

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



Area 412

Area 412 is back!! We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm in the youth room and classroom at Song of Life!! Area 412 is open to all kids, K-12. Bring a sack supper or eat before you come.



Mission Trip

It's not too late to join the Mission Trip!! We're especially looking for boys who are interesting in serving others on their faith journey! Our Mission Trip team will be traveling to San Francisco and the Bay Area to serve in places like The Salvation Army (sorting donated items and delivering meals to the homebound), Senior Centers, and serving the homeless and those in poverty at the YMCA in the Tenderloin District.

Our **next fundraiser** for this project will be a "flapjack fundraiser" on April 13 at Applebee's. Watch for more information in our Sunday worship bulletins.



A Big Thank You...

We would like to express a big "Thank You" to everyone who has contributed so far to our SoL Teens Mission Trip Fund!! We really appreciate your willingness to partner with our teens on what could be for some of them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They are very close to meeting their financial needs to fully fund the trip for our teens, so if you didn't have an opportunity to contribute during the fund drive, we invite you to simply make your donation either by placing it in the offering basket or making it online. Again, a "BIG THANK YOU" to all who have contributed so far!

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



When I was a little girl, the Methodist Church we belonged to didn't observe Lent, which in itself wasn't unusual back in the 1960s. For many Protestants, observing Lent was considered "too Catholic," so we simply didn't do it. Those were also the days when Methodist Churches only offered Holy Communion once a quarter (if that).

It wasn't until 1979 that the United Methodist Church finally added worship resources for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, and not until 1992 that this practice became part of our official church resources. Since then, it seems, Protestants, and more specifically United Methodists, not only observe the season of Lent, but take it more seriously than before. More and more United Methodists participate in the imposition of ashes during Ash Wednesday services, and even share in the practice of giving something up for the 40 days (not including Sundays) of Lent.

For some of us, the "giving up" part of Lent is mighty difficult. So why do we do it? Why do we think it's important for us to give up something for Lent? Is it one of those things that everybody does, so we think that we should do it too? Why is it important for us to give something up that we like or enjoy? And why only do it for a few weeks? These are all good questions – some I'm sure many of you ask yourselves every year as Lent approaches.

The idea behind giving up something for Lent is grounded in scripture, in Luke 9:23, where we read "Jesus said to everyone, 'All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me.'" So, when we get down to it, giving up something we like is essentially about self-denial. As followers of Christ, we must say "no" to the things of this world and take on for ourselves the life of Christ.

Now, when it comes to things like lima beans and liver, giving those up isn't a difficult task for me...and I'm sure that's the case for many of you. That's why, during Lent, we usually give up something we enjoy, and more often than not, that "something" is food. One year our family gave up ice cream for Lent, which was a really hard thing since our son worked at Cold Stone Creamery and we could get ice cream there for half price or less! But because we all felt it was an important thing for us to do – because we wanted to deny ourselves of that one simple pleasure – and we knew it would only be for 40 days, we didn't. But let me tell you, on Easter Sunday, our first stop after church was Cold Stone, and we savored every bite of our ice cream treats that day!

Giving up something for Lent is about giving ourselves to Jesus, and giving up or turning away from our sinful nature...the material things that take our focus off Jesus. It's a great time for us to set an example for those around us, especially our non-religious or nominally religious friends and family members. But let's get real: giving up something we love is hard, especially when that "something" involves sugar, which by the way, is highly addictive. And for those of us who are emotional eaters (like me), focusing on our need to come to the cross when we are hurting as opposed to a package of Oreos (or a dish of ice cream) can be pretty significant along our walk of faith. So giving up something we love for Lent is not only an opportunity to express outwardly our faith in the healing power of Jesus, but also a chance for us to reflect inwardly on how much we need to depend upon Jesus - and not that candy bar sitting on the shelf.

This year during Lent, we will not only ask you to give up something you love, but will also focus on some aspects of life that, as Christian people, we must give up if we will truly follow Jesus. These include giving up control, expectations, superiority, enemies, popularity, our lives, and even death. My prayer is that during this season of Lent, we will not only experience the renewing presence of Christ in our lives, but also discover how giving up these things that serve as barriers between us and other people, will ultimately improve our relationships with them as well as our relationship with God. May we all experience a truly spiritual and renewing season of Lent.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*

Special General Conference: A Progress Report

As most of you know, our Special General Conference started on Saturday, February 23 and continued through Tuesday, February 26. The first day was a day of worship, prayer and conversation, which meant the real work didn't begin until the second day, Sunday the 24th.



