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 our bible studies, small groups, or social activities! We have a Groups page on our website where you can find out about our small groups, social events, and service teams! Also check us out on our Facebook page!

Worship Service Times >> 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am



A Big Thank You...

We would like to express a big "Thank You" to Bob & Mary Sieger and Gary & Sally Hoff, who have been doing an incredible job of pulling weeds, removing dead plants, and making our campus more attractive. We are so grateful for your service to Song of Life! Thank you for your work! Well done, good and faithful servants!!



Area 412

Area 412 is coming back...bigger and better than ever!! Starts February 6, from 6:30-7:45pm at Song of Life UMC!! Open to all kids, Kindergarten and older!! Bring a sack supper or eat before you come.



Spring Break Kids Kamp

Save the Date!!! Song of Life will offer a Spring Break Kids Kamp March 11-15 from 9am to 1pm.

This week-long event will be open to kids K-6 grades. Cost is \$20 to cover supplies. Children will bring their own sack lunch. Activities will include games, crafts, stories, outdoor playtime, and more!! Watch for more information.

This event will be open to the community as well as those who attend SoL, so we'll need lots of volunteers to help out!! If you are willing and able to be a volunteer leader or helper, please contact our Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries, Carrie Claypool at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org

Mission Trip

Our next Mission trip Meeting is Sunday February 10th, immediately following the 11am Praise Service.

Need to reach Pastor Jody?

Send her an email at

pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org

& she'll get back to you as soon as she can!

The Pastor's Perspective

February has long been considered a time when we celebrate love, especially on February 14th, Valentine's Day. But do you know how Valentine's Day came to be?

Saint Valentine was born in the year 176 CE, and died on February 14 in either 269, 270, 273 or 280...we really don't know for sure. We do know he was murdered by the Roman government because he refused to renounce his faith in Christ. Legend has it that one of the reasons he was killed was because he was secretly marrying couples so the husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Regardless, during the Middle Ages, St. Valentine's Day became a day to celebrate love, and it's been that way ever since.

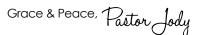
As we know, there was another prominent figure in history who celebrated love: specifically the kind of love called agape in Greek. Agape isn't romantic love, or even brotherly love. It is the highest form of love that is universal and unconditional, the kind of love that transcends all other emotions. It's the kind of love that moves us to engage in acts of charity toward others, and it's the kind of love Jesus teaches us to embrace as we seek to become his followers. I'm reminded of the words from 1 Corinthians 13...the "love" chapter of the Bible:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

This is the kind of love we are meant to show toward our fellow human beings. It's the kind of love Jesus demonstrated throughout his ministry, and it's the kind of love we are called to emulate, especially in troubled times.

History has shown that nothing good comes from hate. When people lash with hate in their hearts, using violent words or actions, often others respond in kind. But when we respond to each other in love instead, we can still disagree, but the outcome will hopefully be more positive and productive.

In these troubled times, I urge us all to respond to each other with agape: that unconditional love which is patient, kind, and rejoices in the truth.



Thinking Theologically

I remember when I gave birth to my children...the overwhelming feeling of love I felt for them the instant I saw them and held them in my arms was remarkable to say the least.

...and the greatest of these is love.

– 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

According to contemporary psychology, activities that are grounded in emotion – especially the emotion of love – are more likely to be remembered long after they occurred. I mentioned this a few of years ago in a sermon one Easter Sunday. The scripture reading that Sunday was about the women who encountered the risen Christ at the empty tomb. In that message, I commented on the physiological differences between the male and female brains. I shared how men tend to remember things by associating them with physical experiences or activities, while women tend to recall events that are bound together by emotions. When our emotions are engaged during a particular action or activity, we are more likely to remember that action or activity, especially long term.

So the experiences of giving birth to our children were so emotionally charged that they have stayed with me 31 and almost 35 years later. I recall them as if they happened yesterday. And yet, sometimes I don't remember what I had for breakfast, which also proves that my memory is good, even if it's sometimes short!

Of course, all of this is great...but it doesn't explain why I love my little grandson so much, because I wasn't there on the day he was born. I was in Denver at a church-related conference. But the next day when I returned to Phoenix, and held little Anderson for the very first time, the love I felt for him was overwhelming. This son of my son and my daughter-in-law, is now the love of my life! And I'm blessed to be with him every week, and as I watch him grow, even now that he's in his "terrible twos," I love him even more.

When Jesus said we are to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, he wasn't saying it to be trite. He meant that as his followers, we are meant to be bound together with each other. When we love those around us with a love that is transcending, barriers break down, and differences are diminished. The love of Christ – the love he shared with his followers – fills us up so much that we can't help but share it with others.

