

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

COMING SOON!

SOL Ringers and Singers – rehearsals will resume in September. Stay tuned for more info.

Coping with Loss – Pastor Jody will be starting a new support group in September focused on dealing with various types of loss. All will be welcome. Watch for more information.

Stephen Ministry & Congregational Care – Pastor Jody and Nina Yardley, our Congregational Care Coordinator will be reinvigorating our Stephen Ministry and starting a new Congregational Care ministry in the very near future. Watch for more information and training opportunities.

AREA **FOUR**
twelve
— youth ministries —

Area 412 – will begin meeting at 6pm with dinner starting August 7.

UMYF – will begin meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 12:30pm (after the Praise Service) starting August 11.

M @ SOL
MOPS.ORG Song of Life United Methodist Church

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Resumes This Month

On Friday, August 2 at 9:30am our MOPS group will resume their regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. This group is a great resource and support group for moms with young children, whether they are members of Song of Life or not.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a non-denominational Christian group aimed at providing mothers with children ages infant through kindergarten an opportunity to gather together as they experience these wonderful, but challenging, early childhood years. The MOPS group at SOL is open to moms-to-be and mothers of a child of any age. Through bi-monthly meetings, children's play dates, and moms' night out activities, MOPS provides a supportive environment where moms can laugh, cry and embrace this journey we call motherhood.

For more information please contact Casey DeWitt at cdewitt@songoflifeumc.org or go directly to the MOPS website at www.mops.org.



Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody

July 1, 2019 was my first anniversary as your pastor, and from my perspective, it's been a pretty good year! We've gotten to know each other, shared our hopes and dreams for Song of Life, and considered new and different ways we can **Love God, Love Others, and Change the World**. So for me, this first year as your pastor has been a good one...what do you think?

Having worked in Human Resource Administration for over 25 years, I know how valuable feedback can be, so as I've met with individuals from the church from time to time, I've tried to discern whether I am fulfilling your expectations as your pastor. And what I've discovered from those conversations is that many don't know about all the things I do (or any pastor does) "behind the scenes." This of course makes sense, since for many, your only contact with me is on Sunday mornings during and after worship.

In light of that, I'd like to share excerpts from an online article published several years ago by *Ministry Matters* (www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/6087/16-often-unknown-roles-of-a-pastor), called "16 Often Unknown Roles of a Pastor" by Pastor Ron Edmondson (these are his words, not mine, but they apply to me):

