

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!

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



Pastor's Study Group

Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It

Since the middle of October, our new Pastor's Study group has been studying the book called *Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. We will continue with this study through the month of November (we will not meet the week of Thanksgiving). Anyone who is interested in joining is welcome come on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am in the Sanctuary at Song of Life.



The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

This year during Advent, Pastor Jody will offer another Pastor's Study Group which will correspond with our Advent Theme, called "Unexpected Journey". For this study we will use Adam Hamilton's *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*, and we will meet once again on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the Sanctuary at SoL. An evening study group may also be offered, depending on participant interest.

A sign-up sheet will be available in November for those who wish to register for the group. The book is available on both paperback or electronic format through Amazon.com. If you would like the office to purchase the book for you, please let us know before November 15. We suggest you purchase the book ahead of time and read at least the first chapter before the first session.

Please also note: the Bible Buddies study group will also be studying this book during Advent. They meet on Sundays at 11am in the home of Howard & Susan Franklin. If you would like to join their study group during Advent, please contact them for more information.

All Church Workday:
November 10 at 8am.

Wear work clothes, some good "elbow grease" and a sense of humor as we work to beautify our church campus before Advent!

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.

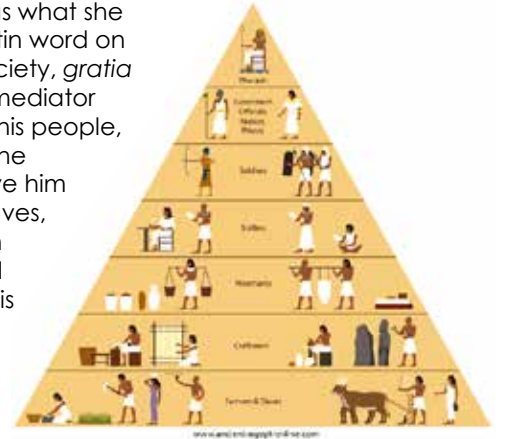
Give today at
songoflifeumc.churchcenteronline.com/giving



The Pastor's Perspective

Earlier this year I attended our annual clergy gathering in southern Arizona at the Redemptorist Retreat Center nestled in the desert near Tucson. It's a beautiful setting where we are able to not only spend time reconnecting with one another as colleagues, but is also a great place to relax and reconnect with nature. During the 3 days we are there, we worship together, have discussion sessions, and sometimes have a guest speaker. This last time our guest speaker was Diana Butler Bass, a world-renowned author and theologian in her own right. Her topic was "Gratitude" and during her sessions with us she shared some of her experiences that led to the creation of her most recent book, appropriately called *Grateful*.

In her presentation, Diana shared a number of ideas about what it means to be grateful, but what I found really intriguing was what she shared about the historical significance of the term *gratia*, the Latin word on which our English word gratitude is based. In Ancient Egyptian society, *gratia* was the payment that was made to Pharaoh, who was the only mediator between humans and the gods. As long as Pharaoh was happy, his people, at all levels of the social pyramid, enjoyed safety and security in the community. And the best way to keep Pharaoh happy was to give him gifts – *gratia* – which generally originated with the farmers and slaves, and were passed up through different levels of society, with each level taking their fair share, until ultimately a portion of the original *gratia* made it all the way to Pharaoh at the top. Unfortunately this system carried with it a sense of obligation: gratitude became a debt...in fact, that's where the phrase "I owe you a debt of gratitude" came from. But Jesus, throughout his ministry, demonstrated that true *gratia* isn't attached to a debt. True *gratia* – grace – is given and received without price. And for that we can be truly grateful.



As we enter into the month of November – typically a time of gratitude for so many of us, let us remember that God's grace, given freely and freely received, is something for which we can be eternally grateful.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*



District Devotional Study – We Make the Road by Walking

During our Church Conference last month, our District Superintendent Rev. Susan Brims encouraged us to join with her in a district-wide devotional study using Brian McClaren's book *We Make the Road by Walking*. The book is described on Amazon.com as a book that offers "everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today....Organized around the traditional church year, these readings give an overview of the whole Bible and guide an individual or a group of friends through a year of rich study, interactive learning, and personal growth."