I pray that during this month of love, we will make an extra effort to love those around us...not just our family and friends, but especially those we have a hard time being around. Let's celebrate love during the month of February, by sharing God's love with others!

Special General Conference: February 23-26, 2019

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church on February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward.

The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

In their report, the Commission presented three recommendations to the Council of Bishops. These three plans will be considered by the delegates in St. Louis at the end of February.

It should be noted, however, that earlier last year, the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled that, in addition to these three plans, petitions offering alternative plans could be "filed by any organization, clergy member and lay member of the United Methodist Church as long as the business proposed to be transacted in such petition" is within the boundaries of the restricted focus of the 2019 General Conference." It appears 29 additional petitions have been submitted that meet these requirements.

Starting February 17, Pastor Jody will begin a sermon series called "A Way Forward" during which she will offer some perspective on the Special General Conference. The sermons in this series will be "Preparing the Way," "A Progress Report," and "Where Do We Go From Here.

Please keep our General Conference delegates in prayer as they participate in this very important General Conference and help us make A Way Forward.



Love God. Love Others. Change the World.

Growing in Faith Together

By now you should have received information regarding our commitment campaign, called "GIFT: Giving in Faith Together" which included a letter from our Finance Chairperson and two (2) commitment cards. If you did not receive a letter with the commitment cards enclosed, please contact the office right away, or see one of the ushers the next time you are in worship.

We know it's unusual to do a Commitment Campaign in January after the financial year has already begun, but believe it or not, there is a method to our madness! First, we wanted you to know about the church's financial condition before asking you to make a financial commitment. A summary is included in your GIFT Commitment Campaign materials, but if you would like a copy of Song of Life's 2019 budget, please contact either Laura Hauer (Leadership Board Chairperson), Scott Luther (Finance Chairperson), or Pastor Jody and we'll see that you get one.*

We also delayed our commitment campaign so our Winter Residents can be part of the process of making a commitment to this church. Now, we realize that, as Winter Residents, you're in and around the Queen Creek area less than 12 months of the year. But we want you to know that when you are here, Song of Life is YOUR church, and it's just as important for you to make a commitment to Song of Life as it is to make a commitment to your other church, wherever that may be. We want EVERYONE who is a part of Song of Life — whether full time or part time — to be included in this commitment campaign...so please fill out your commitment cards and return them to the church on or before February 10.

Building The Future

This year, in addition to making commitments to our general mission and ministries, we are also asking you to prayerfully consider making an additional commitment to SoL's Building The Future campaign. We believe God is leading us to build in the not-so-distant future as the church continues to grow. In order to do that - in order to build for the future - we must first retire our current debt of about \$275,000. As a way of doing that - and to prepare for Building the Future – we are asking you to consider making an additional investment in YOUR church. Remember: Even if you're a Winter Resident, SoL is YOUR church too!!

Online Giving

We also want to encourage EVERYONE (especially our Winter Residents) to consider using our online giving processes available through our website. There are a lot of good reasons to give online:



- · Online Giving is Biblical! When we give online, we are essentially giving from our "first fruits," which is what God asks us to do.
- · Online Giving is Easy! Simply click on the "Give" link at the top of our website, tell the system how much and how frequently you want to give, where you want your gift to be applied, then set it and forget it!!
- · Online Giving is Convenient, especially for Snowbirds!! If you're a Winter Resident, you can set up your financial aiving online and whether you're physically in worship or not, your financial aifts will still arrive on time! What's more, if you set up your giving on a 12 month basis, this greatly helps Song of Life's operating budget during those crucial summer months when so many of our worshipers are on vacation or have gone to their summer homes. So we urge you, after you have determined what you will give to SoL on an annual basis, divide that amount by 12, then go online and set up your online giving account with 1/12 of your annual gift to be made on a monthly basis. If you have questions about online giving, please contact either Laura, Scott, or Pastor Jody.

Returning Your Annual Commitment Cards

Your annual commitments help SoL plan for ministry by letting us know how you will give of your time, your talent, and your financial resources. So please return both of your commitment cards by February 10 or before.

We're Here To Help

If you are experiencing financial hardship, don't let thart keep you from participating and serving in church. Remember, God honors your faithfulness and your acceptance is not based on your ability to give. Please let Pastor Jody know if we can walk alongside you during your difficult times. You can reach pastor Jody by phone at 480-766-9272 or by email at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org.

