

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 homeless), Senior Centers, and serving the homeless and those in poverty at the YMCA in the Tenderloin District.

Our Children's Ministry needs YOU!!!

Friends, our Children's Ministry has an **IMMEDIATE NEED:**

Our Children's Church leader is taking the summer off to tend to some personal needs. Consequently we need some loving and caring folks to lead Children's Church during the 11am service, even just once or twice a month.

Curriculum and activities will be provided for you. If you love kids and can help lead this important, formative ministry, please contact Carrie Claypool at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org.



A Big Thank You...

The Leadership Board would like to thank all of you who turned in your Financial and Spiritual Gifts Commitment Cards during our Commitment Campaign in February. Your stated commitments are helping us plan for the future. If you did not turn in Commitment Cards, it's not too late! Cards are available in the church office and in the Sanctuary and can be turned in at any time. May God continue to bless our commitments to God's people through the giving of our time, our talents, and our financial resources.



The Pastor's Perspective

At the end of last month, I went over to Southern California for a few days, not only to pay tribute to my dad on the 14th anniversary of his death, but to also spend some time planning our worship services for the next several months. Now, I've driven to "SoCal" many times, but this time was different. Since California is in the middle of a lengthy drought, usually the hillsides are brown and full of dried weeds. But this time they were green and lush. Why? Because of all the rain they've experienced this past winter. All that rain created a seldom-seen phenomenon in California: what some are calling the "Super Bloom of 2019."

According to an article posted by Newsweek Magazine on February 18, 2019, "Each year as winter winds down and spring ushers in warmer temperatures, the national parks of [California and Arizona] can become dotted with colorful plants. But this spring, the conditions left behind in the wake of last year's devastating wildfires in southern California and uncharacteristically heavy rainfall could create the perfect storm for a super bloom." These "super blooms" can be spectacular, as evidenced by the photo I've included with this column. And while I didn't actually see any super blooms on my trip, what I did see was a sign of new life...a beautifully appropriate image for this time of year.



You see, during the season of Lent (which, BTW, we're right in the middle of), we are reminded of the dust in our lives: the dust from which we came and the dust to which we will return. We are reminded of the low points – the dusty times of our lives – when we behaved in ways that were displeasing to God. Furthermore, this year during Lent, we've been considering those behaviors – like our need to be in control, of harboring unrealistic expectations, feeling superior toward others, and more – and how God is calling us to give them up, to reverse those behaviors, not just during Lent, but for the rest of our lives. It's a tall order, because changing our behavior is really, really hard. But with God's help, and a few tips from others, we can accomplish this task, so that by the time we get to Easter on April 21st this year, we will have made some significant changes in our lives. We will have gone from brown and dry to green and lush: our own "super bloom."

So as we continue through Lent, as we work on "Giving It Up," and make our way to Easter Sunday, that ultimate celebration of a new life, I hope we will remember how much God wants us to give up our old behaviors and start working on creating new habits. May our celebration of Christ's Resurrection be a new beginning for us all.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Worship With Us During Holy Week

This year at Song of Life UMC, we will celebrate the events of Holy Week along with millions of other Christians all over the world. Here's the schedule and what you can expect:

- On Sunday, April 14, we will celebrate **Palm Sunday** during our regular worship services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11am. Pastor Jody will preach on "Giving Up Popularity," and we will not only hear the story of Jesus' victorious entry into Jerusalem, but also what it means to put all of our faith in God instead of our human ways.
- On Thursday, April 18 at 7:00pm, we will remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples during our **Maundy Thursday*** worship service. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means command or order, and is taken from Jesus' words spoken during the Last Supper and recorded in John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." Pastor Jody will preach on what it means to be "Humble... Yet Holy," and we will reenact the Lord's Supper in a way that may be new and different to many of you. We hope this service will bring new meaning to the sacrament of Holy Communion as we consider the significance of this holy night.
- On **Good Friday***, April 10 at 7:00pm, we will share in the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion and death in a service based on the great hymn "Were You There."
- Finally, on **Easter Sunday**, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with **four worship opportunities** at Song of Life UMC:
 - Our **Sunrise Service** with Communion will be at **6:00am** on the patio in front of our sanctuary. Pastor Jody's message will be entitled "At Early Dawn" and will focus on the experiences of the women who discovered the empty tomb.
 - Our Sunrise Service will be followed by an **Easter Continental Breakfast**, which will be served starting around **7:00am**.
 - Our **8:00am and 9:30am Traditional** Worship Services will be identical. **We strongly encourage those who normally attend the 9:30 service to come for breakfast at 7:00am, then attend the 8am service in order to reserve space for our Easter Sunday guests.**
 - At **11:00 am**, we will celebrate the Resurrection in a Praise & Worship format.