We will begin this district-wide study on December 2 by reading Chapter 14, which corresponds with the First Sunday in Advent. We will read one chapter per week until we reach the end of the book, at which point we will go back to Chapter 1 and continue through Chapter 13, ending our study just before Advent 2019.

It's not unusual for a congregation to embark on such a study together, but to have our entire District come together as one will be quite an endeavor...but District Superintendent Rev. Susan believes we are up to the challenge! And as your pastor, I agree! We can do this!

For your convenience, Song of Life will purchase a limited supply of McClaren's book in paperback format. Those who would like to buy it in hardcover or electronic format may do so online through Amazon and Cokesbury. The supply of paperback books will be available after November 4 from the church office, first come first served.

SoL Worship in the Park!!
November 18th at Mansel Carter Oasis Park

On Sunday, November 18 – the Sunday before Thanksgiving – we will come together as one congregation for Worship in the Park!! We will meet at Mansel Carter Oasis Park where we have reserved the two largest ramadas on the peninsula, situated right on the lake! There are a number of picnic tables under the ramadas, but we encourage folks who have them to bring lawn chairs or camping chairs to provide additional seating.



At 10am, we will celebrate worship with lots of music (both traditional and praise), a celebration of our baptisms (no, we won't be jumping in the lake!!), and a brief message during which we will share our gratitude for all God has done for us. And we'll follow that all up with a "Friendsgiving" potluck meal so we can enjoy some time of fellowship with our church family and guests. Here's the schedule for the day:

- 9:30am (or before)** Set up
- 10:00am** Worship
- 11:00am – 12:00pm** Food, Fellowship, and play time!!

All are encouraged to invite your family and friends (especially those who might be alone during this holiday season) to this exciting celebration as we give thanks for the many gifts we receive every day from our Creator.

Dress casually, bring lawn or camping chairs and bring a dish to share. Table service (plates, napkins, utensils) will be provided. (Please note: the ramadas face east, and while we think there will be shade for those who are concerned about the sun, we recommend you wear appropriate clothing and bring sunscreen. Unfortunately the splash pad will be closed for the season, but the playground on the hill will be open, so bring your kids, grandkids...even your neighbor kids to join in the fun!!)



Welcome New Members!

During the month of October, Song of Life welcomed **Joan Miller** as a new member by Profession of Faith, Welcome, Joan!

If you are not currently a member of Song of Life UMC and would like to become a member, please indicate on the attendance sheets during worship of your desire to join. If you are new to the United Methodist Church, we ask that you participate in a New Member Gathering with Pastor Jody, which will be scheduled on a periodic basis. If, however, you want to transfer your membership from another UMC to Song of Life, you do not need to attend the New Member Gathering...simply let Pastor Jody know of your desire to transfer your membership and she'll take care of the rest!!

Next time you see Joan, please welcome her with open arms!!



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

During the month of November, Pastor Jody will generally host on/off-Site office hours as follows:

- Mondays 9am-12pm: Song of Life Church Office
- Mondays 1-4pm: Starbucks at Sprouts Shopping Center, near corner of Ellsworth Loop & Rittenhouse
- Tuesdays 12:30-3:30pm: Terrace Restaurant, 30761 W. Golf Club Dr., San Tan Valley
- Wednesdays 2-5pm: Panera Bread, Queen Creek Marketplace
- Fridays 9am-12pm: Starbucks at Higley Pointe (on Power Rd south of the 202)

- OR -

- Fridays 1-4pm: Starbucks at Higley Pointe (on Power Rd south of the 202)
- Please consult the SoL Master Calendar included with this newsletter for Pastor Jody's specific office hour times and locations.

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.