*To contact these individuals:

- Scott Luther, Finance Chair scottluther2525@gmail.com
- Rev. Jody Topping, Pastor pastorjody@ songoflifeumc.org or 480-766-9272

Opportunities to Give Back

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35

• Laura Hauer, Leadership Board Chair - hauerla@cox.net



Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Then check out the following opportunities:

- Feed My Starving Children, located at 1345 S. Alma School Road in Mesa, is dedicated to providing nutritious meals to children. On February 21 from 6-8pm, we will pack food boxes that will be distributed to those in need. Children must be at least 5 years old. To register, go to www.fmsc.org and click on the link in the upper right hand corner labeled "Volunteer." Find the box that says "Looking for a specific group?" and enter DV85PG. Then follow the rest of the instructions on the page. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org
- Jose's Closet offers much-needed supplies, furniture and equipment to families of Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship families. On Saturday, February 9 from 9am to 12 noon we sort items that have been donated to Jose's Closet, located at 550 \$ Ironwood Dr, Apache Junction. Adults and Children age 5 and older are welcome to be a part of this volunteer opportunity. Registration will be available soon. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at the email address show above.
- House of Refuge Volunteers will meet at the House of Refuge, located at 6935 E. Williams Field Road, Mesa (Williams Gateway Area) at approximately 7am on Saturday, February 16 to help distribute food to members of our community who need this help. To volunteer for this important work, contact Joe Hauer at hauerscience@cox net

As more volunteer opportunities become available, we will announce them during worship. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your willingness to give your time to help others.

East District Day of Learning: Disciple Making

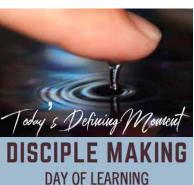
On Saturday, February 16, from 8:30am to 2:30pm, the East District will hold a Day of Learning that will include Brian McLaren, author of our Districtwide devotional book call We Make the Road by Walking, as the Keynote Speaker.

McLaren is a former college English teacher turned speaker, activist, and public theologian who is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. Brian will join the Day of Learning via livestream for the keynote address as well as for a Q&R Workshop.

Those attending may also participate in two workshops, chosen from the following:

- Meeting Your Neighbors Next Door and In the Community, presented by Rev. Dan Morley.
- Creating and Maintaining Communities of Faith for the 21st Century: Learnings from The Orontes Project, presented by Rev. Rob Rynders & Rev. Dave Wasson.
- Discipling Systems, presented by Rev. Dave McPherson.
- Courageous Conversations, presented by Rev. Beth Rambikur.
- Not My War, presented by

Rev. Tina Marie Rees.



Descriptions of these workshops can be found at dscumc.org/event/east-district-day-of-learning. This event will be at First UMC, Mesa located at 15 E. First Ave in Mesa. Registration is \$15 on or before February 1, and \$20 after that date. Lunch is included in your registration fee. Register online at dscumc.org/event/east-district-day-of-learning

Transitions

We are pleased to announce a staffing transition that will be made in the near future. Many of you know that our current Administrative Assistant, Nina Yardley, served faithfully as a Local Pastor for many years at the United Methodist Church in Kearney, AZ. When Nina retired in 2017, her membership at SoL, was reinstated, and in 2018, she was hired as the church's Administrative Assistant. As such, she has provided extravagant hospitality to those who visit our church campus during the week, as well as much-needed administrative support. Her compassion toward those who call the office looking for assistance is extraordinary, and for that reason, she is transitioning to a new assignment at Song of Life UMC.

In the near future, Nina will become our Coordinator of Congregational & Stephen Ministry Care. She will work in partnership with Pastor Jody to make sure our members and constituents receive the pastoral care they need. They will also work together to assemble a team of volunteers who will be trained to provide care as well. Nina will also work to revitalize our Stephen Ministry as part of this vital ministry.

While we are looking for a new Administrative Assistant, Nina will continue serving in that capacity. We will also provide you with additional information on how you can reach out to Nina should you desire a call from one of our Congregational Care Team Members, our Stephen Ministers, Nina, or Pastor Jody. Please join us in congratulating Nina on this new assignment in the weeks to come.

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 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am Sunday School for Kids & Teens 9:45am Children's Church 11:15am

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



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!)

Our Staff

Rev. Jody Topping, Lead Pastor Nina Yardley, Office Assistant Carry Claypool, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Casey DeWitt, Treasurer

:: February 2019 ::

Love God. Love Others. Change the World.

Casting Our Vision: The Results

During the month of January, Pastor Jody led our congregation in a process to Cast our Vision for the



future. In the first sermon of the series, we "Honored the Past" by celebrating Song of Life's 18 year history as a congregation in the East Valley.

In the second sermon, we "Imagined the Future" by using Post-it Notes to

indicate the ways we feel God is nudging us into the future. By the end of the third service that Sunday, the posters used to capture those ideas were nearly full.

In the last sermon, Pastor Jody shared "the highlights" of our visioning process, and a printed summary of our ideas was handed out. We also heard how "It Takes a Village" to grow a church, with everyone doing their part to make God's vision for SoL a reality.

