

February, 2025

# Vermont Street Views



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## Pastor's Corner

### A Tale of Two Kitties.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times for two little kittens in the woods. The worst of times because something terrible had befallen their mother, they were hungry, dehydrated and overheated. The best of times because they chose that one small window of time when there would be someone nearby to hear their cry.

Many of you have been following the tale of the kitties; from the day after I found them and they would both fit in one hand to now when they are clearly in their "terrible twos" stage. You have been part of their journey by showing me how to get them to take a bottle, asking about them, looking for differences between the nearly identical kittens, cuddling them and helping me guess their age. They now tear around the house, leaping from chair to sofa to windowsill, tackling each other and generally doing all sorts of really cute kitten stuff.

It took us about 2 months to find a difference between the two so we could name them.

Isn't it great that God knows each of us so intimately that it takes no effort of God's part to tell us apart?

Isn't it great that when our lives are at their best, God is right there. Isn't it great that when our lives are at their worst, God is right there.

Unlike the little kitties, we don't need to luck out and crawl out of the woods at just the right time to get the relationship with God that we all need. God is always available, always listening, always looking for us no matter how lost we are.

As we continue to listen to what the scripture has to say about God's call, let us all dive deep into what it means to be called by God so that we can be instruments of hope and healing for lost people in our midst.

-Pastor Kathy



## Vermont Street Views

February 2025



### February Birthdays

- 2 Bernita Penn
- 5 Pat Wallace
- 6 Tom Random
- 7 Julie Brink
- 12 John Scott
- 13 Gary Hemming
- 14 Jim Sours
- 20 Maxine Paluska
- 22 Valerie Vlahakis
- 22 Cole Stephenson
- 27 John Wooleyhan



### February Anniversaries

No Anniversaries for the month of February

God is LOVE.  
1 JOHN 4:16



### Sunday Worship Schedule

**9 am Classic Worship**  
 (Listen LIVE on WGEM 105.1 FM or LIVE stream online)

**10:15 am Sunday School**

**11 am Connection Worship  
 In-Person ONLY**

**Vermont Street  
 United Methodist Church  
 818 Vermont St.  
 Quincy, IL 62301**

217-222-7468 www.vsumc.org

Rev. Rachel Stockle, Pastor  
 Rev. Kathy Crozier, Assoc. Pastor  
 Rev. Annelle Ruemeller, Director of Praise Team

## Leadership Report

### Summary of the February 10, 2025 Leadership Board Meeting

- Bill Cramsey was introduced as the new Financial Manager. He started work February 3.
- Jim Sours was elected Board Chair  
Clif Weisinger was elected Board Vice-Chair  
Cathy Staff volunteered to be Lay Leader

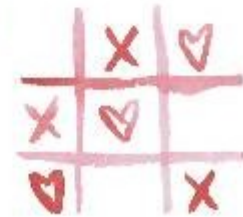
- Board members volunteered to be on committees. Additional assignments will be made.

#### Church Goals:

- 1) Continue cooperative ministry among three Quincy UM churches to strengthen each church and increase community awareness. **(Fae Jones, Jim Sours)**
- 2) Reimagine and relaunch the 11:00 service. **(Fae Jones / Nancy Ogle)**
- 3) Improve marketing to the community to foster our public identity.

#### Leadership Board Goals:

- 1) Investigate reimplementing the Sunday steward position.  
**(Brad Billings / Julie Brink / Nancy Ogle / Clif Weisinger)**
- 2) Continue stewardship of the church's financial resources.  
**(Brad Billings / Julie Brink / Nancy Ogle / Clif Weisinger)**
- 3) Enhance and maintain communication between the Leadership Board, committees, and the congregation.  
**(Dikki Andrews / Julie Brink / Cathy Staff)**



