

# CAMPAIGN GUIDE



*Transforming our Sol*



**SONG OF LIFE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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# GOD'S MISSION FOR SONG OF LIFE (SoL)



For more than 20 years, God has worked through Song of Life UMC as we live out our mission: *"Love God, Love Others, Change the World."* In that time, SoL has been transformed many times: from a UM Fellowship of LIFE (*Living In Faith Everyday*) groups, to a single worshipping community, to a fully chartered UMC, to a church with a home all its own!



As God's people, we faithfully serve others in partnership with various mission partners. Through meaningful worship, formative Sunday School classes and small groups, mission trips, and personal support, many lives have been transformed, including those we know, those we've just met, even those we may never meet. We love God by loving others, thus changing the world one soul at a time.

With God's help, we have faced many challenges in our short history: systemic changes in attitudes toward church, uncertainty within our denomination, loss of members, a global pandemic, and financial pressures, to name a few. But challenges have never deterred our resolve: we continue to love God and God's people, not just in our town, but all over the world.



We know that God is good. We know we are not alone. We also know we have a lot to do to regroup and rebuild in a post-pandemic world. We also know that God is leading us to look to the future. We believe God's plan for SoL is to continue the transformation that began 20+ years ago. Just as a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly one step at a time, SoL will also be transformed one step at a time, beginning with *Transforming our SoL*.



SoL's first worship service in their new home!



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



*Dear Friends,*

What a season of life we have experienced since March 2020. The headlines remind us that we are living in a broken world—another crisis, another controversy; another tragic event. In the midst of these times, people yearn for a world transformed into something that is better and brighter than it is in the here and now.

Even in this unprecedented time, Song of Life UMC continues to be a strong, faith-filled community. We are committed to proclaiming God's love for all people and sharing that love through hospitality, service, and inviting others to become disciples of Christ. We continue to live out our mission as the church: to *"Love God, Love Others, Change the World."*

While continuing to look back is tempting, it is time for Song of Life to look ahead. This fall we are launching the *Transforming our SoL* capital campaign to eliminate our existing debt and raise additional funds to cover pre-planning expenses related to future capital projects.



As Christian people of faith, we know transformation is a process. It takes place over time. Likewise, our church

will be transformed over time as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us. *Transforming our SoL* is an important step in this process.

You will be contacted soon by a volunteer from our *Transforming our SoL* Prayer Team. They will ask you to pray each day, "God, what do you want to do through me?" as you pray for SoL. They will also ask how they might pray for you. They will not ask for money during these calls.

The days and weeks ahead are critical in the life of our church. It is my hope that we will come together in prayer and respond in such a way that we will see the hand of God in our work.

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor Jody*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS



As Chairpersons for the *Transforming our SoL* campaign, we are convinced Song of Life United Methodist Church is blessed to truly make an impact on the lives of those around us and beyond. In our twenty-year history, we have been blessed with a great community of faith.

We have had many transformations throughout our existence. One reason we are able to impact so many people as a church family and for the community is due to the gracious donation of property to SoL. Our church has a clear vision, grounded in being a place where all are welcome, and where lives are changed through our ministries. We are seeing growth with young families and those living into retirement.

We are convinced that to continue to attract, excite, and equip people in their faith, Song of Life MUST have excellence in worship and outstanding facilities. The *Transforming our SoL* campaign squarely addresses these two critically-important pieces. Transformation does not happen overnight. We need to take many steps to reach our final goal – which more than likely will be several years down the road. However, we need to start somewhere, and we need YOU! Help us move toward the promised land that God is leading us to.

The success of our campaign provides us with a springboard for moving forward boldly—together. With our debt behind us, we can focus on ensuring outstanding ministry and mission.

We have seen our faith deepen as we have prayed, “God, what do you want to do through me?” We hope you will join us to seek to eliminate our debt and grow.

Your Campaign Co-Chairpersons,  
*Connie Harmsen and  
Richard Matthews*



## ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN NAME AND LOGO



***From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" Matthew 4:17 (CEB)***

In an article posted on [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), Rev Pedro Pillot, pastor at Asbury UMC in Camden, NJ wrote a series, the final part of which talked about transformation. Rev. Pillot wrote:

*The world that Jesus preached in 2000 years ago was plagued by the same evil, injustice, and oppression we see today. The good news that he preached was that things don't have to be this way. Change is possible, but it means taking a risk; it means coming out of our comfort zone...\**

Just as Jesus believed in transformation, so do we. The *Transforming our SoL* campaign leaders and volunteers believe our church can and will be further transformed, like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly.

When a caterpillar, or pupa, is in its cocoon, it is constrained, and confined, but it is not stagnant. It is doing the necessary work, with its Creator's help, so it will emerge beautifully transformed so it can fly. That is the Creator's vision for the caterpillar: that it will become the butterfly it was intended to be all along.

We at SoL are like the pupa in a cocoon of debt: we are constrained and confined from being more fully transformed into the church our Creator intends us to be.

