

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



On May 16, a group of parents met with Pastor Jody and our Director of Children, Youth & Families Carrie Claypool to talk about future plans for our ministries to our young people.

Those who attended came up with some really great ideas, which Carrie and Pastor Jody have talked about and formulated into a plan. That plan, which we intend to implement when school starts, will be sent out to our families with children and teens for feedback, then will be communicated to our entire church family later this summer.

In the meantime, if you have ideas you would like to share with us about both Sunday and midweek programs for children, youth & families, please contact Pastor Jody at pastorjody@songoflifeumc.org or Carrie Claypool at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org.

Here's what's happening this summer:



Area 412

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

Summer Volleyball

Volleyball begins this month as well on Wednesday nights at 1st UMC Mesa. If you would like to play or watch, contact Carrie and she'll get you in touch with Ryan Harmsen, who is coordinating our team.

Come Join Us

Our first UMYF activity will be Sunday, June 23 at noon or right after the 11am Worship Service.

Annual Conference Missions

This year, the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference are asked to receive an offering to benefit one of four mission projects: 1) The Asylum Seekers Relief Project; 2) The Homeless/Hungry Youth & Young Adult Project; 3) The Huachuca UMC Fire Relief Project; or 4) The US Disaster Relief Project through UMCOR.

Our Church Leadership Board elected to direct funds contributed by Song of Life to the US Disaster Relief Project through UMCOR.

To donate to this very worthy mission project, simply designate your gifts made through Song of Life to "Annual Conference Mission Project."

For more information about this project and to donate to the other missions, please visit the Conference website at dscumc.org/annual-conference/2019-mission-projects



Pastor's Perspective

It's Summer!!

When I was a kid I always looked forward to summer! It was a time when I and my friends didn't have a care in the world. We could stay up late if we wanted to, sleep in if we wanted to, watch TV all day long if we wanted to...our time was our own, and we could spend it however we wanted.

But as I grew up and my lifestyle changed – when I got married and had to adjust to life in "the real world" – summers took on a totally different meaning. And when we moved to Arizona, where the 100+ degree temperatures start rearing their ugly heads in May (except for this year!!) and don't subside until October or November, the idea of being

outside in summer wasn't very appetizing. So I've developed an entirely different attitude toward summer: I tolerate it rather than enjoying it.

One of the things that always gets me down about summer is the fact that, because so many people leave the Phoenix area in order to "beat the heat," the activities we normally do as a church tend to go on hiatus. Now I know that's a mixed blessing, because as a pastor, I need time away just like everyone else does, but I also miss taking part in those activities – and hearing about them - like our MOPs group, our Adult Study groups, and even some of our committee meetings! (I know...I'm a sick puppy!!)

So I got to thinking: why not start a new summer group? Why not have a small group that meets at a coffee shop, or a restaurant, or some other venue in Queen Creek? If you have an interest in starting such a group, or participating in one, please let me know. I would be happy to help facilitate that and even come up with some resources for it.

Whether you are staying in town or high-tailing it to the high country (or the beach) for all or part of the summer months, we encourage you to stay connected with us at Song of Life UMC by viewing our sermons on-line (you can get to them through our website at www.songoflifeumc.org or on our Facebook page). You can also stay connected through our online giving, and by checking into our Facebook page from time to time. And as always, remember that your SoL family will be eagerly awaiting your return when the summer comes to an end and our "fun times" are over!!

May God continue to bless you all during the summer and throughout the year!

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*

SoL: There's an app for that!

Did you know that Song of Life UMC now has its own app?? Now it's easy for you to update your personal information in our church database (like your address and phone number), RSVP for special events, get information about the groups you have joined or have an interest in joining, update (in a secure environment) your online giving profile OR give a one-time financial gift online, and check-in before worship on Sunday mornings!



To get the app on your phone:

If you who have a smartphone you can download our app today:

1. On your phone, go to the App Store or Google Play. Search for "church center app" and locate the "Church Center App" with the icon shown above. Download the app to your phone.
2. Open the app & click on "Get Started." Search for Song of Life UMC...when found, confirm by tapping "This is my church."
3. Log in by entering your mobile phone number, then tap "Next." Confirm your registration by entering the 6-digit code texted to your phone, then tap "Next."
4. Once you are registered, explore the app! In the coming weeks we'll talk more about what you can do through the app, including registering your attendance!!

Once you have the app on your phone, check out all the different things you can do:

1. In the upper right-hand corner of the home screen, you'll see an icon that looks like a person. Tap it and you'll be taken to your SoL membership account. Check out the information that's there and make any necessary corrections, then tap on "Update" to continue.
2. Add your picture to your profile. (Need instructions on how to do that)
3. If you want to set up online giving, add your banking info (yes, the app is secure)

To Register Your Attendance on Sunday mornings using the app:

1. Open the app up to 30 minutes before the start of the worship service, then tap "Check-in" at the bottom of the screen.
2. Look for the name of the service you plan to attend. Select it and a screen showing your profile will display. Tap on your profile (along with other family members attending as well.)
3. Tap "Next" and a barcode will display. When you arrive at church, scan the barcode into the iPad near the entrance and your attendance will be registered! It's that easy!

