Christ-mas Child!

We'll be partnering with Pan de Vida Foundation once again to purchase new gifts for children in our community.

The next **Men's Group Breakfast** will meet on Saturday, January 20th at 8:00 a.m. at the Slate Restaurant in Trilogy at Power Ranch. All men welcome! Topic: How our group can contribute to the 2018 to the Mission of Song of Life (Love God - Love Others - Change the World).

Song of Life Leadership Board Members

Stuart Blair: sfblairusa@yahoo.com

John Campbell: campbell51jc@gmail.com

Sean Claypool: sclaypool2009@gmail.com

Casey DeWitt: cdewitt@songoflifeumc.org

Jim Dolberg: jimdolberg@hotmail.com

Mckenzie Gilean (Youth Representative)

Doug Greenwald: doug@ptsmultimedia.com

Scott Luther: scottluther2525@gmail.com

Laura Hauer: hauerla@cox.net

Betty Ranney: b.ranney@cox.net

FUTURE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

December 5, 2017 at 6:30 pm

January 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Walk to Emmaus

SoL is blessed to have an Emmaus community at our church. If there's enough interest, they would like to start a new group. Contact Becky Case at bcase562@gmail.com if you've already been on a weekend Walk or if you'd like more information as to what that weekend actually entails. Watch for the January newsletter for information.

NEED TO ADD SOMETHING TO THE SoL NEWS??? Email your content and any graphic request to Susan at slewis@songoflifeumc.org two weeks prior to the month it needs to be published. You can also request news and events to be added to our website, so be sure to email Susan for those requests as well. Thank you!

SoL Campus

Worship 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00am  
SoL Kids 11:00am

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Come & Follow Us!

Here's what you'll find on our Facebook:

- weekly LIVE sermons
- articles that go deeper on this week's topic
- comments & insights from SoL members
- up-to-date info on coming events (Be sure to invite your friends!)

@songoflifeumc

Our Staff

Rev. Sarai Case, Lead Pastor  
Mike Wilkerson, Part-time Local Pastor  
Carrie Claypool, Youth Ministries  
Stacy Harmsen, Family Ministries  
Susan Lewis, Administrative Assistant  
Thomas Murphy, Music Ministries

www.songoflifeumc.org