Sunday: Following worship, the delegates got down to business by prioritizing the 70+ before them. Once that process was completed, the top five priorities were: 1) Petitions related to pension liabilities and related matters; 2) The Traditional Plan; 3) a Disaffiliation Plan; 4) another Disaffiliation Plan; and 5) The One Church Plan.

The conference then adjourned its plenary session after electing their legislative committee officers, and reconvened as the legislative committee. Normally during General Conference, the delegates are assigned to legislative committees of about 25-30 people; however, for this Conference, since the subject matter was related to a single issue it was decided the entire body would make up the Legislative Committee. While this is normally unusual, given the circumstances, it seemed to make sense.

The first order of business for the Legislative Committee was to discuss the pension-related petitions, which passed without amendment. Since it was late in the day, the chair then decided to adjourn early.

Monday: On Monday, the delegates reconvened as the Legislative Committee and started deliberating on the *Traditional Plan*. After making a few amendments, which was not enough to bring the plan into compliance with the Judicial Council, the plan passed the committee, thus automatically sending it to the floor for a vote by the Plenary Session.

Next, the first Disaffiliation Plan, which "creates a consistent process for local churches who desire to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church over disagreements related to human sexuality to receive their property while reducing the impact on the annual conference by paying their portion of conference pension liabilities, and other financial considerations" was discussed and passed as amended.

The second Disaffiliation Plan, which was similar in scope to the first, passed as submitted.

The committee then began work on the *One Church Plan*. Several amendments were submitted to correct some items deemed unconstitutional, but the entire plan was voted down by a 53-47% majority. This meant is the OCP would not automatically go to the floor of the conference.

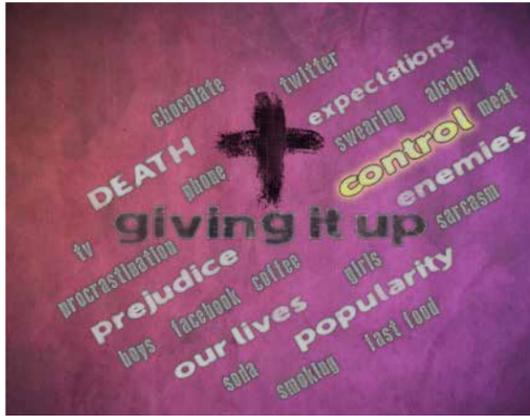
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Sermons for Lent

Giving It Up

As we approach the season of Lent, it's not unusual to hear people ask, "so, what are you giving up for Lent?" Usually, at least in my circles, the responses have to do with certain food items, social media, or other things like that. In this series, we will take the idea of "giving up" a step further, as we consider what kinds of things God really wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but forever. Our series will begin at our Ash Wednesday Service on March 6 at 7pm and will continue through Easter on April 21.

- March 6: What Are You Giving Up? (Ash Wed)
- March 10: Giving Up Control
- March 17: Giving Up Expectations
- March 24: Giving Up Superiority
- March 31: Giving Up Enemies
- April 7: Giving Up Our Lives
- April 14: Giving Up Popularity (Palm Sunday)
- April 18: Humble...Yet Holy (Maundy Thurs)
- April 19: Were You There (Good Fri)
- April 21: At Early Dawn (Easter Sunrise)
- April 21: Giving Up Death (Easter Sunday)



Pastor Jody's On- and Offsite Office Hours – March 2019*

- Mondays 9:30am – 12:30pm: Song of Life Church Office
- Mondays 1pm – 4pm: Slate Bistro in Trilogy Golf Club
- Tuesdays 9:30am – 12:30pm: Song of Life Church Office
- Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:30pm: Starbucks @ Ellsworth Loop & Rittenhouse
- Fridays 9:30am – 12 noon: Starbucks @ Ellsworth Loop & Rittenhouse



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 Pastor Jody's day off.

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



Save the Date: SoL Worship in the Park!!

April 7 (10am) at Mansel Carter Oasis Park

On Sunday, April 7 – the Sunday before Palm Sunday – we will once again 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 by the lake! There are some picnic tables in the ramadas, but we also ask folks to bring lawn chairs or camping chairs to use.

At 10am, we will celebrate worship with music, Holy Communion, and our Lenten Message on *Giving Up Our Lives*. As we did last November, our worship will be followed by a potluck meal and fellowship with our church family and guests. AND...as an added bonus...the Splash Pad should be open so kids can enjoy splashing around and having some fun!