- Security Update: The installation of the east door is on hold until warmer weather. A policy for the facial recognition security system needs to be created. A template used by other organizations is being sought.
- The 2025 budget is a work in progress
- The Board approved to pay Kathy Crozier \$1000 for the additional work she did in January while Pastor Rachel was on Spiritual Leave. The board also agreed to give Christina Kaufman a gift card to show our appreciation for the additional work she did during January.
- The Board approved the purchase of a new computer for the balcony. Pro Presenter software updates will not function on the current computer causing the computer to crash. The cost of the new computer is \$3215.96, which includes set up and installation. The current computer will be put in Ann Behrens's office.
- Annelle Ruummler was hired for 10 hours a week. She has determined that she needs more time for planning and rehearsals for the 11:00 service. The Board approved an additional 5 hours per week.
- Potential expenses for the Connection Service: Wednesday night tech support for rehearsals, a second tech person is needed for the service, new headphone mics may be needed, the cost for videos, skits, etc. may run \$100 a month., musicians may need to be paid for the Praise Band, music will need to be purchased.
- It has been suggested that we consolidate the outside food boxes and use the other for a free library
- Church Mutual Insurance coverage for 2025 will be \$42,846 for VSUMC. (2024 – the cost was \$28,113) (2023 – the cost was \$29,968.25) Pastor Rachel has contacted UM Insurance Program to see if there are other options.
- Next Meetings: March 24 @ 6:15 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11am Connection Worship	3 9:30am Care Team	4 9:30am Quilters 9:30am Staff Meeting	5 10 am—Coffee & Conversation 4:45pm Praise Team 5pm Book Study 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Chancel Choir 7pm Youth Group	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11am Connection Worship  Boy Scouts in between Services	10 9:30am Care Team 3pm Worship Team 5:30pm Evangelism and community / Fun & Fellowship 6:30pm Leadership Board	11 9:30am Quilters  6pm WOW @ Sprouts  7pm Cooperative ministries	12 4:45pm Praise Team 5pm Book Study 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Chancel Choir 7pm Youth Group	13	14 Happy Valentines Day  <i>Valentine's Day</i>  Christina out of Office	15
16 9 am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11am Connection Worship	17 Presidents Day <b>CLOSED</b>	18 9:30am Care Team 9:30am Quilters  6pm Building and Grounds	19 4:45pm Praise Team 5pm Book Study 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Chancel Choir 7pm Youth Group	20	21	22
23. 9 am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11am Connection Worship	24 9:30am Care Team	25 9 am Quilters	26. 4:45pm Praise Team 5pm Book Study 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Chancel Choir 7pm Youth Group			

### Balloons, Balloons, and More Balloons!

Our A/V Tech, Wes Lindgren, left a surprise in Pastor Rachel's Office while she was away in January, a office full of balloons! To help her with the "Ball Pit." as Pastor Rachel loves to call it, Bright Start Preschool came and helped her with half of them, letting both Pastor and Bright Start enjoy the fun surprise!



### Bright Start Preschool Valentines Day

Bright start celebrated Valentines day this month with their Valentines Day Party.



### Sunday Worship

#### February 16

Genesis 45 : 3-11, 15  
 "God Doesn't Waste Anything."

#### February 23

Luke 5 : 1-11  
 " God Qualifies the Unqualified."

#### March 2

Luke 6 : 27-38  
 "What an Enormous Task!"

### Greeters & Ushers Schedule

#### March Communion Stewards

**9am** Jim & Elaine Sours

**11am** Dikki Andrews & Maxine Paluska

**Greeters Needed!**  
 Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Space!

#### 9 am Greeters

**2nd** Jim Worrell

**9th** Jim Worrell

**16th** Jim Worrell

**23rd** Jim Worrell

**2nd** Jim Worrell

#### 9 am Ushers

February Marvin Kerber & Steve Prater

March Tim Dennis & Jim Worrell

#### 11 am Ushers

16 Justin & Nathalie Messan

23 Maxine Paluska & Pixie Sharkey

2 Don Larson & Jim Weede

9 Charlie Jones & Rob Hernandez

#### Gathering Place Hosts

2nd Charlie & Fae Jones

9th Boy Scouts Sunday

16th Suzi Duker

23rd Chris & Kim Larson

2nd Caroll & Mimi McKinney

9th Colleen Anderson

### 2024

#### Year to date 2024

YTD Income	\$409,383.06
YTD Expenses	\$427,999.52
YTD Differences	-\$18,616.46

### Greeters Sign-up

Greeters are **needed this year.** Sign up is in the Gathering Space.

