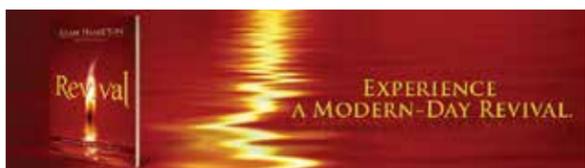


Welcome to Song of Life!

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

Beginning the week of October 14, Pastor Jody will lead her first Pastor's Study Group at Song of Life UMC! The study will coincide with the sermon series called Roots: Our Methodist Heritage, which will begin on Sunday, October 14. The study book we will use is called Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection UMC (the largest UMC in the United States).

Participants will have two options to choose from with regard to meeting days and times. A morning session will be offered on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am starting Tuesday, October 16. An evening session will be offered on Fridays from 6:30-8pm.

A sign-up sheet will be available beginning October 7, but participants can also register for the class by sending an email to Pastor Jody. Her church email address is pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org or you can call her at 480-766-9272 to register. Please indicate which session you will attend (Tuesday morning or Friday evening).

The book for the study – Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It – is available in both paperback or electronic format from Amazon.com. We suggest you purchase the book ahead of time and read at least the first chapter before the first session.



Trunk or Treat

On Saturday, October 22 Song of Life UMC will participate in Queen Creek's Trunk or Treat community event...and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to help hand out candy and stickers to all the ghosts and goblins in the town of Queen Creek. If you can help, please sign up online at: <http://signup.com/go/ocNUido>

You won't want to miss the fun!!
Sign up early to get your favorite time slot!!

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



Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jody

The Pastor's Perspective

Many years ago, when I was in my 20s, I became interested in tracing my family tree. You see, my parents rarely, if ever, talked about their parents, much less their ancestors, so I had no clue about my heritage. When I finally decided to take this on as a project, I started out like so many would-be family history seekers: I pried as much information out of my parents as I could, then, armed with that tiny bit of data, headed to the Family History Library in Mesa. I spent hours and hours sifting through microfilmed records, looking for people who were related to me...and every now and then I'd get lucky! I eventually discovered that most of my ancestors on my mother's were born and raised in the Deep South, and many had surnames that

were German and Irish.

Eventually I was able to collect enough information to justify a trip to South Carolina and Georgia, during which my mom, my dad, my sisters, my Aunt (who lived there) and I went "graveyard hunting," searching for headstones that would verify the birth and death dates of relatives I had found in the official records. We even discovered a local artist in Beaufort, South Carolina who had sketched one of the churches where some of our ancestors are buried...and found out quite by accident that we were cousins! What a small world!

While tracing our family history was sometimes a lot of fun, it was definitely a labor of love. It took a lot of time and patience, and was often frustrating and discouraging. But whenever I found someone I was related to in one of those old documents on microfilm, it was like finding a long-lost friend! My only regret is that we were never able to get "across the pond" because so many of the old records were destroyed during the Civil War. So I never did find out my actual heritage...although I do know, thanks to Ancestry.com that most of my DNA comes from Western Europe and the British Isles.

Knowing where we came from and why we do things the way we do is an important part of knowing who we are. Understanding our "roots" helps explain why certain things are important to us. This is true on a personal level as well as a spiritual level. As believers in God, we know we are inspired by God's love for humankind. And as Christians, we know our behavior is deeply rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. But what about our Methodist Heritage? Where did that come from? And why are we called "Methodists?"

Some of you may know the answers to those questions...but some of you may not. In fact, during our Listening Sessions when I was first appointed to serve as Pastor at Song of Life, I learned that we have a number of members and regular attenders who grew up worshipping in non-Methodist churches. Some grew up Lutheran, Presbyterian, and even Catholic. And yet, we are now all Methodists...so what does that mean?

Beginning October 14, we'll discover what it means to be Methodist by learning about the founding of our denomination and the history of the Methodist movement. In our sermon series called "Roots: Our Methodist Heritage" we'll learn about John Wesley, his brother Charles, and others who were founders of our denomination, and we'll discover what it means to be United Methodist in our 21st century world.

We will also offer a Pastor's Study on this topic using a book Rev. Adam Hamilton called Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It. The study groups will meet at the church once a week for 5 weeks, with classes on Tuesday mornings at 10am and Friday evenings at 7pm.* Those interested in participating in the study can register on Sunday mornings after worship or by emailing me at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jody

*Participants will meet just once a week on either Tuesday mornings or Friday evenings.



Song of Life All Church Conference: Giving God Our Best

On Sunday, October 14, the congregation at Song of Life UMC will meet with our District Superintendent, Rev. N. Susan Brims for our All Church Conference. Rev. Brims will meet with our Leadership Board at 1pm in the Classroom. She will then meet with the entire congregation 2pm in the Sanctuary.

This year, we will not only celebrate our ministries and accomplishments in 2018. We will also look ahead to the ways we will be "Giving God Our Best" in the year to come.

Light refreshments will be served. We sincerely hope all of you will come back to church on Sunday afternoon, October 14 and join us as we celebrate our SoL community and ministries!!