- **Counselor.** All pastors do some counseling. Many pastors — I might add most pastors — are not qualified to do extensive counseling. They can't commit the required time, nor do they have the expertise. Still, some counseling is a part of nearly every pastor's job.
- **Career coach.** One of the most frequent requests for my ministry help has to do with people's career steps —
- **Custodian.** I can't stand a piece of paper on the floor. If I see a trash can overflowing — I don't call someone — I do something about it. Most pastors I know want the facility ready when people arrive. So they do what they have to do. In fairness, I don't do much of this. Mine is a more supervisory role. We have a large facility and an excellent team. I do know pastors, however, that have to help in a larger role in facility maintenance or custodial care.
- **Arbitrator.** I've stood between a few people before trying to work through division and build cooperation. It could be in a marriage or I have even been between business partners in the church. People often want a third-party objective and many times they look to the pastor for that role.
- **Social worker.** I read a definition of social worker recently. "Seeks to improve the quality of life and subjective well-being of individuals, families, couples, groups and communities through research, policy, community organizing, direct practice, crisis intervention, and teaching." Yea. That.
- **Volunteer coordinator.** Every pastor must learn how to coordinate the efforts of different people, who communicate uniquely, and have their expectations of volunteer leadership.
- **Events manager.** I need to be honest. I don't fill this one often, although I do have some responsibilities with events. I am no good at the details of it and thankfully there are people in our church who can fill this role better than me. But most pastors, including me, have responsibility for events at some level.
- **CEO.** Let me be very clear that Jesus is the CEO of the church. (Some may argue Jesus is the owner and he left us to provide everyday leadership — under his direction.) If I get critics on this one criticism it will be because you misunderstand what I'm saying. Maybe on my ability to say it where you can interpret it. But make no mistake about it — the pastor is expected to lead so many aspects of the church. On every major decision of the church most churches want the input of the pastor. Regardless of the structure of the church it can feel very much like a CEO position. (And, I've been one in my previous business career.) This is one of the larger uses of my "non-preaching" time.
- **Fundraiser.** Ministry takes money. And, most of the church looks to the pastor to be the primary solicitor of contributions. (Honestly, it's a huge burden to most pastors and one they don't feel comfortable doing.)
- **Recruiter.** No church can function without volunteers or leaders. Most pastors are consistently looking for new people to get involved and lead ministries of the church. And the search for volunteers is a continuous effort.
- **Trainer.** Pastors consistently help people learn how to do something. Whether it involves life skills or how to function within a ministry of the church, one of a pastor's primary goals is to help people improve in areas of their life.
- **Scholar.** I'm not the smartest person in our church. But, at the same time, the church has a certain level of expectation regarding my understanding of history, the Bible, and current events — locally and around the world. Most expect the pastor to be well-spoken and well-read.
- **Writer.** I estimate I average five to seven writing assignments a week besides my message...Bulletin articles, Churchwide emails, Letters of recommendations. (From Pastor Jody: I might also add that the time it takes to research, prepare, and finalize a sermon along with writing liturgy and choosing music for the worship services, as well completing the order of worship can take anywhere from 10-15 hours a week, sometimes more. So these tasks listed by Rev. Edmondson don't include worship or sermon prep...)
- **Manager.** Every pastor manages someone — even if they are volunteers. In fact, volunteer management may actually be more difficult.
- **Public relations.** This part of a pastor's role is increasing daily. The days when a Sunday announcement or bulletin announcement would get the word out to the church are gone. With so many mediums to communicate and people's divided attention among them — not to mention the frequency of attendance for many in the church — communicating to people has become a huge challenge for pastors.

Now, I have to say that in the year that I've been your pastor, I haven't had to do all of the things on Pastor Edmondson's list, but there are several things that are not on his list that I've done, and in some cases, do on a regular basis. Things like:

- **Technology Expert.** This past year, I've helped maintain our church website, with the help of our webmasters, Michelle Chasse and David Topping. I've also been working on redesigning our website to include new content. We've also been working to utilize our Facebook pages, Twitter and Instagram more effectively. We know that, in order to help us grow our church, the content needs to be current and pleasing to the eye. So watch for some updates in the near future!
- **Marketing Manager.** Yes, as your pastor, part of my job is to market our church to the community. This includes designing and purchasing banners and postcards, facilitating mailings, and participating in community events in order to meet new people and invite them to join us for worship.

(continues on next page)

I'm giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom. Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction....Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully." – 2 Timothy 4:1-2, 5b

(continuing from previous page: Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody)

- **Evangelist.** As you probably already know, several times a week I go to various locations – Starbucks, Panera, Slate, and others – and “set up shop” so I can meet and build relationships with folks from the congregation along with those who live and work nearby. This helps make our church more visible to the community, and helps folks know we’re normal people, just like them!
- **Teacher.** This is one of the things I love to do. I love sharing what I’ve learned with others, whether it’s about different religious faiths or in-depth studies of the Bible. I firmly believe we’re never too old to learn...and I’m so glad there are some of you who feel the same way.
- **Historian.** Although I haven’t had to do this yet, it won’t be long before Song of Life will celebrate a major milestone: 20 years as a faith community!! So in the not-so-distant future, I’ll be looking for old newsletters, committee reports, and other documents and photos to tell the story of Song of Life.

