

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



SoL Family Fun Feast at Creekside Taco Shack: May 16, 5pm

On Thursday, May 16 our SoL families with children and teens will meet at Creekside Taco Shack for an evening of fellowship and brainstorming to share ideas on ways we can grow our children, teen and family ministries.

Please join us at about 5pm for dinner and conversation. Bring the kids so they can not only play together but also share their thoughts and ideas as well! Questions??? Contact either Carrie Claypool or Pastor Jody.



Area 412

Area 412 meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm at Song of Life!! Area 412 is open to all kids, K-12. Bring a sack supper or eat before you come.

Honoring Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 19 we will honor our young people who are graduating from high school and middle school and expressing our support for them as they move into new phases in their lives. You won't want to miss this opportunity to share in the joy as these young people's accomplishments are celebrated during worship.



A Big Thank You...

...to all who sent birthday cards, greetings, and gifts last month to help me celebrate my 61st birthday! I was (and continue to be) overwhelmed by your kindness, your thoughtfulness, and your expressions of love. The birthday cakes at Worship in the Park (yes, you read that right, there were two gigantic cakes!!) were a wonderful surprise! So thank you all for celebrating this milestone with me.

I would also like to express a very big "thank you" to both John Campbell and Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit for leading worship and filling the pulpit while I took a much needed break. Thanks to them, and all the staff and volunteers who helped prepare for worship on April 28 and May 5, I was able to spend some quality time relaxing and taking care of some much-needed work at our home. I know all of you appreciate the gifts both John and Cindy bring to the worship experience. Please join me in thanking them for sharing those gifts with us.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*

Worship Schedule at Song of Life

During the summer months, we will continue offering three (3) worship services every Sunday. We know some of you will enjoy coming to an earlier worship service because of the cooler temperatures, but we also hope you will also take this opportunity to try a different worship style...just for fun!! Our Sunday morning worship schedule will continue to be:

- 8:00am – Classic with Communion (a somewhat traditional worship service with communion served every week)
- 9:30am – Traditional Worship (with Traditional hymns and liturgy)
- 11:00am – Praise Worship (with praise music led by our own praise band)

Sunday School for children and teens will continue to be offered during the 9:30 service, as well as Children's Church during the 11am service. Children are invited to join their parents or guardians in worship at the beginning of the service. After the Children's Message they may go to Sunday School or Children's Church.



Joy Circle

JOY Circle is a fellowship group for women who are members and friends of Song of Life UMC. Guests who are not affiliated with Song of Life are always welcome as well.

This month, JOY Circle will be **celebrating Cinco de Mayo on Thursday, May 2nd. They will meet at the home of Nan LaBrose, 21028 E. Sunset Drive Queen Creek.** Please come at 9:00 a.m. to share a cup of coffee, tea and conversation before enjoying a street taco feast.

Please rsvp to Linda Burdick at rburdick@cox.net or 480-518-6880 by Tuesday, April 30 (or ASAP after that date). Carpooling from the church can also be arranged through Linda. This may be the last time we will see some of our winter residents before they leave Arizona for the summer!



Save the Date!! All Church BBQ!!!

Sunday, May 26 @ 6pm!!

On Sunday, May 26 at 6pm we will hold an All Church Memorial Day BBQ to usher in the summer months in style!! Details are yet to be worked out, but keep the date open and make plans to attend. This will likely be a potluck type meal with grilled meats provided in addition to whatever y'all bring along! As details are worked out, they will be communicated via email, Facebook, and during worship. In the meantime, make plans to attend!!!



Hand of Joy Concert

Hands of Joy Sign Language Choir invites you to their Spring Concert on May 5 at 3 pm at St. Matthew UMC in the Worship Center.

There will be a variety of songs including old favorites like "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone" and "How Great Thou Art." Come share an hour of praise and worship and be blessed! Child care will be provided.



Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer, which usually meets on Tuesday nights, will be on break during the summer and will resume in October.

SoL Wish List

As part of our visioning process earlier this year, members of the congregation suggested we consider as a congregation several new endeavors that will help improve our visibility and property utilization. So we've developed a "Wish List" so folks can contribute to these items should they so desire.

Please note: your Leadership Board felt it was important that these items be funded outside of our general budget, so contributions are encouraged over and above your financial commitment to our normal operations and ministries.

