



Vilonia United Methodist Church

Making Disciples and Connecting People with Jesus

Around the Table

Pastor's Update

April 24, 2024

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M-Th 9 am-1 pm

Indoor and Online

Worship Service

Sundays at 9 am

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Viloniaumc.org

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Facebook.com/ViloniaUMC

Dear Friends,

Over the next two weeks the United Methodist Church will be taking part in one of our most important traditions. General Conference is a gathering held every 4 years by the UMC in which delegates from all over the world come together and help shape our ever-growing Church. This year is particularly important for several reasons. First, this is our first time after the heartache of churches leaving our denomination that we will be gathering. Second, there are legislations on the table that could help us achieve our goal of perfecting the world in love. There are three pieces of legislation on the table that are particularly important.

First, the United Methodist Church has been a body that operates as one General Conference, and in the past that has meant that the Book of Discipline, our organizing document, has guided all of our churches. Below is a video from the Bishops who are advocating this piece of legislation, but the central idea is summed up best by Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi who says, "Further, the legislation itself embodies our theology rather than centering structures, rules and regulations. The legislation centers relationships, mission and ministry. Being a connectional church, it is all about mission." This legislation would mean that our Church would be unified in love, not bound together by rules. Our mission would be the same, and its execution would be relevant to the needs and uniqueness's of the context.

Second, the United Methodist Church has a document called the Social Principles. John Wesley envisioned a revived church that focused its mission on justice for all people, creatures, and the whole world. Unlike the Book of Discipline which handles the ordering of the Church, the Social Principles give us light to where the UMC stands on social issues. This document grows and changes, and in the past 8 years the Social Principles have only existed in draft form. Adopting them would mean that our morals that we already hold would be set as the official teachings of the Church. If you're interested in some examples of our social principles, look below for the General Board of Church and Society's "Faith and Facts" cards.

Third, you may have heard that our denomination is currently splitting over the inclusion of LGBT+ people. This is a tender issue, and in our congregation we don't all agree. Where we do agree is that all persons are deserving of love, and a church they may call home. The current position of the Book of Discipline singles out homosexual people as the only group we are comfortable discriminating against. The proposed changes to the Book of Discipline would remove language that prevents churches from giving to charities and non-profits connected to LGBT+ people, prevent Gay and Lesbian pastors, and the prohibition against same-sex marriage. There are two critical things to bear in mind as we consider this legislation. First, how does it communicate our understanding of God's love for the world, when we deem one group unworthy of that love? Second, the removal of the language empowers churches to make decisions based on their context. Below is a link to a discussion sheet to help reflect individually, with family, or small groups about the possibility of changes to the language, as well as rationale for why.

Friends, most importantly, I ask for your continuing prayers for our church (here in Vilonia) and our Church (globally). We need prayer for this tender time where we seek to understand more than to be understood. Below I have attached a link to a guide for prayer for Arkansan United Methodists. The Methodists have always been the ones who stood up for everyone, and these changes empower the Church in Vilonia to live more fully into our call to Christian discipleship. If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, or hopes based on these three pieces of legislation, please feel free to email me, call the church, or come up to the church. This is a thin space where our Church is deciding what we will be in the future; that can prompt a wide range of emotions and wonderings. If there is a way I can walk with you, don't hesitate to reach out.

Resources:

- Video from Bishops on Central Conferences: [Link](#)
- Social Principles revision talking sheet: [Link](#)
- Faith and Fact cards: [Link](#)
- Discussion Sheet on removing discriminatory language: [Link](#)
- Prayers for General Conference Guide: [Link](#)

Peace and Blessings,
 Pastor Chad Hornsby
 Email: chad.hornsby@arumc.org

News Close to Home

Dear Church Family,

It has come to our attention that some members have received comments by someone who is posting inappropriate content to Facebook. If you receive any of these comments on your personal Facebook page please delete it and let the Church Office know.

Peace.