As you can see, the life and work of a pastor is full and exciting. It certainly is a lot more than what the Apostle Paul suggest to his protogee, Timothy...and frankly, a lot more than I ever thought I’d be doing when I was in training to become a Pastor. But I love it! If I didn’t, I wouldn’t have “re-up’d” for another year...or two...or four...or more!! Being a pastor is what I believe I was born to be. It’s what God has called me to do with the rest of my life, and I’m so thrilled to be doing it as YOUR pastor, because Song of Life UMC is where I am meant to be! Thank you, for allowing me to be your pastor...and your counselor, your coach, your marketing manager, your technology expert, your teacher, and on and on! I’m looking forward to spending another year with all of you...and hopefully many more. May God bless our ministry at Song of Life UMC!

Upcoming Sermons

Here are the upcoming sermons for next several months:

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss

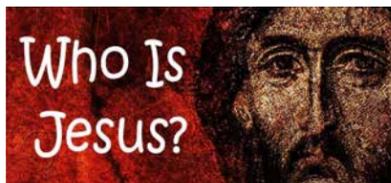
- August 4: Rocks or Sand?
- August 11: We Are Family

Guest Preachers

- August 18: Guest Preacher Rev. Jamie Booth, ASU Wesley Foundation
- August 25: Guest Speaker Philip Tesarek, Certified Lay Minister from Gilbert UMC

Who Is Jesus?

- September 1: Searching for the Historical Jesus
- September 22: The Meaning of Jesus’ Death
- September 8: The Humanity of Jesus
- September 29: Who Do You Say That I Am?
- September 15: Say What? (Did Jesus Really Say That?)



Pastor Jody’s On & Off-site Office Hours*

During the month of August, Pastor Jody’s On- and Off-site office hours will be somewhat limited. Please double check with her if you would like to meet on a particular day by contacting her at 480-766-9272.

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



Calling All Leaders!

The greatest among you shall be your servant.

– Matthew 23:11 (ESV)

As our Charge Conference approaches, we have several positions on our Leadership Board that will be vacated effective January 1, 2020. We are therefore looking for folks who are willing and able to serve in a leadership role at Song of Life UMC.

Volunteers serving in leadership positions are asked to serve a 3 year term. The positions available include:

- **Lay Leader** – The Lay Leader is a layperson in the local church who represents and leads the laity in ministry. The Lay Leader serves on the Leadership Board, and may also represent the church as a delegate to the Annual Conference.
- **Finance Chairperson** – This position is best filled by someone with a strong understanding of biblical stewardship and management of all that God provides, a financial background and expertise. This person works closely with our church treasurer, the pastor, and the Leadership Board by overseeing monthly expenditures, coordinating annual budgeting, and leading the Annual Commitment (Stewardship) Campaign.
- **Ad Hoc Leadership Board Member** – This position serves on the Leadership Board and represents the laity on the board.

According to the Book of Discipline, individuals serving in these positions must be members of Song of Life UMC. Those elected to serve should be able to attend monthly Leadership Board Meetings, generally held on the first Tuesday evening of every month.

If you are interested in learning more about these positions, or would like to be considered for any of these positions, please contact Pastor Jody. We thank you for considering serving SoL in this way.

Save the Dates: Song of Life Charge Conference

This year, our District Superintendent Rev. N. Susan Brims will be holding Charge Conferences in a different manner than in the past. Each church will hold two (2) church-wide meetings. The first will be an all-church meeting during which we will engage in a conversation about the future of our Annual Conference and our congregation. The second will be our regular Annual Charge Conference during which ministry reports will be heard and voting will take place. We ask that you save these dates and plan to attend as follows:

- Rev. N. Susan Brims invites the members and friends of Song of Life United Methodist Church to a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, **October 6 at 12:30pm**. The purpose of this meeting is to engage in prayerful conversation about matters facing our Annual Conference and local churches. We will begin our time together with a light lunch, during which Rev. Brims will meet with our Leadership Board as SPRC, followed by the prayerful conversation.
- A charge conference for Song of Life United Methodist Church is scheduled for Sunday, **November 10 at 12:30pm** in the Worship Center at the church for the purpose of conducting the business of the charge as required by the 2016 Book of Discipline. This is a charge conference, which means only members of the church council may vote. Members of the church are welcome to attend and speak but will not have vote. We will once again begin our time together with a light lunch followed by the Church Conference.