Musicians

Attention Musicians! Discover your niche at Song of Life! We have a place for YOU!!

At Song of Life UMC, we have many opportunities for those who would like to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

- Our Worship Leaders for our Traditional Worship Service lead the congregation in singing hymns and other musical portions of the service, and may also sing a solo or duet from time to time if the Spirit moves them. Our worship leaders meet with our pianist during the week before they are scheduled to lead worship, and meet about an hour before worship begins on Sunday mornings. To become a worship leader, simply contact Pastor Jody.
- Our SoL Singers – one of our newest musical groups – is made up of members of the congregation who have been given the gift of musical talent by God and are willing to share it with others. The choir, led by David Topping, meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for rehearsal and will sing periodically during the Traditional Worship Service(s). Reading music is not a requirement.
- Our SoL Ringers – another of our newest musical groups – is a handbell choir that we are working to develop. If you can count, you can probably ring a handbell or two! While we are still in the process of finding a set of handbells that we can borrow, we are moving forward with identifying potential members of this group. So if you are interested, please contact Pastor Jody or David Topping for more information. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
- Our Praise Band, called "Leap of Faith," leads our 11am Praise and Worship Service weekly on Sunday mornings. Members of this group should be able to read music or at least be familiar with contemporary praise music. If you sing or play a praise band instrument (especially keyboards, guitar, or electric bass) and would like to join the band, please contact Pastor Jody for more information.

Help us raise our Songs of Life to God!

Save the Date: Saturday, December 1

Plan to Join Your Church Family for Two Important Events!!

December 1 this year is going to be a busy day for Song of Life UMC!! In the morning we will decorate the church for Advent, and in the afternoon, we will participate in the Queen Creek Holiday Festival Parade!

Hanging of the Greens

At 10am, we will meet at the church to decorate for the Advent Season, which begins the very next day. This will be a great time of fellowship as we prepare our church campus for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Light refreshments (or lunch!) will be served. Watch for more information in our Sunday bulletins.



Queen Creek Holiday Festival Parade

The 36th Annual Queen Creek Holiday Festival will begin at 12:00 noon at the QC Library Complex with live entertainment, craft vendors, food vendors, activities, and even photos with Santa! The Parade will begin at 3:30pm, and as has become our custom, Song of Life will be present to bring some Christmas Cheer! The parade will run north on Old Ellsworth Road and will end at the Recreation Annex/Library where attendees will continue to enjoy the fabulous holiday festival until 7:00 p.m. Be sure to stay for the Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Library area at 6:00 p.m.

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 Gilean (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

Sunday School

Sunday School For Children of All Ages

Sunday mornings at 9:30am during the Traditional Worship Service

Children will join their parents or guardians in the Sanctuary for the first part of the worship service. Then, after the children's message, they will be directed to their classrooms. Teens may go directly to their classes at 9:30am. Little ones who need a little extra "wobble room" may also go directly to their classrooms.

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 9:45am
Children's Church 11:15am

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
Nina Yardley, Office Assistant

www.songoflifeumc.org

Thinking Theologically | Jody Topping

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NRSV)

One of my favorite church songs is called *Give Thanks*. I first heard the song when the church we were attending bought a set of the song books called *The Faith We Sing*. The lyrics speak about being grateful and thankful, but with a social justice leaning, which is why I like it so much.



*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks*

I recently learned that the song was written by Henry Smith, a man who, after graduating from seminary in 1978 became quite discouraged. He couldn't find a job, and was gradually losing his eyesight. But in spite of these hardships, Henry had hope. He was inspired by 2 Corinthians 8:9 to write *Give Thanks*, which has been performed in multiple languages all over the world over the last 40 years.

We all experience difficulties in life, and sometimes it's hard to feel grateful. It's hard for us to give thanks when our world is falling apart. But Henry's song reminds us that even in our most difficult times, there is something for which we can *Give Thanks*: God's abundant love for us, and God's ever present help in times of trouble.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says we should give thanks in all circumstances...even when things aren't going our way. Because in spite of the bad things in our lives, there's always something we can depend upon: the good that God does for us every day. So let us all *Give Thanks*, for we have much to be thankful for.