Pastor Chad

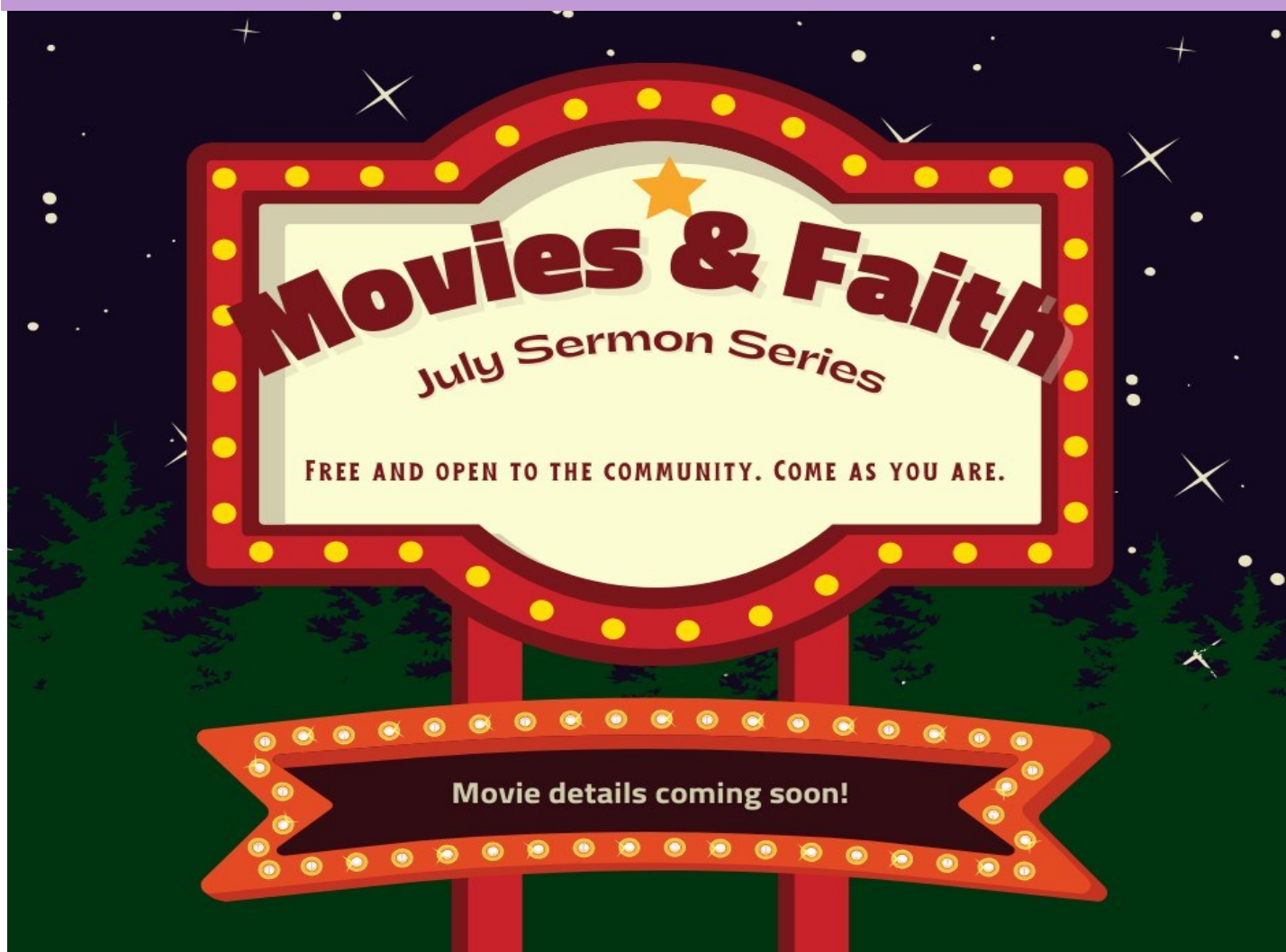


Friends,

As summer approaches and we begin to think of all the time we have, it seems like a good time to go out to the movies. For our July Series, we will be looking at the way films might portray elements of faith. Below is a quick two question poll to see what films folks might want to see preached in a sermon this July. I hope you will fill it out, and we can see how films we love speak to our faiths!.