Below is a description of what is currently on our wish list:

- **Steeple for current Sanctuary.** By placing a steeple or cross on top of our current Sanctuary building, it is believed our building will be more visible from the street, which will help folks in the community locate our church. The estimated cost of this item is anticipated to be less than \$1,500.
- **Additional signage.** While our current sign at the corner of Sossaman and Queen Creek Roads is beautiful, it is unfortunately not very close to our current building or our parking lot entrance. We would like to add additional smaller signs, one near our current entrance and another on the SW corner near what we expect will be our secondary parking lot entrance. Our goal right now is to fund the first sign (next to our current entrance.) Estimated cost is approximately \$3,000-\$6,000 per sign.
- **Children's Playground.** Not only will a playground be a fun addition to our current children's ministry, but we also anticipate it will draw new families with children to our church. We have not received any formal quotes on this item, but anticipate the cost to be anywhere from \$14,000-\$20,000.
- **Community Garden.** A community garden would be a great way for us to utilize some of our current church property at an affordable cost. We would not only encourage church members to use the garden to grow their own plants and vegetables, or grow them for donation to a local food bank, but folks who live in the community as well. The cost to create the garden is yet to be determined, but contributions to its creation are greatly appreciated, even as we work to develop it.
- **Building the Future Fund.** This fund (previously called "Mortgage Reduction") is being used to accelerate the payoff of our mortgage on our current buildings. Once this debt is paid off, we will use money contributed to this fund toward new construction on the church property. Our current debt, as reported to our Leadership Board in March, is about \$269,000. We received commitments during our Annual Commitment Campaign toward this fund of just over \$22,000. This amount, combined with our regularly scheduled monthly mortgage payments, will reduce our current debt by almost \$50,000 by the end of 2019. The sooner we pay down this debt, the sooner we can start making plans to build a larger Sanctuary at SoL.

Contributions to these wish list items can be made by cash, check, or electronically. When making your donations, please be sure to designate the fund to which you want your contribution applied. (These funds have been added to our online giving processes, so you can easily choose the appropriate fund when making your donation.)

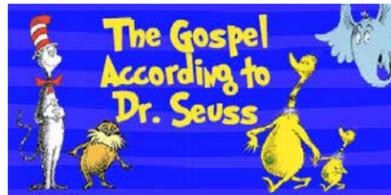


Upcoming Sermons

Pastor Jody has refined her preaching schedule for the next several months. Here's what you can expect during the summer:

May/June 2019

- May 5: But if Not... (Rev. Cynthia Kristopeil preaching)
- 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 (Irina Heer preaching)
- June 23: The Gospel According to Dogs: Steadfast Love
- June 30: The Gospel According to Dogs: Seeing Ourselves in Our Dogs



July/August 2019

- July 7: TBD... (Rev. Cynthia Kristopeil preaching, Pastor Jody will be joining our youth on mission trip)
- July 14: Youth Sunday (Youth Preaching)
- July 21: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Cleaning Up the Mess
- July 28: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Hard to Digest
- Aug. 4: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: We Are Family
- Aug. 11: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Rocks or Sand?
- Aug. 18: TBD
- Aug. 25: TBD



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

Pastor Jody's On- and Off-Site Office Hours are shown on the calendar included in this newsletter.

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.



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

During the months of May and June we have two opportunities to volunteer at **Feed My Starving Children** in Mesa:

- Saturday, May 18 from 7-9pm. To sign up for this event, go to fmssc.org and click on the link labeled "Volunteer." In the box labeled "Looking for a specific group?" put our Join Code, which is 19GB7N and follow the rest of the instructions.
- Saturday, June 1 from 2-4pm. Join Code is 5PLZYG

Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool, cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org

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.



Honoring Mom at SoL

Mother's Day is coming up soon!! On Sunday, May 12 we will remember and honor our mothers as well as those who have been like mothers to us. As part of that celebration, we are offering YOU the opportunity to participate in recognizing our moms...and helping our youth raise funds for their upcoming mission trip.

Please use the order form below to place your order as part of our Mother's Day Roses campaign. Please place your order form, along with your payment, in the offering basket or bring your order form and payment to the office by Wednesday, May 8.



A Note from Joe Hauer, SoL's House of Refuge Volunteer Coordinator

I received a thank you card from Nancy and LaNae of House of Refuge for our efforts and those of over 50 volunteers over the past several years who have helped with the food distribution projects at House of Refuge. The card read "We'd like to thank you and the volunteers from Song of Life for partnering with

House of Refuge at the Borderlands events. We appreciate all the volunteers that were dedicated to these events. You all have made lots of customers happy with the service provided!" Signed Nancy & LaNae.

Since ASU will take over primary responsibility for this event in the future and use the facilities at House of Refuge to do the food distribution, we will no longer be volunteering for this particular effort. As I told Nancy and LaNae, it has been our honor to support their work in the community and we look forward to building our relationship and partnership with House of Refuge in the future in mission service to our community.

Yours in Christ's Service, Joe Hauer



Order Form

Number of Roses _____

To: _____

From: _____

Dedication/Message:

Costs: Single Rose: \$5 3 Roses: \$10
 6 Roses: \$15 12 Roses: \$25

Please indicate which service you would like your "mom" to receive her flowers?