We are also excited to let you know that our friend and former SoL congregational attendee, Rev. Godfrey Ebright, will serve as Presiding Elder for the meeting on November 10. We know those of you who know Rev. Ebright will be excited to see him as well. We hope all of you will plan to attend both of these very important meetings.

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 month of August we have several opportunities to volunteer in our community:

- Saturday, August 10 from 11:30am - 1:30pm at Feed My Starving Children. To sign up for this event, go to www.fmsc and click on the link labeled “Volunteer.” In the box labeled “Looking for a specific group?” type “Song of Life” and select the date desired.
- Friday, August 23 from 6-8pm, also at Feed My Starving Children. Use the instructions above to sign up.
- Saturday, August 10 starting at 9am at Jose’s Closet in Apache Junction. No need to register ahead of time... just show up, ready to work!!

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

As more volunteer opportunities become available, we will announce them in 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.

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!

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

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/songoflifeumc)

SoL Financial Update

On or about the 3rd Sunday of every month, our Finance Department publishes a brief summary of the financial health of our church. Since some of you, especially our winter residents, have not been able to attend worship because of vacations or other obligations, we want to provide you with our mid-year summary for the month of June:

June 2019	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$ 18,721	\$ 18,850	\$ (129)
Expense	\$ 16,303	\$ 22,897	\$ (6,594)
Net Income	\$ 2,418	\$ (4,047)	\$ 6,465
Year to Date	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$ 143,682	\$ 137,700	\$ 5,982
Expense	\$ 118,860	\$ 137,377	\$ (18,517)
Net Income	\$ 24,822	\$ 323	\$ 24,499

As you can see, our General Fund is doing well, which is good news for the summer, since historically contributions are lower during those months. As a result, we shouldn't have any trouble meeting our usual financial obligations through the summer and into the fall. However, that doesn't mean we can reduce our regular weekly or monthly contributions: God's work in the world doesn't take a vacation, and quite frankly, neither should we.

In addition, as you know, we are working diligently to reduce our current debt and begin the process of fundraising for future construction on our property. Our *Building the Future* fund was created as a way for folks to contribute a little extra toward moving forward with future construction on our church property. As was indicated in our last newsletter, we received commitments totaling over \$22,000 toward this fund, and as of June 30 we have received \$3,930 – less than 20% of what was pledged. Please remember, contributions toward this fund are a necessary and important step in moving forward with God's vision for Song of Life United Methodist Church. So whether you made a commitment toward this fund or not, we hope you will prayerfully consider contributing to the future of our church by making a contribution to this fund.

One final note: we will be sending out semi-annual giving statements in the very near future that will show your Annual Commitments made last February for 2019 as well as your contributions through June 30, 2019. We will notify folks via email when those statements are mailed out so that, if you don't receive one, you can contact us in order to get it. Please note: these statements are not bills...they are meant to confirm your giving for the first half of the year. If you see any discrepancies, please contact the office.

As always, we appreciate your contributions toward God's work through Song of Life UMC. I pray we will continue to be generous in our giving, and will remember the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote to the church in Corinth:

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

DSC Way Forward Teams

During Annual Conference this year, our Bishop proposed a new movement called "A Way Forward" with the express purpose of bringing together United Methodists from around our Annual Conference to talk about what the future looks like for our churches and how we can transition into that future.



"Imagine that you could be part of something new and exciting that God is calling us to be," Bishop Bob wrote a letter dated June 7, 2019. "The Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward will bring together teams utilizing the energy, passion, commitment and faith of persons connected to the churches and ministry settings of the DSC, both laity and clergy. In multiple conversations with persons from the DSC, ten key teams have been identified addressing the needs in our conference going forward.... Following Annual Conference, the work of the teams will begin in earnest and those of you who are not at Annual Conference who have passion and energy and want to be part of this movement forward will have a chance to join a team."