<https://forms.gle/c8hDcCmzYs7AeEZ39>

Pastor Chad



**FOOD OF THE
MONTH FOR
MARCH &
APRIL:
CANNED FRUIT**

Let's help
The Spirit of Vilonia
Food Pantry with
donations of canned
fruit for MARCH &
APRIL.
Thank you!



***Wednesdays at
the Well***

*Come be renewed as
we join in fellowship.*

***Wednesdays at the Well
Dinner at 6 pm.
Adults \$3, Kids \$2
Bible studies for all ages
6:30 pm-7:30 pm***

APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS | 20 24

APRIL
14-30

BREAD BRAID
FUNDRAISER

SERVICE SATURDAY
9AM-12PM

APRIL
27

APRIL
28

DCYM MEETING
2PM-4PM

UNITE @
JACKSONVILLE
4PM-6PM

APRIL
28

APRIL
28

YOUTH GROUP
LEADERSHIP
APPLICATIONS
OPEN

BIBLE STUDY W/ PASTOR: 1 SAMUEL

WEDNESDAYS @ NOON

April 10: 1-7 (Samuel's Birth)

April 17: 8-12 (Monarchy)

April 24: 13-15 (Saul's Reign)

May 1: 16-31 (David's Story)

A BIBLICAL GAME OF THRONES

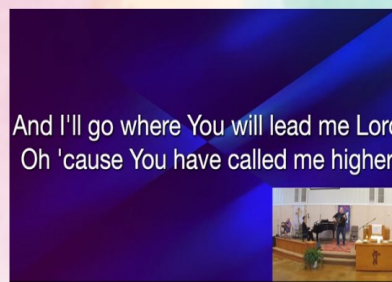


A Year in the Bible with Pastor Chad

Email Pastor Chad for the Reading List . Each week there will be a short reflection on the Scriptures posted to Facebook and Youtube



Missed Sunday morning worship?



Find us on our YouTube channel
Vilonia UMC!

Three easy ways to give to Vilonia United Methodist Church

Thank you for your generosity! Every gift matters!



Mail a check to
PO Box 460
Vilonia, AR 72173



Give online via
PayPal.



Set up Bill Pay
with your bank.

To find out more or to give, go to www.viloniaumc.org/giving

Cinco de Mayo

POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH AT 5 PM
Bring your favorite Mexican dish.

Entrees, Sides, and Desserts

CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, April 24 @ 12 noon** Luncheon Book Study (Rm 101)
 @ 6 pm..... Wednesdays at the Well Dinner
 @ 6:30 pm.....Classes for Children, Tweens, Youth & Adults
- **Saturday, April 27 @ 9am**..... Spirit of Vilonia food Pantry Volunteer Day
- **Sunday, April 28 @ 9 am**.....Worship service (In-person and Online)
 @ 10:15 am.....Sunday School
 @ 11 am.....Choir Practice
- **Wednesday, May 1 @ 12 noon** Luncheon Book Study (Rm 101)
 @ 6 pm..... Wednesdays at the Well Dinner
 @ 6:30 pm.....Classes for Children, Tweens, Youth & Adults
- **Sunday, May 5 @ 9 am**.....Worship service (In-person and Online)
 @ 10:15 am.....Sunday School
 @ 11 am.....Choir Practice
 @ 5 pm Cinco De Mayo Potluck
- **Wednesday, May 8 @ 12 noon** Luncheon Book Study (Rm 101)
 @ 6 pm..... Wednesdays at the Well Dinner
 @ 6:30 pm.....Classes for Children, Tweens, Youth & Adults
- **Sunday, May 12— MOTHERS DAY**
 @ 9 am.....Worship service (In-person and Online)
 @ 10:15 am.....Sunday School
 @ 11 am.....Choir Practice

ACCESS VILONIA UMC'S ELECTRONIC GOOGLE CALENDAR [HERE!](#)