

Welcome to Song of Life!

A church with Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors that Loves God, Loves Others, and wants to Change the World.

Get connected with any of our bible studies, small groups, or social activities you see here! We have a new Groups page on our website—you can find out about all the small groups, social events, and service teams at SoL! Also, check us out on our Facebook page!



The Pastor's Perspective

Well, friends, we've been together for two months...and boy has a lot happened!! During my first month with you, I met with about 55 people who regularly attend worship at Song of Life to learn about where the church has been, where we think God is taking us as a church, and how we might get there. Your ideas included everything from bringing back some of the activities and ministries that you have experienced in the last 18 years or so as a church, to developing new activities and ministries that will draw more people into a life with Christ. We talked about things we could do differently, and things we'd like to stay the same. And yes, we talked about future growth of our congregation and our church facility. When it was all said and done, what I came away with – what stood out more than anything else – is how passionate so many of you are about making disciples for Jesus Christ and working together to transform the world.



Worship Service Times >> 9:30 & 11:00am



Back to Church Sunday

On Sunday, September 16, we will hold a "Back to Church" Sunday. Why? Because we think it's important, now that summer is over, that folks know they are welcome to join us at Song of Life United Methodist Church, and may want to include regular attendance in worship as part of their weekly schedule.

So how can we make this a success? One way is to invite your friends and acquaintances to come with you to church on September 16! We are providing members of the congregation with flyers that can be used as conversation starters, that will help you invite people to come with you to church, so you can share your love for Song of Life and the people with whom you are in ministry together.

Then, after you have invited folks, follow up with them and offer to bring them to church, so they won't get lost or lose their way! Believe it or not, studies have shown that not only do people want to be invited to come to church, they also want to be there with someone they know...and what better way to do that than to come to church together!!

And finally, after they have attended on September 16, follow up with them and invite them again. Let them know how much we enjoyed having them in worship at YOUR church, and make sure they know they are welcome to return.

Together we can make "Back to Church" Sunday a great success toward making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

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.

Give today at songoflifeumc.churchcenteronline.com/giving

Volunteer

On September 22, SoL will once again sponsor an information booth at the QC Founders Day Event. Volunteers are needed to set-up, clean-up, and to work the booth by greeting people, providing information about our church, and making new friends! To volunteer, go to the following website:

<http://signup.com/go/ocNUido>

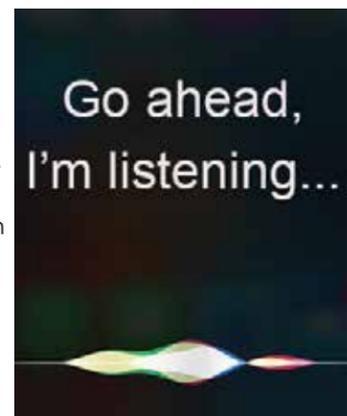
(BTW, you can also volunteer to work at the QC Trunk or Treat event by following this link.)

After the last listening session in July, I sat down and read through all the notes that both Carl Chasse and Laura Hauer so meticulously took. I then categorized them, looking for common themes...and there were quite a few. Some of those themes included:

- Consistency – many expressed a desire to maintain more consistency in the various ministries in which the church is involved. This includes consistency in scheduling, in communicating, and in participation.
- Communication – many shared that, as a church, we could do a better job of communicating with each other, whether it's related to our ministries, or worship, or other activities.
- Connectedness – there is a strong desire for us to be more connected with each other rather than feeling like we are two separate churches (with the divisions determined by the worship service that individuals and families attend).
- Growth – almost all agreed that we need to do more to grow the church in general, and to grow Song of Life UMC more specifically.
- Expansion – along with growth, there was a strong desire expressed in almost every session of our need to expand our campus.

So now our work begins!! We've already started making plans for ways we can reach new people in the Queen Creek – both current residents and new ones – in an effort to grow the church. And we've been discussing ways we can make improvements on our campus, which will make us more visible and ultimate lead us toward expansion.

But as we all know, it takes a village...all of us need to do our part if we're going to make the dreams we shared into realities! And Step 1? Well, that's prayer. So let's all take a moment and lift up our prayers to God. Let's ask God for the guidance we need to do the right thing for Christ's Church – for Song of Life United Methodist Church – as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Calling All Singers and Ringers!!