The 10 teams that were formed at Annual Conference, and that YOU can join are:

- Theology Team** – the goal of this team is to help ground the work of the DSC Way Forward in a strong Wesleyan Theology that is grace-filled, inclusive, and aids us in the work of transformational justice.
- Communications Team** – this team will craft a compelling narrative that a) explains what is happening in transparent and accessible terms; b) invites people to join in the work that is happening; and c) captures how this unique DSC story is part of God's ongoing work of transformation.
- Connections Team** – this team will gather and share information with churches, church leaders, and members about the discussions and actions of the other teams so everyone will be equipped to make decisions related to next steps in affiliating with the church in whatever form emerges.
- Conversations Team** – this team will look for ways of encouraging churches to join in conversations with other UM churches, other organizations, and faith communities so resources can be shared and relationships can be built.
- Amicable Separation Team** – this team will focus on the future possibility of an amicable separation of the factions in the UMC. If this becomes an option for our churches or our conference, this team will guide us through that process.
- Disaffiliation Team** – this team, guided by the Judicial Council decisions that permit churches to disaffiliate from the UMC for reasons of conscience related to issues of human sexuality or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues, will develop Conference disaffiliation standards that ensure that all church members (not just those wanting to disaffiliate) are cared for and nurtured through the process, should it become necessary.
- Finance Team** – this team will identify possible financial challenges and resources to meet the needs facing the DSC and our churches in light of the ruling of GC2019.
- Legal Team** – this team will identify legal matters related to the DSC Way Forward.
- Spirituality Team** – this team will create and share resources that inform and enhance our spiritual life as we move through this season of change. They will remind us to continually connect with God and move through this time deeply grounded in Christ.
- Dreaming a New Methodism Team** – this team will consider how the recent action of the General Conference has presented us with an opportunity to dream a new Methodism, will help us determine how such a church will be shaped while remaining grounded in our Wesleyan theology of grace.

If you have an interest in joining one of these teams – and we encourage you to do so – please contact Pastor Jody so she can help you identify and connect with the co-facilitators for the team that you wish to join.

A Note About Apportionments

Congratulations Song of Life UMC!!! Your Lay Leader, Jerry Shanks and I recently received a letter from our Bishop commending Song of Life UMC for being on track to pay 100% of our apportionment obligation as of June 30, 2019. In fact, as of that date, we have actually paid over 60% of our total obligation.

Bishop Bob wrote in his letter:

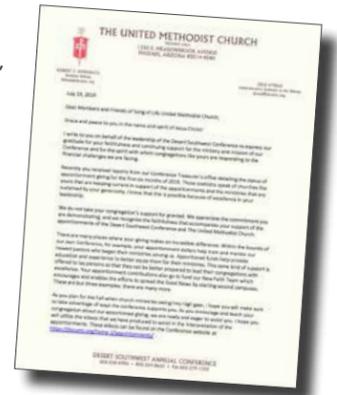
We do not take your congregation's support for granted. We appreciate the commitment you are demonstrating, and we recognize the faithfulness that accompanies your support of the apportionments of the Desert Southwest Conference and The United Methodist Church.

In a time when some are questioning whether to support The United Methodist Church, we know that there are courageous efforts to love like Jesus, act for justice that exist and thrive because of you.

According to the Annual Conference's own statistics, as of June 30, just 38% of all apportionment payments have been made by our DSC churches. We would expect our churches to have paid at least 50% by that date. We have contributed over 60%...and we couldn't have done it without your contributions.

So thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministries of the United Methodist Church in general and Song of Life more specifically.

Bishop's entire letter is posted on our bulletin board in the Worship space, and I encourage you to read it, as it speaks to YOUR commitment to United Methodism, even in the face of uncertainty within our denomination. You make me proud to be your pastor.
Grace and Peace, Pastor Jody



What Are Apportionments?

For those who are not familiar with our United Methodist system of apportioned giving, I offer the following explanation. Every United Methodist Church is asked to support the ministries of both their Annual Conference and the General Church. We do that through our apportionment obligation.