Holy Huddle on the Future of the UMC Saturday, November 17, 1-4:30pm

On Saturday, November 17, Bishop Bob Hoshibata will lead a Holy Huddle on the Future of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Jody and members of the Leadership Board will attend, and hope you will attend as well.

The purpose of these Holy Huddles is to help our churches be better informed about the upcoming Special General Conference in February 2019, which will consider the recommendations made by the Commission on a Way Forward, the group tasked with identifying ways we can minister to members of the LGBTQI community.



In a letter to the DSCUMC churches posted on the Conference Website, Bishop Bob wrote:

I believe we are in a very crucial moment in the history of our United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. Although we are not all able to vote on what plan is ultimately adopted by General Conference, we do have the responsibility to be aware of the implications of the plans. It is a privilege to pray and share around tables in Christ-like conversation. We join in expectation that our United Methodist Church will face the future united in hope for our future. I anticipate that we will be better prepared to

continue our excellent ministries because we have these moments of Holy Huddle to inform and inspire us, centering us in the hope of Jesus Christ even as we undergo change. Our participation gives hope to our mission and ministry to all God's children in the name of Jesus.

Please join Pastor Jody and your Leadership Board on November 17. If you would like to carpool, please contact the church office.

Casting Our Vision, and Growing In Faith

As we come to the end of 2018, it is traditional for churches to hold their Stewardship Campaigns at this time of year, but at Song of Life, we dare to be different! Starting in January 2019, after the holidays, we will make instead Commitments of our Time, Talent, and Resources using a 2-part process.




On January 6, Pastor Jody will begin a 3-part Sermon Series called "Casting Our Vision," during which we will honor our church's past, look ahead to our future by creating a new vision, and consider how we will ALL be involved in making that vision a reality.



Then, on January 27, we will begin a 3-part series called "Growing In Faith Together"...or GIFT. In this series, we will make commitments of our time, our talent, and our resources that will make the vision we cast a reality. We will end

this series on February 10, when we will Consecrate our Commitments during worship.

Before we begin this process you will receive information about our 2019 church budget. If you have any questions in the meantime, we encourage you to contact members of your Leadership Board or Pastor Jody.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: For all events listed here, specific location details are on our website at songoflifeumc.org or call the church office at 480.641.1200.				1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Joy Circle @ Village Inn (Queen Creek) 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	3
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Koinonia Adult Study Group @ Dick & Bev Stout's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Howard & Sue Franklin's 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 4 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @The Terrace STV 6:30pm Webelos, Classm 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 7:00pm SoL Leadership Board, YouthRoom 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5pm Pastor Jody @ Panera – QC Marketplace 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	8	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am-12pm Trustees Work Day 
11 Veterans Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15am Koinonia Adult Study Group @ Joe & Laura Hauer's Home 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Howard & Sue Franklin's 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 5 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5pm Pastor Jody @ Panera – QC Marketplace 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pointe 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am SoL Men's Breakfast, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy 1pm East District Holy Huddle @North Scottsdale UMC
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Set-up Worship in the Park (see article on cover of newsletter) 10am-12:30pm Worship in the Park / Friendsgiving Potluck, Mansel Carter Oasis Park 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5pm Pastor Jody @ Panera – QC Marketplace 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	22 Thanksgiving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Office Closed 9-10am Youth Turkey Bowl 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Office Closed 	24
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45 Adult Fellowship Brunch @ Slate Bistro in Trilogy (Adult Study Group & Bible Buddies combined) 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 6 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5pm Pastor Jody @ Panera – QC Marketplace 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pointe 	Dec. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Hanging of the Greens 12pm Queen Creek Holiday Festival (Parade starts 3:30pm)