On Sunday, September 9 at approximately 12:30pm (after the Contemporary/Praise Worship Service), we will be holding an introductory meeting for all those folks who are interested in forming a new choir at Song of Life United Methodist Church.

During our Listening Sessions with Pastor Jody, it was made very clear that there is tremendous interest in having a choir sing on a regular basis during our Traditional Worship. Since David Topping, Pastor Jody's spouse, is a seasoned church choir director, this seems like the perfect time and opportunity for us to reinstate this ministry!

We've also had a few folks express interest in creating a handbell choir...AND we've identified at least one church that may be willing to lend us their handbells from time to time!! We need at least 6-8 people to form a handbell choir, so if you read music (even just a little) and have an interest in being a handbell "ringer," please come to the meeting on September 9th.

These are two separate ministries, so membership in one does not mean you are in both! You can be in the handbell choir without being in the choir, and vice versa. So if you have been given the gift of music and are willing and able to share that gift, then WE WANT YOU!!!



SoL Needs You!!

It's that time of year: time for us at Song of Life to consider new members for our Leadership Board. This Board is made up of 10 individuals who are actively involved in the life of the church and who demonstrate their commitment to the work of the church through their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness to Christ.* Members of the Leadership Board work together as a team to "envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate" the mission and ministry of the church. The Board makes high level, visionary decisions and empowers others to act as God has inspired us to be in ministry in the community and beyond. The Board generally meets once a month, and members are expected to attend all meetings.



For those who are familiar with the "traditional" organization of the United Methodist Church, the Leadership Board at SoL performs the function of the Finance, Stewardship, Education, Evangelism, and other "committees" as well as the Board of Trustees, The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

This year, the Board is looking for three new members who are willing and able to serve. These positions include an individual who is willing to also serve as Chair of our Trustees Action Team, a Youth member, and a Young Adult member (age 35 and younger).

If God has placed it upon your heart to serve on the Board, please contact Pastor Jody (who serves as Chair for Lay Leadership/Nominations) as soon as possible. Or if you know of someone who you think would be a good candidate to serve on the Board, please let Pastor Jody know so she can follow-up with that person. The best way to communicate this info to Pastor Jody is either via email: pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org or by leaving her a message in the church office. We hope you will all prayerfully consider your ability to serve.

*Some positions require the individual be a full, affiliate, or associate member of SoL.

Congratulations Asa!!



On August 17, the following announcement was released by our Bishop:

"The Rev. N. Susan Brims, Missional Strategist and Superintendent of the East District, announced that Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata intends to appoint the Rev. Asa Holly as chaplain at Banner-University Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ effective September 1, 2018 per paragraph 344.1.b in the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline. Please keep Rev. Holly in your prayers during this transition."

Many of you will remember Asa from his time serving as a pastoral intern at Song of Life UMC. During Annual Conference last summer, Asa was Commissioned as a Provisional Elder. His passion and desire has been to serve as a chaplain, offering care and comfort to those who, for whatever reason, find themselves in a hospital setting. Will you join me in congratulating Asa on his new appointment!!

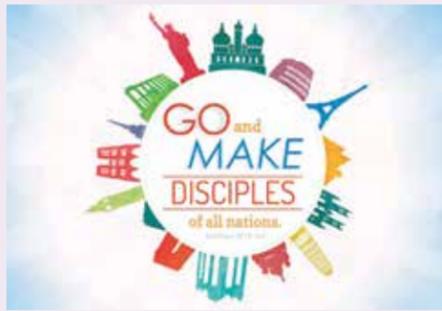
Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jody

P.S. Here's a little known fact: Pastor Jody and Chaplain Asa share a common bond...we both graduated with our Masters of Divinity Degrees from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO!!

Thinking Theologically | Jody Topping

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20

At the end of Matthew's gospel, the Risen Christ meets his disciples in Galilee, a place that many consider to be Jesus' home base. Matthew tells us that the disciples went from Jerusalem to Galilee, to the mountain that Jesus directed them to, and when he showed up, they worshiped him, and he gave them their marching orders: "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." Jesus' last conversation with his disciples was a directive...not a request.



But it also wasn't the very last thing Jesus said to them before he ascended into heaven. Jesus' last statement, at least according to Matthew's gospel, was this: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As men who believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, the One they all had been waiting for, they were told in no uncertain terms that their jobs, for the rest of their natural lives, was to bring other people into a relationship with Christ, to help other see that Jesus wasn't just a flash in the pan. Their job was to go out and help others understand how to live according to the will of God, how to treat other people the way they wanted to be treated, and to love their neighbors as they loved themselves. It was a tall order for those eleven men, many of whom were fishermen by trade. But in the Book of Acts, we read how they did exactly what Jesus told them to do, and they did it without question, without complaining, and without making excuses.