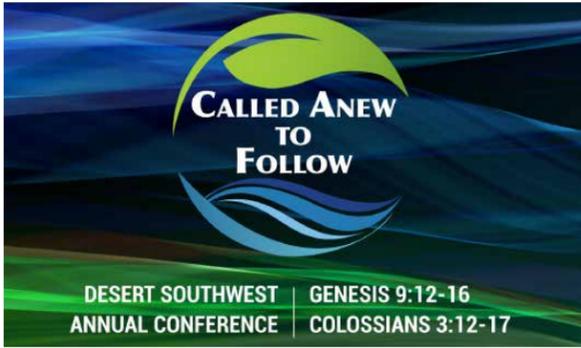
At Song of Life, our apportionment obligation is \$28,628 for 2019. Where does this money go? To answer that question, I'd like to quote from a letter written by our Bishop last April which can be found on the conference website at <https://dscumc.org/2019/04/a-letter-from-bishop-hoshibata-and-cfa/>:

For every apportionment dollar contributed by one of our churches, 82 cents stay in this conference supporting our efforts to promote growth and vitality in our congregations and ministry settings. This year, part of your 82 cents per dollar goes to financially support 13 new faith communities. You support our campus ministries at four universities in the Desert Southwest Conference. Because of your generosity, lives are touched with love, grace, and acceptance at our social service agencies. You help feed the hungry, provide shelter and haven for many who live on the margins of society. Your apportionment dollars come back to the DSC to assist churches who receive salary supplements through the equitable compensation grants. Today, 23 congregations are receiving this support.

These are just a few of the examples of the way your apportionment dollars give life to ministry in the Desert Southwest Conference.

On the global scene, out of every dollar, 18 cents go to fund other ministries in the wider United Methodist connection. Throughout the world, the love of Jesus Christ is made known through United Methodist hospitals, orphanages and schools supported by your apportionment dollars. Through UMCOR which springs to action to assist when there is a disaster across the globe, your love and caring love are made known. The Ministerial Education Fund which assists in the recruiting and educating of ordained and diaconal ministers primarily through our United Methodist seminaries is supported. The Episcopal Fund supports our bishop and his office as well as all active and retired bishops in our denomination.

Because of the many ways apportionments support the ministries of the Desert Southwest Conference as well as the mission of the global church, your CFA urges all of us to continue to support the apportionments.



Annual Conference Recap

The following are excerpts from the Annual Conference Recap posted on our Annual Conference website. To view the entire recap, go to our Conference website at <https://dscumc.org/2019/06/2019-desert-southwest-annual-conference/>

The 35th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference took place on June 13-16, 2019 at the Mesa Convention Center. Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata officiated, and Rev. Jennifer Lambert served as Annual Conference Secretary for the first time.

Guest speakers included a welcome message from Mesa Mayor, John Giles and a presentation of an honorary doctorate for Bishop Bob by Claremont School of Theology President, Dr. Jeffrey Kuan.

Six clergy-members were honored upon their retirement. They were Rev. Beverly Devine, Rev. Brian Green, Rev. L. Michael Kelley, Rev. Jean Newell, Rev. Dr. David Patterson, and Rev. Terry Reid.

Saturday's Ordination and Commissioning service included commissioning of Jamie Lynn Booth and Timothy Robert Hunsinger for the work of an elder, and Joshua Louis Warner ordained as a deacon.

Billie K. Fidlin, Director of Outreach and Justice, reported the dollar amount reflecting the donation amounts for the four Annual Conference mission projects. She reported the total offering amount, \$15,829.32, with more gifts coming in, broken down as follows:

- \$4,173.25 supporting hungry/homelessness youth & young people
- \$3,339.57 supporting Conference ERT/UMCOR USA disaster relief
- \$3,301.75 towards the Huachuca UMC fire recovery
- \$5,014.75 for Asylum Aid Phoenix

This year's Annual Conference was massive, with numerous legislative items to consider, discuss, and vote on as a body. Some of the actions enacted by the conference included:

- A call for a special session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference in September to consider all remaining legislation as well as additional items submitted in response to the 2019 special session of the General Conference and the future of the Desert Southwest Conference*
- Disavowal of the Traditional Plan passed in the 2019 General Conference Special Session
- A petition to the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops for a special session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference to consider and develop a process should separation from The UMC become inevitable
- The formation of ten teams to work on various pieces to form a new way forward for the Desert Southwest Conference.** (See the article on A Way Forward in this newsletter for more information.)