What would it take for SoL to fly? We need to emerge from our cocoon of debt, even the cocoon of being a smaller church where almost everyone knows everybody else. "Flying" means growing, worshiping, welcoming, reaching, serving, building, and being a multiplying church in order to live into our decades-old vision for mission and ministry.

Jesus calls us to change our hearts and lives by taking a risk and stepping out of our comfort zones. As the people of SoL, are called to do the necessary work, with the help of our Creator, so our church will also be transformed, unconstrained by our cocoon of debt. That's what *Transforming our SoL* will help us do.

*\*<https://www.umc.org/en/content/a-different-set-of-rules-transformation>*



## THE BENEFITS OF ACTING NOW

Throughout history, some of the most difficult times have been times of greatest opportunity. In the midst of this unimaginable season, there are many reasons that the leaders of our church (and an overwhelming majority of the pre-campaign study participants) believe that now is the time for a capital campaign to eliminate debt and raise the funds needed to cover the pre-planning costs for future construction.

 Paying off this debt in full on or before the balloon payment date (September 7, 2022) will free us to focus on other mission and ministry opportunities. We can invest in the transformative work of God by focusing on the needs of our ministry partners: House of Refuge, Jose's Closet, Pan de Vida, and others.



 Eliminating our monthly mortgage payment of \$2,631, will free us to invest more than \$31,500 per year EVERY YEAR in life-changing transformative ministry for our children, youth, and families. For example, we might add a playground, support camping ministries and mission trips, or family retreats. In short, we will be *Transforming our SoL* when we are no longer burdened by debt.

 We can focus on being good stewards of the land we have been graciously given. We can begin working with the Town of Queen Creek, our Desert Southwest Conference staff, and architects to determine our next steps. While this process won't reach full fruition for many years, now is the time to begin *Transforming our SoL* by beginning the process of transforming the land entrusted to our care.



God is at work in and through SoL! Together we are invited to envision a future with hope as the church making an impact on our community and beyond. God is with us and calls us to look forward into the future by inviting us to be faithful in *Transforming our SoL*.

## HOW THE CAMPAIGN WILL WORK



The *Transforming our SoL* capital campaign will ask for a three-year commitment (2021 through 2023) above your ongoing support to the mission and ministry of Song of Life United Methodist Church. The campaign commitment period will begin in November 2021. Some people are able to give their entire pledge up front while others will do so over the three-year period.

- ✦ Our first priority is to eliminate our mortgage debt. Thus, all contributions received (unless otherwise specified by the donor) will be applied to the reduction of the principal balance of the debt until the debt is completely eliminated!
- ✦ Once the debt has been eliminated, contributions received will be applied to the second priority of the campaign—to fund the necessary pre-planning costs for the future development of the property. Some of these costs include:
  - ✦ redevelopment of our Master Property Plan, identifying immediate, short-term, and long-term needs;
  - ✦ development of conceptual designs for a new Sanctuary, including digital renderings;
  - ✦ fees for permits, zoning, inspections, environmental studies, etc. and additional infrastructure costs, to name a few.



We encourage you to pray about your gift to *Transforming our SoL*. Ask God, “What do you want to do through me?” Talk with God about what a sacrificial gift might be for you and your family.



## EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIFTS

Equal giving is never the goal at our church, but rather to come together as a church community – each sacrificing to achieve our vision. There is a role in this capital funding campaign for every member of the church and each contribution enables our success. You will not be pressured or told what you should give; rather you will be encouraged to pray, to discern God's will for your giving. We are asking that everyone pray this prayer for our campaign:

*God,  
What do you want to  
do through me?*

*Transforming our SoL*



## CAN WE DO IT?

We are a church filled with people who love God and want Song of Life to flourish and continue to make disciples of Christ. Is raising \$300,000 or more a realistic goal? Can we do it? With God's help, the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

The Bible is full of examples of God's people overcoming obstacles to achieve God's purpose. Do we really think that God will do less for us? All things are possible through God!

Ultimately, our goal is to honor God in everything we do! Let's all pray for guidance in how much each of us will give over the next three years. Whatever our final numbers are, we will celebrate the faithfulness of God and the sacrificial generosity of the people of SoL!



# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS PEOPLE ARE ASKING



## WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN TARGET?

Based on our analysis, we believe we can raise between \$250,000 and \$400,000 in three-year contributions. Therefore, we have set a target of at least \$300,000.

## WHAT IS OUR DEBT AND MONTHLY PAYMENT?

As of this writing, the church owes about \$157,000 on our mortgage. Payments are \$2,631 per month, and so far this year, we've received additional contributions of \$4,150 to the *Building the Future* fund. In September 2022, a balloon payment of about \$135,000 will be due.

## IS REFINANCING THIS LOAN AN OPTION?



Refinancing may be an option. We might also be able to renegotiate the terms of the current note with our bank. More importantly, refinancing or renegotiating is, as they say, just "kicking the can down the road." The longer we wait to pay off this debt, the longer it will be before we move ahead with other ministry and mission priorities.