So what does that mean for us? As Christ followers – as believers in Jesus' gospel message – we too are commanded by Jesus to make disciples for Jesus Christ. We are meant to share the Good News with our friends, invite them to church, and then pick them up and bring them! We are meant to make every effort to share the love of Christ with other people, through random acts of kindness. We are meant to do whatever we can to transform the world, one new disciple at a time.

But that also doesn't mean we are supposed to do it alone. As the church we have a tremendous advantage: we have strength in numbers! We can work together, pool our resources, and show folks in our community how wonderful our relationships with Christ and with each other really are!

With that in mind, here at Song of Life, we are hosting "Back to Church" Sunday on September 16, which will hopefully encourage new folks from the community to join us for worship on that day. We have flyers that we want all of you to distribute, and a banner next to our corner sign that will invite folks to join us on that day. So if you haven't received your "You Belong Here" booklets, inviting people to our Back to Church Sunday, be sure to pick some up and share them with your friends, neighbors and others who you think will want to worship with us on September 16!

Song of Life Leadership Board Members

Stuart Blair: sfbclairusa@yahoo.com

John Campbell: campbell51jc@gmail.com

Sean Claypool: sclaypool2009@gmail.com

Casey DeWitt: cdewitt@songoflifeumc.org

Mckenzie Gillean (Youth Representative)

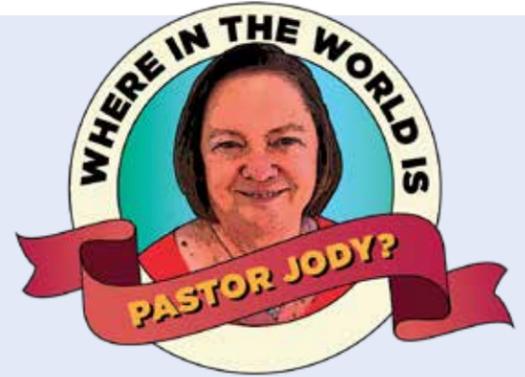
Scott Luther: scottluther2525@gmail.com

Laura Hauer: hauerla@cox.net

Carl Chasse: cchasse_az@yahoo.com

Betty Ranney: b.ranney@cox.net

Jerry Shanks: geraldsha@gmail.com



Pastor Jody's On/Offsite Office Hours September 2018*

- Mondays 9am – 12 noon: Song of Life Church Office
- Mondays 1pm – 4pm: Starbucks at Ellsworth & Rittenhouse
- Tuesdays 12 noon – 3pm: Terrace Restaurant, 30761 W. Golf Club Dr., San Tan Valley
- Wednesdays 3pm – 7pm: Panera Bread, Queen Creek Marketplace
- Fridays 9am – 12 noon: Starbucks at Higley Pointe (on Power Rd south of the 202)

In addition to these times, Pastor Jody is available during the week (except Thursdays) to meet either at the church or in your home. Simply give her a call at 480-766-9272 to make an appointment.

Thursdays are now Pastor Jody's day off... and she's fortunately enough to spend it with her grandson, Anderson. So she won't be available for visitations, except for emergency situations.

*Subject to change. Any changes will be posted on our Facebook Page.

Pastor Jody will not be available on the following dates:

September 25-29 (at a conference)
September 30 - October 13 (vacation)

Sunday School

Sunday School starts THIS MONTH!

Beginning September 9th we will be offering Sunday school for ALL AGES! So exciting!

We are going to be using the Orange curriculum, with lessons for all ages from 2 years old to Seniors in high school. If you haven't registered your kiddos it's not too late, we will have the forms available every Sunday in the Worship center or in the classrooms. We will have four classes, Upper High School (10th -12th grades) HS/Jr.H (7th to 9th graders) Elementary (1st to 6th grade) unless that class is too big then we will split (1st-3rd and 4th to 6th) and our Littles (2yrs. to Kinder). Please consider being a volunteer, especially if you have a child who will be participating. We are striving to have enough volunteers so everyone will be helping out once a month but we need you!!!!