Bishop Bob reminded the body that his hope was that we could model a unique version of methodism where we could differ in the ways we think but love alike.

Like the rest of the world, there is a multitude of varying opinions regarding LGBTQIA+ persons in the Desert Southwest Conference. Views are not exclusive to any race, creed, age, social or economic status, sex, or geographical region of the Church.

*The remaining Petitions and Resolutions will be considered at our Special Annual Conference in September at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church.

**More information about the Way Forward Initiative is available on in this newsletter and on the Conference website: <https://dscumc.org/?s=dsc+a+way+forward>

SoL Kids, Teens & Families

Last May, some of our parents with children and teens were invited to a brainstorming session to generate new ideas for our SoL ministries to children, teens and families. As a result of that gathering the following changes will be made to both our Sunday School and Midweek schedules after this month (August):



Sunday Mornings:

1. **At 8am during the Classic Worship Service**, we will continue to offer activity bags that the children can use to "doodle" while they sit with their parents in the main worship space. Our "Wiggle Room" (aka Nursery), which now has a working speaker, is available for young children (accompanied by a parent) who need a little extra "wiggle" space during worship.
2. **At 9:30am during the Traditional Service**, child care will be available with planned activities for those in grades 6 and lower. Young people in grades 7 and above are invited to remain in worship with their families. We may, from time to time, have one teen "helper" in our child care room, depending on the number of children and adult volunteers present.
3. **At 11am during the Praise Service**, we will continue to offer Children's Church using a "One Room Sunday School" curriculum and setting. Children will come to worship with their parents or guardians, then will be excused to Children's Church after the children's message. Our new Children's Church teacher, Erika Hoffman, has a degree in Early Childhood Education and has also been trained to work with children who have special needs.

Beyond Sunday Mornings:

1. **Sunday Afternoon UMYF** - On the 2nd and 4th Sunday, Carrie Claypool, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, will arrange for an afternoon activity with our High School and Middle School Youth. These activities will either be on-site or off-site, and will include fellowship as well as faith-based learning activities.
2. **Wednesday Night Area 412** - On Wednesday nights we will offer an expanded Area 412 ministry from 6-7:30 pm that will include a meal provided by our parents. This ministry will continue to be offered to young people of all ages.

Other Activities:

In addition, we will be working on other activities for our youth, children & families, such as an afternoon or evening at the movies, family camp at Mingus Mountain, and others. We are open to your suggestions for these activities and encourage you to send them to Carrie at cclaypool@songoflifeumc.org

What We Need From You:

1. **Continuous Feedback, especially from parents, children, and youth.** As this new schedule progresses, we want to hear from you: is it meeting your expectations? How can we improve? What's working? What's not? What can we do differently?
2. **Commitment.** In order for any ministry to be successful, we need the following commitments from our children, youth, their parents, and congregation:
 - a. Commit to being regularly involved in these ministries by attending at least once a month, if not more frequently.
 - b. Help out as a volunteer, either in the classroom on Sunday mornings, or at Area 412, or UMYF, or at one or more activities we plan for our youth and children. We would appreciate your help **at least once a quarter**, and would especially appreciate it more often.

We firmly believe that, by offering a comprehensive ministry to our children, youth, and families that includes Christian Education as well as fun and fellowship, we are not only keeping our covenant with our children that was made at their baptisms, to "nurture [our] children in Christ's holy church, that by [our] teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly and to lead a Christian life," but helping them grow up to be grace-filled men and women and productive members of our community and our church. We look forward to partnering with you to benefit your children as they grow in Christ and dedicate themselves to following his path.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jody & Carrie Claypool

SoL App: Updating Your Profile

In our last newsletter, we provided you with instructions on how to set up our new SoL App on your smartphone and how to use it to register your attendance. This month, we'd like to encourage you to use your app to update your personal profile, including your address, phone number, photo, and more.