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 June and July we have two opportunities to volunteer at **Feed My Starving Children** in Mesa:

- Saturday, June 22 from 9-11am.
- Saturday, July 27 from 4:30-6:30pm.

To sign up for this event, go to fmsc.org and click on the link labeled "Volunteer." In the box labeled "Looking for a specific group?" type "Song of Life" and follow the rest of the instructions. Questions?? Contact Carrie Claypool at 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.



Upcoming Sermons

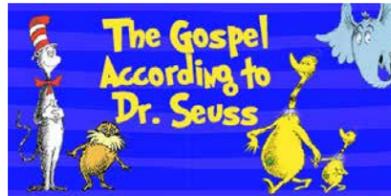
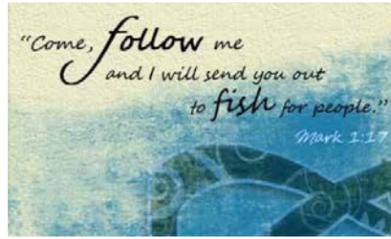
Pastor Jody has refined her preaching schedule for the next several months. Here's what you can expect during the summer:

June 2019

- 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 & Off-site Office Hours*

During the month of June, Pastor Jody's On- and Off-site office hours will be limited because of Annual Conference, Church Camp, and other obligations. Please double check with her if you would like to meet with her during a particular day by contacting her at 480-766-9272.



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



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, our building will be more visible, which will help folks in the community see our church. The estimated cost is about \$1,500.
- **Additional signage.** We would like to add additional 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 about \$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 do this 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 April, is about \$267,650. 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.)

Thinking Theologically

During the months of May and June, Pastor Jody shared some ideas on ways we can live out Jesus' call for us to be fishers of people. In the series, called "Go Fish!" she talked about the reasons why we are called to fish for people (as if Jesus saying so wasn't enough!), as well as methods we might use in our quest. As a follow-up to that series, we would like to offer the following additional ideas on ways we can fish for people:

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people."
— Mark 1: 16-17

- **Let others see the "Christ" inside you.** Remember the old adage "seeing is believing?" When people see you caring for others, offering them a helping hand or a listening ear, they see the way Christ has influenced your life, and they just might want to be a part of the movement that transformed your life.
- **Share your faith story.** When the opportunity presents itself, tell others how being a follower of Jesus has changed your life for the better. Let them hear your faith story, and let that story speak for itself.
- **Host a "Member-Guest Activity."** What is a "Member-Guest Activity?" It's a social gathering that you host and to which you invite 2 or 3 people (or couples) from the church along with 2 or 3 people (or couples) you know from your other circles, like work, school, your neighborhood, or community. The purpose of these gathers is to simply have a good time while your guests build relationships with each other in a way that is not intimidating. Your M-G Activity might be an evening playing cards or board games, enjoying a meal together, or watching a movie. The main thing to remember is that these activities are meant to be FUN!! And when the conversation turns toward where you know each other, you can proudly say "we go to church together," which could lead to the next tip:
- **When the time is right, invite them to worship at Song of Life.** Consider using one of our business card invitations (which are available at the church) to let them know when we worship at SoL. Then...
- **Offer to pick them up and bring them to church...** then take them out to lunch or for coffee afterwards. By bringing them to worship, you can also introduce them to more of your church family friends...and before we know it, lives will be transformed!

Other things we can do as a church include:

- **Spending more time out in the community, getting to know people and building relationships with them.** Our goal here is to show our community that even though we're Christians, we're also normal people. We're not a bunch of weirdos! We're people who love Jesus, and have been transformed by his love for us. This is what Pastor Jody when she's in Queen Creek at places like Starbucks, Panera, Slate Bistro, etc.
- **Holding Church Meetings and Small Groups in venues other than the church.** Experts in church growth agree that, by holding church meetings and small groups in public places, people in the community can witness first hand just how normal we really are! We already have a few groups, like our Joy Circle (which meets on the first Thursday of the month at Village Inn), our Men's Group (which meets on the third Saturday of the month at Slate Bistro), and our Adult Christian Fellowship (which meets on the last Sunday of the month at Slate), but we encourage other small groups to do the same thing.

Going fishing for people is a really important part of our ministry to the world. We are called to be fishers of people, not just keepers of the aquarium!! So let's all "Go Fish!" and follow Jesus' mandate upon our lives.

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
Robena West, Office Assistant
Carry Claypool, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Casey DeWitt, Treasurer
Nina Yardley, Congregational Care Coordinator

www.songoflifeumc.org

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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2 <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 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Youth Volleyball 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11am JOY Circle @ Village Inn QC 	7	8
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:00pm Youth Volleyball 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	Annual Conference June 13-16		15
16 Father's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Annual Conference </div>	17 <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 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:00pm Youth Volleyball 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11am Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children
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<p>June 30</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>July 1</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>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 5:00pm Youth Volleyball 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>4 Independence Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Office Closed 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12pm Pastor Jody @ SoL, church office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Classic Worship w/Communion 9:30am Traditional Worship 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Youth Volleyball 6:30pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
Youth Mission Trip July 7-13						
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