8am _____ 9:30am _____ 11am _____

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

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
 Betty Briscoe & Robena West, Office Assistants
 Carry Claypool, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
 Casey DeWitt, Treasurer
 Nina Yardley, Office Assistant

www.songoflifeumc.org



The Pastor's Perspective

As I write this article, I am still processing my own thoughts and feelings on the news that broke yesterday afternoon (4/26) regarding our United Methodist Judicial Council rulings on the actions that were taken at the Special

General Conference earlier this year. Although the rulings were not entirely unexpected, the reality that the church I love is so severely broken that it may not recover is weighing heavily upon my heart.

For those who missed the news, the Judicial Council ruled (as expected) that those portions of the "Traditional Plan" that were previously considered constitutional (according to our UMC Constitution) remain constitutional and will go into effect on January 1, 2020 for churches and Annual Conferences located in the United States. In addition, the one petition that passed having to do with a "gracious exit" plan for those churches that want to leave the UMC was also ruled constitutional by the Council.

There were many of us who hoped that, because the "Traditional Plan" as amended was voted on and approved by the GC2019 delegates as a whole that the Judicial Council would also consider the plan as a whole, thus throwing it out completely because almost half of the petitions that made up the plan were deemed unconstitutional. That obviously didn't happen, and because of that, many are grieving yet again the decisions that have the potential to break up the church beyond repair.

As I suspected, once the decisions came out, my Facebook feed blew up. I didn't even look at Twitter. I shared a few of the articles, blogs, and comments I found to be of interest on my own Facebook page, but decided, at least for

now, not to post anything on our SoL FB page or FB group. So if you're interested in more information about these decisions and you're not yet one of my FB friends, just send a friend request to my personal FB page.

While many of the decisions made at GC2019 that were upheld by the Judicial Council trouble me, my main concern is how these decisions may (or may not) impact us as the church, as Song of Life UMC. My hope is (and will always be) that as people of faith, we can continue to be in ministry together, even though we may disagree on this and other topics of concern.

That's what I appreciated about the One Church Plan: "it would have allowed us as United Methodists with different opinions to still be the church together, following Jesus and loving all people. We could still be a church that celebrates the gifts of ALL people and allows for full inclusion. Sadly, with the adoption of the Traditional Plan, that has proven to be a pipe dream. Apparently it's not possible, at least on the global scale, for us to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us and guide us as we minister to ALL people in the church and in the community.



But I am confident that we at Song of Life UMC do not represent the harsh provisions of the Traditional Plan that will become part of our Book of Discipline effective 1/1/2020. We ARE an inclusive church,

which means EVERYONE is welcome, no matter what. We celebrate the gifts everyone brings to the table of grace. We do not and will not discriminate, because we love God (who created all of us in God's image), we love each other (because that's what God calls us to do), and we are working to transform the world (after all, that's our mandate as Resurrection People.) And we will continue to value all opinions on this and any other topic of concern, including conservative, progressive, and those in the middle of the road.

So how do these decisions impact us as Song of Life? Right now, they don't. Our Western Jurisdiction has publicly stated we will continue to be a church that is "a home for all God's people." We will continue being inclusive. We will continue working together. We will continue being in ministry with our community and the world. And when alternatives for the future are brought forward (and I am confident they will be brought forward in the coming months), we will talk about them together to determine how they may or may not impact us as a church. In the meantime, let us continue to be SoL...let us continue to be God's people in Queen Creek, being in ministry together.

One final thought: most of you know where I stand on this topic, and I'm working on getting to know where you stand as well. But I feel I must reiterate something I said over and over again during my series on *A Way Forward*: even though we may not see eye to eye on this or any other topic. I will not let our differences of opinion change the way I minister to you or anyone else at Song of Life. I am and will always be open to being in conversation with you, especially those who disagree with me, so we can discover the common ground that I know we share. If you are interested in meeting with me, please call and make an appointment with me, or join me during any of my on- or off-site office hours.

With humble gratitude,

Pastor Jody

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>April 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"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>30</p>	<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 @ Nan La Brose's Home 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Shank's Home 10:45am Bible Buddies @ SoL Youth Room 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Panera QC 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Mother's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Wolfahrt's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Panera QC 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Family Fun Feast @Creek Side Taco Shack 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Sanctuary 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-10am Men's Breakfast @ Slate Bistro 7-9pm Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 10:45am Koinonia Study Group @ Stout's Home 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm New Member Gathering 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Panera QC 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>25</p>
<p>26</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 6:00pm All Church BBQ 	<p>27 Memorial Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:30pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>June 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-4pm Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children