Coming Up: Advent Sermon Series | Unexpected Journey (based on the Study Book by Rev. Adam Hamilton called The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem)

Welcome New Members!

During the month of September, Song of Life welcomed 8 new members into the life of the church! They are:

Barbara Babbitt	Suzie Sheahan	Elaine Bartell	David Topping
Trina Brown	Dean Wolfahrt	Joe Ingram	Gail Wofahrt



If you are not currently a member of Song of Life UMC and would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Jody at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org or 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!!

So next time you see our new members listed above, please welcome them with open arms!!

Listening Tour

Last July, Pastor Jody met with over 50 church members and constituents to hear about their hopes and dreams for Song of Life UMC. Those listening sessions were very enlightening...so we're going to do them again!

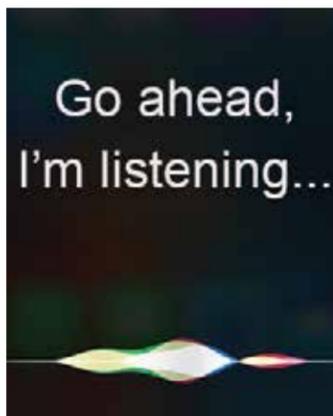
During the month of October, we are holding two (possibly three) more listening sessions so Pastor Jody can get to know you and hear how God is speaking to you about the future of Song of Life United Methodist Church. She also wants to hear ideas about new ministries in which we might engage...new ways we can reach out and make disciples...new ways we can grow the church.

Our goal is to have as many people as possible attend at least one of these listening sessions with our Pastor. If you're not able to attend the sessions offered later this month, we hope you will make plans to be at the ones offered in January or February of next year.

Here are the dates and locations for our October sessions:

- Sunday, October 21, 1:00pm at the home of Dick and Bev Stout
- Thursday, October 25, 7:00pm at Song of Life UMC Youth Room
- Monday, October 29, 7:00pm (TENATIVE, location TBD)*

Once again, Pastor Jody wants to thank everyone who participated in our summer listening sessions, and is looking forward to meeting with those who sign up for the upcoming sessions. Together we can make a difference as we live out our mission as United Methodists: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!



Singers and Ringers: Save the Dates!!!

On Sunday, September 9, we had a terrific showing of folks who are interested in forming two new choirs at Song of Life UMC!! With David Topping at the helm, we are looking forward to having a new vocal choir – the Song of Life Singers – and a new handbell choir – the Song of Life Ringers – enhancing our worship experiences from time to time.

Rehearsals for these groups will be on Wednesday evenings, with Ringers at 5:30pm and Singers at 6:30pm. Our Praise Band rehearsal will remain at 7:30pm.

Singers will rehearse during the month of October on the 17th and 24th. October 31st will be a day off because of Halloween.

Ringers are tentatively scheduled to rehearse on the same dates (October 17 and 24), assuming we are able to borrow a set of bells in time.

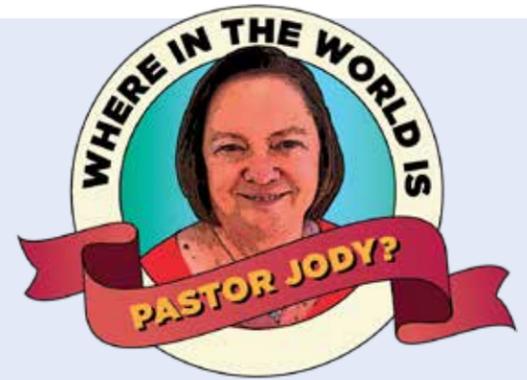
If you were unable to attend the introductory/organizational meeting on September 9, it's not too late for you to join in the musical fun!! Just come to rehearsal on October 17! See ya'll then!



Song of Life Leadership Board Members

Stuart Blair: sfblairusa@yahoo.com	Scott Luther: scottluther2525@gmail.com
John Campbell: campbell51jc@gmail.com	Laura Hauer: hauerla@cox.net
Sean Claypool: sclaypool2009@gmail.com	Carl Chasse: cchasse_az@yahoo.com
Casey DeWitt: cdewitt@songoflifeumc.org	Betty Ranney: b.ranney@cox.net
Mckenzie Gilean (Youth Representative)	Jerry Shanks: geraldsha@gmail.com

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!



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

During the month of October, Pastor Jody will be on vacation through October 13. On/Off-Site Office Hours will resume on October 16th as follows:

- Mondays 9am-12pm: Song of Life Church Office
- Mondays 1-4pm: Starbucks at Ellsworth & Rittenhouse
- Tuesdays 12:30-3:30pm: Terrace Restaurant, 30761 W. Golf Club Dr., San Tan Valley
- Wednesdays 2pm – 5pm: Panera Bread, Queen Creek Marketplace
- Fridays 10/19 1-4pm: Starbucks at Higley Pointe (on Power Rd south of the 202)
- Fridays 10/26 9am-12pm: 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 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

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

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. – Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

When I was in seminary, one of my assignments in my Christian Education class was to visit a nearby church and write a report on their Sunday School classes. I decided to visit a United Methodist Church near my home, not only because it was close by, but because their website showed that they had a lot of different Sunday School classes for both children and adults. Their website also said they were a “friendly” and “welcoming” church. So I decided to not only attend a couple of their Sunday School classes, but also joined them for worship on more than one occasion as well.