A Special Easter Children's Message and Craft will be available for children during the 9:30 and 11am worship services.

We are working on including Special Music at each of the Easter Sunday services, so no matter which one you attend, your Resurrection experience will be a glorious celebration of new life!

**By attending and participating in our Holy Week services, we know you will experience the Passion of Christ and his Resurrection in ways you may never have before. We look forward to sharing this very special time with you.*

Need to reach Pastor Jody? Send her an email at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org & she'll get back to you as soon as she can!

Upcoming Sermons

As we look forward to a glorious Easter, marking the end of the Lenten Season, we want you to be aware of our upcoming Sermon Series plans for the rest of this Spring and into the Summer:

March/April 2019 – Giving It Up

- March 31: Giving Up Enemies^
- April 7: Giving Up Our Lives (Worship in the Park)
- April 14: Giving Up Popularity (Palm Sunday)
- April 18: Humble...Yet Holy* (Maundy Thursday)
- April 19: Were You There (Good Friday)
- April 21: At Early Dawn (Easter Sunrise @ 6am)
- April 21: Giving Up Death^* (Easter Sunday @ 8, 9:30, & 11am)
- April 30: To Be Determined

May/June 2019 – Go Fish!

- May 5: To be Determined
- May 12: Go Fish: We Were All Fish Once
- May 19: Go Fish: Why Fish?
- May 26: Go Fish: Fish Guts in Muddy Water
- June 2: Go Fish: The One That Got Away
- June 9: Go Fish: Fishing for People* (Pentecost)
- June 16: Annual Conference Sunday – Guest Preacher
- June 23: To Be Determined
- June 30: To Be Determined

July 2019 – Movie Series (TBD)

This series will be based on selected films, which will be shown sometime the week before at a location to be determined.

^ Special Music by our SoL Ringers is planned

* Special Music by our SoL Singers is planned

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 Saturday, **April 13 from 7-9pm**. 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 GV86PV and follow the rest of the instructions. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool, cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org
- **Jose's Closet** – On Saturday, **April 6 from 9am to 12 noon** we will meet at Jose's Closet, located at 550 S. Ironwood Dr. in Apache Junction. Adults and Children age 5 and older are invited join. Watch for more information on how to register. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at the email address show above.
- **House of Refuge Food Distribution** – On the morning of **Saturday, April 20** volunteers will gather to prepare and distribute food boxes to those in need. Contact Joe Hauer for more information and to volunteer for this important work.

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.



SoL Worship in the Park!!

Sunday, April 7 – Worship at 10am at Mansel Carter Oasis Park
Finger Food Potluck to Follow

Bring family and friends, dress casually and comfortably, bring lawn chairs, and bring a finger food dish to share. Anything you can eat with your fingers – small sandwiches, veggies, chips, desserts – will be perfect! Table service and drinks will be provided.

Families with children: bring swimsuits, towels, and sunscreen if you want to play in the Splash Pad.

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.



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

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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



Pastor Jody's On- and Off-site Office Hours – April 2019*

Pastor Jody's On- and Off-Site Office Hours are shown on the calendar included in this newsletter. Please make note of her scheduled vacation after Easter (April 22-May 5).

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.



SATURDAY, APRIL 13@8-10am

Food & FUNdraiser at Applebee's

to benefit SoL Youth Mission Trip

4712 E. Ray Road, Gilbert, AZ 85296

TICKETS: \$8 in Advance



Food service
by our
SoL Students

Contact Carrie Claypool for tickets
cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org
480.529.1312

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

Thinking Theologically

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

– Matthew 4:19

When I was a teenager, I went fishing with my then-boyfriend. I don't remember a lot about that trip, but I do remember that he and I, his parents and his siblings all went camping, and going fishing was one of the activities they had planned. I remember we stood on a very high bridge with our fishing lines dangling over the edge. I don't think I caught any fish that day, but I do remember being bored to tears!!

Obviously, fishing isn't my thing...but I do know several people who really enjoy going fishing. In fact, one of my former bosses loved fly fishing, and whenever he came back to work after a weekend of fishing, he was always a lot happier and easier to get along with too!