For those who were not present on January 20, here are the "highlights" Pastor Jody shared:

1 Year

- Have a larger Congregation, with 25% more people
- Work to fill the Sanctuary in the summer by intentionally inviting people & bringing them to worship, and intentionally welcoming quests through same-day visitations
- Promoting diversity thru a formal, public statement that everyone is welcome at Song of Life
- More emphasis on ministries for children, youth, etc.
- Rekindle LIFE Groups, with EVERYONE involved in a group
- Have more fellowship opportunities
- Increasing our involvement in local & international missions
- Being more involved in the community
- Spruce up our property and install more signs, especially at the entrance to the church
- Add a steeple or cross on existing building

- Add a prayer garden, a labyrinth, a playground, a community garden, and more paved parking
- Make plans to build a larger worship space
- Retire our existing debt
- Establish a building fund

3 Years

- Have an even larger congregation: 300 members & 400+ in worship per Sunday
- Offer more ministries for children, youth, & families
- Have more LIFE Groups & Sunday School Classes
- Rekindle our ministry in San Tan Valley by promoting creative ministry opportunities (not a second worship site)
- Add new missions, like a Food Bank or Immigrant Ministry
- Have our current debt paid off
- Be closer to building a new & larger Sanctuary
- Make better use of the property by developing an area specifically for outdoor worship and/or fellowship opportunities

5 Years

- Have three well-attended worship services
- Create a mission unique to Song of Life, such as one that supports & encourages people to become Foster Parents
- Implement the Master Plan by build the new Sanctuary and looking ahead to future construction of a fellowship hall, education classrooms, offices, etc.
- Have multiple pastors, more staff & volunteers
- Dedicate 1/3 of Annual Budget to missions

10 Years

- Song of Life UMC is an anchor in the community with 600 members or more
- We will celebrate 5 years in our permanent Sanctuary
- The entire church campus is built out

- Our Mission budget is doubled
- Offer more opportunities to serve, possibly through our own SoL Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, or something different???

If you were unable to be in worship at any time during this series, you are encouraged to check out these sermons online, either by watching the recordings saved on our Song of Life Facebook page, or by viewing them on our YouTube channel, which is accessible from our website. And if you'd like a copy of the Visioning Results handout, please contact the church office.

Help Wanted

Song of Life United Methodist Church is looking for an Administrative Assistant to provide administrative and clerical support for the implementation of Song of Life's ministry and mission. The position is 4 hours per day, 20 hours per week. Starting salary is \$12 per hour. To view the Job Description for this position and to download an application form, please go to songoflifeumc.org/about/jobopening. Applications may be submitted online to Pastor Jody at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org.

Song of Life Leadership Board Members

John Campbell: campbell51jc@gmail.com

Sean Claypool: sclaypool2009@gmail.com

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

Wally Doppenberg: wallydoppenberg@gmail.com

Melissa Martinez: jmbmartinez12@cox.net

Audrey Hall (Youth Representative)

Rev. Jody Topping: pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: Pastor Jody's on- and off-site office hours are shown here. In addition to these times, Pastor Jody is available during the week (except Thursdays) to meet either at the church or in your home. Give her a call at 480-766-9272 to make an appointment. Please remember, these office hours are subject to change and any changes, including those made at the last minute, will be shared on our Facebook page.					9am-12pm Pastor Jody Starbucks – Higley Pt. 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary	2
8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am SoL Coffee & Conversation, 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Stout's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 1-3pm Pastor Jody, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 12:30-3:00pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary	1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody © Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal	7 • 9-11am JOY Circle @ Village Inn, QC Marketplace	8 • 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pt.	9am-12pm Jose's Closet Volunteers
8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Sol Coffee & Conversation, 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Shanks' Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm Youth Mission Trip Meeting	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 1-3pm Pastor Jody, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 12:30-3:00pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary	 1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody ® Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal 	14 Valentine's Day	 9am-12pm Pastor Jody § Starbucks – Higley Pt. 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre- Schoolers), Sanctuary 	 7-9am House of Refuge Food Distribution 8:00am SoL Men's Breakfast, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy
8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am SoL Coffee & Conversation, 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Babbitt's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30-2:00pm New Member Gathering	 18 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide 	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 12:30-3:00pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary	1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody © Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal	21 • 6-8pm Feed My Starving Children Volunteers	22	23
8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am SoL Coffee & Conversation, 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	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 1-3pm Pastor Jody, Slate Bistro @ Trilogy 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Campus-wide	9am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 12:30-3:00pm Pastor Jody @ The Terrace STV 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary	1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody © Starbucks – Sprouts Shopping Center 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm SoL Praise Band Rehearsal	28	Mar 1 • 9am-12pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks – Higley Pt. • 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre- Schoolers), Sanctuary	2