The first Sunday I attended, I went straight from worship to their adult Sunday School class, so I didn’t really give them the chance to be “friendly” or “welcoming!” But the next time I visited, I attended their first worship service, then hung out in their courtyard along with the other parishioners for their coffee fellowship. I expected to be approached by some of their regulars, given the fact I was wearing one of those “Hello, My Name Is...” nametags, which we all know is a sure time that one is a first time guest. Much to my surprise, not a single person approached me. No one introduced themselves or said “hello.” No one asked me if I was new or needed any help. In fact, no one spoke to me at all. Needless to say, I left that Sunday thinking to myself, “my goodness, this church is neither “friendly” nor “welcoming.” Either they need to change their behavior, or they need to change their website.

Sadly, this situation is not uncommon in many of our churches. Too often people get so caught up in greeting their friends before, during, and after worship that they forget our most important mission as people of faith is to show hospitality toward the stranger and

welcome newcomers to our church. And yet, 85% of people surveyed in 2017 Gallup Poll said activities that allow them to get to know the people in their community was a factor in why they attend worship at a church. Being part of a faith community – feeling like they belong – is an important reason why many people become active in a church...that, along with worship God, learning how to lead a faithful life, and engaging in activities that benefit those less fortunate.



As a church intent on growing (which is what I heard as a major priority during our Listening Sessions), we need to be as welcoming as possible. We need to be sure those who are worship with us for the first time feel like they belong...because of course, they do!! We only have one opportunity to make a good first impression... so what can and should we do to welcome the strangers among us? Here are 5 things we can all do to make sure our guests feel welcome:

- Be a good host (or hostess) – Remember, every regular attendee, is a host and not a visitor. Making our true guests – those worshipping with us for the first or second time – feel welcome is YOUR primary responsibility... not the nebulous “church’s” responsibility. YOU are the most important person a guest can and should talk to...not the pastor or the greeter...but YOU. “One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to first time visitors is for people with no official position to take the initiative and welcome them.” (J. David Eschelmann, author of Now Go Forward: Reaching Out to Grow Your Congregation.)

- Don’t be shy...Introduce yourself!! – If you see someone you don’t recognize, smile and introduce yourself to them. Ask them their name, then call them by name. Do your best to remember it so next time they come to worship, you can call them by name again...they’ll be quite impressed!
- Play “musical chairs” – When you see someone new who is sitting by themselves, pick up your personal items and sit in the seat next to theirs. Introduce yourself, help them locate hymns in the hymnal, gently guide them through all the standing up and sitting down. If they have children with them, let them know their children are welcome to stay in worship with them or they can go to Sunday School – it’s their choice. Then, after worship, offer them refreshments...and go get them! Demonstrate true hospitality through your service.
- Practice the “first five” rule – At the end of the worship service, before you start talking to your friends, spend the first five minutes talking to people you don’t know. They might be first time guests or they might be regular attendees who sit in a different section. Either way, take 5 minutes to meet someone you don’t know...you just might make a new friend!!
- Invite, Invite, Invite – If you regularly attend one of the Adult Bible Studies, invite someone you don’t know to join you...then take them with you to the study group location. If you regularly go out to brunch or lunch after worship, invite a new person to go with you... and treat them while you’re at it. Or simply invite a first time guest to call you if they have any questions about our church, or invite them to one of our many outside activities, like Joy Circle, or the Men’s Breakfast. Extend the invitation...and see where it leads.

Making sure our guests feel welcome is the most important thing we can do as followers of Christ. After all, as the author of Hebrews noted, “some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Let’s all engage in radical hospitality, so that even the angels will want to be our guests!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 7:00pm SoL Leadership Board Meeting, Youth Room 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Joy Circle @ Village Inn (Queen Creek) 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Adult Study Group @ Bob & Dee Hodsden's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>8 Columbus Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Adult Study Group @ TBD 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Howard & Sue Franklin's 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 1:00 Church Conference – SPRC only 2:00 Church Conference – All Church 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 10:00am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 1 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>17</p> <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 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pointe 6:30pm Pastor's Study – Revival Week 1 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am SoL Men's Breakfast, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy 5:00pm Queen Creek Truck or Treat
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Adult Study Group @ TBD 10:45am Bible Buddies Bible Study @ Howard & Sue Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 1:00pm Listening Session @ Dick & Bev Stout's Home 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 10:00am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 2 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>24</p> <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 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Listening Session, Sanctuary 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pointe 6:30pm Pastor's Study – Revival Week 2 	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <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 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 7:00pm Listening Session, Location TBD (Tentative) 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30-3:30pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 6:30pm 5th Grade Webelos, Classroom 10:00am Pastor's Study – Revival Week 3 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>31 Halloween</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-5pm Pastor Jody @ Panera – QC Marketplace 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary 	<p>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.</p>		