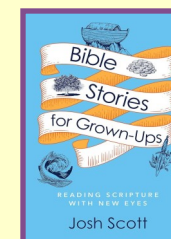
Please consider helping out one Sunday of the year.

### Worship Attendance

#### January

	9 am	11 am	Total
<b>5</b>	22	0	22
<b>12</b>	63	30	93
<b>19</b>	56	22	72
<b>26</b>	74	39	113

### Book Study



We will begin "Bible Stories for Grown Ups" by Josh Scott.

We will distribute books and review the introduction together this week.

See you there! Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

## From the Leadership Board and the Preschool Board of Directors:

It is with great reluctance and deep sorrow that we announce the end of our ministry called "Bright Start Preschool." The next school year (2025-2026) will be the last year of Bright Start, allowing this year's three-year-old class to complete the program. There will be no three-year-old class next year.

This ministry has a long history in church and community; many young people have walked through the doors to learn and have fun. We remain deeply committed to the development of children and realize that our dwindling enrollment means we can simply no longer offer the quality program we have had for years.

Thank you for your support through the years. We look forward to finding ways to celebrate this great ministry between now and May of 2026.

Rev. Rachel Stockle, Directing Pastor



## We Are Just Beginning!

First of all, I want to thank you for the warm welcome you have given to me and to my family! We feel so blessed to be a part of the Vermont Street family, and we are looking forward to getting to know all of you even better!

I am especially excited about all of the beautiful music offered during worship services, and I love being part of a dynamic worship team! We will soon be debuting a new group of musicians in the Connection Service. Stay tuned!

Having said that, we have room for more people to lead us in worship! Do you enjoy singing? Have you always wanted to use your acting ability in church? Who in your family plays an instrument that, with a little practice and some encouragement, could be part of a duet or an ensemble? Are you known as a good storyteller—you could be perfect as an actor in a Readers' Theater skit! (No memorization required!)

In the meantime, I am looking forward to what God has in store for our church! May he direct each of us to use our gifts and talents for his glory! I look forward to seeing you in worship! Many blessings to you and your family!

Pastor Annelle



## Other Upcoming Dates

- February 17, 2025—Presidents Day, offices are *closed*.
- February 26, 2025—UWF meeting at 10 am in café Vermont
- March 5, 2025—Ash Wednesday
- March 9, 2025—Baptism
- March 9, 2025—First Sunday in Lent
- March 16, 2025—Pancake Breakfast in between services.



## WOW Information

Remember, Tuesday, March 11, 2025 will be our next WOW gathering.

WOW is also collecting gift cards for our College kids. Help us support them!

Thank you, church family, for all of your support for the Mitten tree. We divided the items between Iles, Jr High and Sr High schools. They were very appreciative of everything. Agape Sunday School class.

- Karen Weisinger



## United Women of Faith

The next meeting of United Women of Faith will be held on Feb 26, 10 am.



United Women in Faith

## Horizons Food Pantry Collection

Don't forget our practice of first Sunday collections of food, for a local food pantry. On the first Sunday of each month, as we are fed at the table of our Lord Jesus, we encourage you to share food with those in need in our community.



There is a large bin outside the sanctuary near the elevator where your donations can be left.

If you have recently outdated food please consider donating it to Horizons as they can take some outdate food.

## New Upper Rooms Available

Be sure to pick up your copy of the Upper Room. They are available in regular or large print. Suggested donation is \$1. You can find them in the Gathering Space.



## 2024 Yearly Giving Statements

We wanted to let everyone know that the 2024 yearly giving statements have been mailed out and are on their way to you. Sorry for the delay, but thank you so much for understanding. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please reach out to the office. Thank you.