When we look in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, we read a lot about fishing, or at least about fishermen. Some of the men Jesus recruited to join his movement were fishermen, and when he said "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," they immediately dropped their nets and followed the one who had called to them. Most of them didn't hesitate, and some didn't even say good-bye to their families. They left their nets, and in some cases their livelihoods, and followed this guy named Jesus.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus recruited fishermen to be his closest allies? What was it about fishermen that made them so attractive? Jesus knew that in order for his ministry to be successful, he would be preaching to people who were willing to listen to him and learn. He also understood he needed helpers – disciples – and fishermen possessed the character traits he needed in order to accomplish his task.

So what was it about fishermen that made them good disciples? Well, as I went out fishing for

information about fishing, I discovered seven qualities that make for a good fisherman:

First, **a fisherman goes where the fish are.** If he stays at home and watches fishing on TV, he'll never catch any fish. He must put his hook in a body of water in order to catch a fish.

Second, **a fisherman must be patient.** If she's restless and prone to quick movements, all she will do is scare the fish away. She also needs to remember there will be times when she won't be successful. She may come home empty handed...this time, and if she does, that's OK.



Third, **a fisherman must work and persevere.** He's going to get wet while fishing, and he's got to be OK with that. Fishing is hard work. It sometimes requires us to get up early and stay up late. Being a good fisherman involves making sacrifices, but if the fish are biting, it can definitely be worth it.

Fourth, **a fisherman must have courage.** She must be brave enough to get into a boat and face the dangers that might arise. Fishing, especially on the open sea, can be a dangerous proposition, so being courageous is an important mark of a good fisherman.

Fifth, **a fisherman must have an eye for the right moment.** There are good times and bad times to go out fishing, and if the time's not right, the fish won't

bite. Fish can be very crafty, so a good fisherman must know through experience when to go fishing and when to stay home.

Sixth, **a fisherman must fit the bait to the fish and must vary his method.** Remember what I said about fish being crafty? Some fish will rise to any type of bait, but others are more particular. So if one kind of bait isn't working, the fisherman must be willing to try something else.

And last, **a fisherman must have faith and be flexible.** When people go fishing, they rarely see the fish in the water. It's only when the fish come close to the surface that they're readily visible, so the fisherman must have faith that the fish are even there. He must cast his net or his fishing line out onto the water and believe that the fish will respond. And if one fishing spot isn't working out so well, the fisherman must be willing to move on to a different location. He has to be flexible if he's going to catch any fish.

"OK," you might be thinking... "but what does this have to do with me?" As followers of Jesus, we too are called to be fishers of people. Jesus doesn't want us to just be followers, we have to be willing to fish for him...to make disciples, and work to transform the world.

And how do we do that? By being good fishermen! So starting on May 12, our post-Easter Sermon Series called "Go Fish" will help us learn how we can be good fishers of people. We will take a look at the seven qualities of good fishermen and translate that into our calling as Christ's disciples. We'll talk about practical ways we can fish for people in our time and in this place, and we'll consider ways we can invite them into the lives of this church.

"Go Fish" is more than a card game...it's a lifestyle that Jesus is calling us to embrace. So I hope you'll join me – and invite your friends – as we explore the different ways we can be good fishermen (and women) for Jesus.

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>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>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL church office 10-11:30am Lenten Study 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 7:00pm SoL Leadership Board, Youth Room 	<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 @ SoL church office 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am-12pm Jose's Closet Work Day
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-10am Worship in the Park Setup 10am-12pm Worship in the Park 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL church office 10-11:30am Lenten Study 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL church office 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>10</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>11</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-9pm Feed My Starving Children
<p>14 Palm Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Hauer's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ Location TBD 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm New Member Gathering, SoL Classroom 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL church office 10-11:30am Lenten Study 1-4pm Pastor Jody @Slate Bistro 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>17</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>18 Maundy Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-8pm Maundy Thursday Service 	<p>19 Good Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 7-8pm Good Friday Service 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House of Refuge Volunteers, Time TBD 8-10am Men's Breakfast @ Slate Bistro
<p>21 Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-7am Easter Sunrise Service 7-8am Easter Continental Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Traditional Worship 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Adult Christian Fellowship @ Slate Bistro 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary 	<p>May 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11am JOY Circle @ Village Inn, QC Marketplace 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>4</p>

All are invited to come help!