All are encouraged to invite family and friends. Dress casually, bring lawn chairs and a dish to share. Table service (plates, napkins, utensils) will be provided. (Kids can wear bathing suits under their "Sunday Clothes"...and don't forget to bring a towel!)

Please note: the ramadas face east, and while we expect plenty of shade, we recommend you wear appropriate comfortable clothing and use sunscreen, especially if you have a concern about sun exposure.



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

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

- **Feed My Starving Children** – Song of Life is scheduled to work at the FMSC facility located at 1345 S. Alma School Road in Mesa on Tuesday, **March 19 from 6-8pm**. Children must be at least 5 years old. To sign up for this event, go to www.fmsc.org and click on the link labeled "Volunteer." In the box labeled "Looking for a specific group?" put our Join Code, which is GV3X94 and follow the rest of the instructions. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org
- **Jose's Closet** – On Saturday, **March 9 from 9am to 12 noon** we will meet at Jose's Closet, located at 550 S Ironwood Dr, Apache Junction. Adults and Children age 5 and older are invited join. Registration will be available soon. Watch for more information about how to register. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at the email address show above.

As more volunteer opportunities become available, we will announce them during worship on Sunday mornings. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your willingness to give up some of your time in order to help others as a Song of Life volunteer.



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 Dopperberg: wallydopperberg@gmail.com

Melissa Martinez: jmbmartinez12@cox.net

Audrey Hall (Youth Representative)

Rev. Jody Topping: pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org

Special General Conference: A Progress Report

Continues from the front...

The rest of the petitions, with the exception of the *Simple Plan*, were tabled by the Legislative Committee. After brief discussion, The *Simple Plan* was also defeated by a slim margin. The Legislative Committee then adjourned for the day.

Tuesday: On Tuesday, the conference convened in Plenary Session and began working on the petitions before them. As anticipated, the OCP was brought forward through a process that allows petitions that were voted down during the legislative session to be brought to the floor provided the prescribed number of signatures are received. Yes, it's complicated...but that's what occurred. The OCP was once again voted down, this time by the entire Plenary, which rendered it dead.

After lunch the body returned to work on amending the *Traditional Plan*, one petition at a time. They only made it through a few before they decided to vote on the whole plan, which they did, and it passed. The rest of the time – about 90 minutes – was spent on the Dissolution petitions, one of which was submitted as a minority report, and passed.

So the *Traditional Plan* was approved, although one of the last items approved by the body was to send it to the Judicial Council for review. Since it had previously been ruled as mostly unconstitutional before GC, it's anticipated those petitions that did not get amended won't pass muster and won't be implemented. But what does that mean for the rest of the plan? Right now, we don't know.

I will be preaching on this topic on Sunday, March 3. I encourage you, if you're not able to be in worship, to watch the video of that sermon to learn more.

In God's Service,
Pastor Jody

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

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
Carry Claypool, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Casey DeWitt, Treasurer

www.songoflifeumc.org

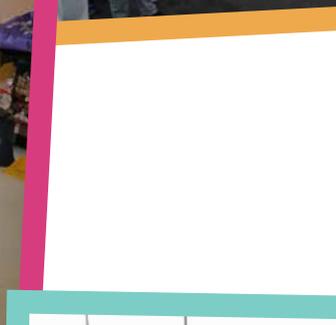
:: March 2019 ::

Love God. Love Others. Change the World.

SoL in Mission



Jose's Closet



House of Refuge



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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. ***Starbucks QC is located at Ellsworth & Rittenhouse.***</p>					<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Sunday School for Children & Youth 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Ingram's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 7:00pm SoL Leadership Board, Youth Room 	<p>6 Ash Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-10am Pastor Jody @SoL for Imposition of Ashes 10:30am-1pm Pastor Jody @Starbucks QC for Imposition of Ashes 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11am JOY Circle @ Village Inn, QC Marketplace 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @Starbucks QC 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Jose's Closet Work Day
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Hodsden's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-10am Men's Breakfast @Slate Bistro
<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Gannon's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm New Member Gathering, SoL Classroom 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 6-8pm Feed My Starving Children 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @Starbucks QC 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45 Adult Fellowship Brunch @ Slate Bistro in Trilogy (Koinonia Study Group & Bible Buddies combined) 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-1pm Spring Into Queen Creek Event
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Nelson's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Franklin's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>April 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30-4:30pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11am JOY Circle @ Village Inn, QC Marketplace 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody, Church Office 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>6</p>