## IS THIS A GOOD TIME TO DO A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

This question has already been addressed in **THE BENEFITS OF ACTING NOW**. There will always be reasons not to act. The leaders and people of SoL have expressed a readiness to eliminate the debt NOW and prepare for a time when we will be ready to break ground. So, is this a good time to do a capital campaign? The short answer is, "YES!"





## HOW ARE OUR CHURCH FINANCES RIGHT NOW?

Through July 2021, our giving was down and our expenditures were down, resulting in a year-to-date deficit of almost \$19,000. Fortunately, the people of SoL were generous beyond expectation in 2020, and we were able to reserve \$60,000, just in case. We anticipate a strong end to 2021 and, with our reserve fund, are on solid financial ground.

## DO WE KNOW WHAT A NEW BUILDING WILL COST?

To be clear, we are not making plans to build a new building right now. We know we have a lot to do before we are ready to embark on a much larger capital campaign to fund new construction. Assuming we reach or exceed our target for this campaign, the money available after we pay off our current debt will be used to help us make the necessary decisions about the design and cost of new construction.



## WHAT KINDS OF GIFTS WILL BE ACCEPTED?

Your gifts may be cash and/or an investment asset such as publicly-traded stocks, mutual fund shares, bonds, distributions from IRA accounts, and real estate. The Federal tax code is very generous toward non-cash investment assets as a form of giving. Giving the asset to the church, then letting the church sell, eliminates potential capital gains taxes and can increase the after-tax proceeds when giving stocks, mutual fund shares, bonds, and real estate. You can discuss how to give non-cash assets with leaders of the *Transforming our SoL* campaign. We also encourage you to contact your financial planner, CPA, or tax expert.



## 3-YEAR GIVING GUIDE

Even a small gift, given regularly, can add up to a substantial donation over time. Get creative—defer major purchases, hold a garage sale, involve the children with extra chores around the house, reduce spending, give your tax refund. It's a great way to involve your whole family in giving up something you love so that you can give to some one you love even more: Jesus Christ.

per week	total	per week	total	per week	total
\$10 =	\$1,560	\$110 =	\$17,160	\$225 =	\$35,100
\$25 =	\$3,900	\$125 =	\$19,500	\$250 =	\$39,000
\$30 =	\$4,680	\$130 =	\$20,280	\$300 =	\$46,800
\$40 =	\$6,240	\$140 =	\$21,840	\$350 =	\$54,600
\$50 =	\$7,800	\$150 =	\$23,400	\$400 =	\$62,400
\$60 =	\$9,360	\$160 =	\$24,960	\$450 =	\$70,200
\$75 =	\$11,700	\$175 =	\$27,300	\$500 =	\$78,000
\$80 =	\$12,480	\$180 =	\$28,080	\$550 =	\$85,800
\$90 =	\$14,040	\$190 =	\$29,640	\$600 =	\$93,600
\$100 =	\$15,600	\$200 =	\$31,200	\$641 =	\$100,000



# IMPORTANT DATES



**GRATITUDE SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 17**



**MINISTRY SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 24**



**ADVANCE COMMITMENTS  
GATHERINGS**

**OCTOBER 24**

**12:30PM, 3:00PM, 5:00PM**



**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 7, ONE SERVICE, 10AM**



**COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 14**



**ANNOUNCEMENT SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 21**



**FIRST FRUIT OFFERING SEASON**

**NOVEMBER 21, 28,**

**DECEMBER 5, 12**

# YOUR CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM



## EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Rev. Jody Topping, Pastor
- Connie Harmsen, Co-Chair
- Richard Matthews, Co-Chair
- Robena West, Coordinator

## COMMUNICATIONS

- David Topping
- Katy Werner

## LEAD GIFTS

- Tonya Doty & Wendy Esquibel Doty, Hosts

## ADVANCE

### COMMITMENTS

- Kimberlee Sossaman & Roger Nash, Hosts
  - Bob & Linda Burdick, Co-Hosts
- Bonnie West, Host
  - Barbara Anderson, Co-Host
  - James Marbury, Co-Host
- Dave & Orla Nelson, Hosts
  - Jerry & Sue Shanks, Co-Hosts

## PRAYER

- Linda Roman, Leader
  - Joetta Coen
  - Carol Borzillo

## PRAYER (continued)

- Bob & Peggy Milk, Leaders
  - Robbie Heath
  - Marlene Hirsch
- Bev Stout, Leader
  - Marlene & Jerry Badgerow
  - Barbara Babbitt

## GRATITUDE & MINISTRY

- Nanette LaBrose
- Kristi Morris
- Kate Blaes

## CELEBRATION

- Elaine Bartell
- John Campbell & Marsha McClintock

## STUDENTS & CHILDREN

- Erika Hoffman
- Jessica Esquibel Doty

## RESPONSE

- Betty Ranney, Leader
  - Ann Bumgarner
  - Doug Greenwald
  - Gay Tillotson
- Nancy Desmarais, Leader
  - Trina Brown
  - JL Doyle