We would also like to offer a coffee gathering time at Starbucks in the Marketplace for parents to get to know each other also during the 9:30 Sunday school hour.

NEED TO ADD SOMETHING TO THE SoL NEWS??? Email your content and any graphic request to info@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 for those requests as well. Thank you!

SoL Campus

Worship 9:30 & 11:00am
Sunday School for Kids & Teens 9:30am
Children's Church 11:00am

20164 S. Sossaman Road,
Queen Creek, AZ, 85142

480.641.1200



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. Jody Topping, Lead Pastor
Thomas Murphy, Music Ministries
Nina Yardley, Office Assistant

www.songoflifeumc.org

WE ARE SoL NEWS

:: September 2018 ::

Love God. Love Others. Change the World.

New Member Gathering

Want to be a member at Song of Life United Methodist Church? Now's your chance!!

During the month of September, we will have two opportunities for individuals and families to join Song of Life UMC.

On Sunday, September 9, those who are already members of a United Methodist Church, who wish to transfer their membership to Song of Life UMC, will be received as SoL members during both worship services. So if you are a member at another United Methodist Church, have been attending Song of Life, and would like to transfer your membership, please contact us* and plan to be in worship on September 9.

Then, on Sunday, September 16, those who are not members of a United Methodist Church and are considering becoming members will meet with Pastor Jody during a New Member Gathering at 12:30pm in the classroom at the church.** A light lunch (probably sandwiches from Subway) will be served for those who are hungry! So if you'd like to learn more about the UMC in general (and more specifically, Song of Life UMC), we encourage you to join Pastor Jody for the New Member Gathering on September 16. (Those who decide, after the class, to become members will be received into membership at Song of Life during worship on September 23.)



*To transfer your membership, please contact the church office, call Pastor Jody, or indicate your intentions on the Attendance Sheet during worship.

** Please RSVP for the New Member Gathering and indicate whether or not you will join us for lunch.

Understanding Dual Membership

Are you a winter resident who spends part of the year in Arizona, and part of the year someplace else? Do you worship at Song of Life when you're in Arizona... and at another church someplace else when you're, well, someplace else? Then Dual Membership is just right for you!!

In the United Methodist Church, we have several membership levels, two of which involve being members at two different churches.

An Affiliate Member is a professing member of another United Methodist Church who wants to "connect with the life, ministry, and watch-care of a congregation" in another town or state. Affiliate members at SoL retain their membership at the UM church they consider to be their "home church," but are also expected to uphold the ministries at SoL by their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

An Associate Member is a professing member of a non-UMC church (i.e. a church that belongs to a different Christian denomination) who wants to connect with a United Methodist Church while still retaining their membership at the church within the other denomination.

In both cases, individuals who join Song of Life as either Affiliate or Associate members are just as much part of the SoL Family as those who join as Professing Members.

If you would like more information about what it means to be an Affiliate or Associate member at Song of Life, please contact Pastor Jody. Potential Associate Members are also invited to attend the New Member Gathering on September 16.

Song of Life UMC | Worship 9:30 & 11:00am | 20164 S. Sossaman Road, Queen Creek, AZ, 85142

480.641.1200



@songoflifeumc

www.songoflifeumc.org

Notes:						1
<p>*Receiving New Members transferring from other UMCs, both worship services on 9/9 ** Receiving New Members @ both worship services on 9/23 only</p> <p>For all events listed here, specific location details are on our website at songoflifeumc.org or call the church office at 480.641.1200.</p>						
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Adult Christian Fellowship, Slate Bistro @Trilogy 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Joy Circle @ Village Inn (Queen Creek) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	8
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship* 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Adult Bible Study @ Joe & Laura Hauer's Home 11:00am Praise Worship* 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15pm Worship Music Team Meeting, off-site 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm SoL Leadership Board Meeting, Classroom 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	13	14	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am SoL Men's Breakfast, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Adult Bible Study @ Dean & Gail Wolfahrt's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm New Member Gathering 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	20	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00-9:00pm Queen Creek Founders Day Festival, Founder's Park, Ellsworth Loop Rd.
<p>23 / 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship** 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 23rd only – 10:45am Adult Bible Study @ Dick & Bev Stout's Home 30th only – 10:45am Adult Christian Fellowship, Slate Bistro @Trilogy 11:00am Praise Worship** 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary Lifeline Screening at Song of Life (contact Lifeline to make an appointment), Campus-wide. 	27	28	29