Why would you want to update your profile? So your church family has updated information about you and can communicate that information to others in the family. And the app makes it really easy to update your info at any time. Here's how:

1. Open the app on your phone.
2. In the upper right hand corner is a small circular icon. Tap that icon to open your account.
3. At the top of the screen you'll see your name, and if your picture is in our database, that will also display to the left of your name.
4. Tap on your name to open the "Edit Profile" function. After making a change, you may be asked to Save. If you are, simply tap on the word "Save."
 - a. To add or change your picture, tap on the circle labeled "Update Photo." You can then either take your picture using your phone, or Choose a photo from your Photo Library.
 - b. To change your name, tap on the field to be changed and make the appropriate change.
 - c. To add or change any Contact Information, such as address, telephone number, or email address, tap on the appropriate field and type in the correct information. Note: If you are a winter resident, we would appreciate having both your local address (as your Home address) and your not-so-local address (as "Other"). Since the default for the address fields is "Home," simply tap on the word "Home" and select "Other" if/when you add your summer address.
 - d. Scroll down to Profile Information (i.e. gender, birthdate, Marital Status, and Anniversary. If any of this information is blank, we encourage you to add it in, including the year of your birth and/or anniversary. Why? Because as Methodists, we are asked to report certain statistical information to the UM organization, including the average age of our congregation. Furthermore, Pastor Jody sends birthday and anniversary cards every month to Members and Regular Attendees...so if you want to receive a birthday or anniversary card from her, you need to give us those dates!
5. When finished updating your profile, tap on "Update" in the upper right hand corner, and YOU'RE DONE!!

And don't forget: if you move, change your phone number, change your email address, or change any other part of your profile, please update it so our records are current.

Mission Trip Recap

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

During the week of July 7, our SoL Youth went on a mission trip to the Bay Area in Northern California. We stayed at a Presbyterian church in San Leandro and drove to various locations to do our mission work. Some of us went to the Boys and Girls Club to work with disadvantaged children, while others went to urban farms, rescue missions, the Oakland Zoo, and various other locations. On Sunday, July 14 our young people helped lead worship and delivered the message, sharing some of their experiences. If you would like to view that message, which was delivered during the 9:30am worship service, please click on the following link: https://youtu.be/sOSbD_LKzPY. (If you are reading this on paper, you'll have to type the URL into your browser.)

We want to thank you for your support in helping our young people go on this very important mission opportunity. The people they helped and the work they did changed lives...which is part of our mission at Song of Life! So thank you, thank you, thank you!



Facebook Tips for Song of Life

Did you know that Song of Life UMC has its own Facebook Page? Did you also know that it's possible to set up our page so you will see it first in your newsfeed? Here are some instructions from one of our webmasters, David Topping, on how you can set up the Song of Life Page so you'll see it first:

It's really nice to "Like" our page but it's even BETTER to "See First!" Below is a picture showing how you can upgrade your "Following" status of our page from "Default" to "See First." This is how it works on a computer -- on a mobile device, like a cell phone or tablet, you tap on the "..." on our page, then on "Following" and finally on "See First"). We'll be giving you more to "See First" soon, so please Like and Share this post! :-)



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 21135 S. Ellsworth Loop (near the corner of Ellsworth Loop & Rittenhouse).***</p>						
				<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am JOY Circle @ Village Inn QC 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) 9:30-11:30am Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>3</p>
<p>4</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 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 1- 4pm Pastor Jody @ Panera QC 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 7pm Leadership Board 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 6pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Fireside Chat @ LDS Church 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 1- 4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Jose's Closet Volunteers 11:30am Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children
<p>11</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 11:00am Praise Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:30pm UMYF 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) 	<p>17</p>
<p>18</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>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children 	<p>24</p>
<p>25</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 12:30pm UMYF 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Panera QC 6:30pm Scout Meeting, Campus-wide 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 6pm Area 412 7:30pm Praise Rehearsal 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-12:30pm Pastor Jody @ SoL Office 1-4pm Pastor Jody @ Starbucks QC 	<p>31</p>