



July, 2026

Vermont Street Views

What's INSIDE

- 2 Community Information
- 3 Worship readings
Ushers Schedule
Gathering Host Schedule
Attendance Count
- 4 Leadership Board
- 5 Leadership Board Cont.
- 6 Community Information
- 7 Calendar
- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

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. Annelle Ruemeller, Director
 of Praise Team

Pastor's Corner

I always think, rather optimistically, that the summer months are going to give me a chance to slow down and catch up. I'm almost always wrong! Summer is more often a time of shifting gears. The focus and pattern are different, but my hours and days are just as occupied.

We may not have as many church activities on the calendar, but fall is coming with a new year of activities to plan. Sermons, seasonal studies, confirmation, and much more have been on my mind recently. It would be nice to be someone who casually takes each day as it comes, but church life requires some pre-planning.

I worked with a lay speaker many years ago, who preached regularly in area churches. He told me that he never planned or wrote a sermon in advance, as that did not leave room for the Holy Spirit to move. When his preaching invitations stopped coming, I asked around and discovered that those who heard him preach said every sermon sounded the same; he never had anything new to say.

This is precisely why summer has become my planning season. Because I need to give the Holy Spirit room to move and myself time to listen. Because good plans take time to unfold. Because I don't want next year to look and sound exactly like last year!

Maybe that's a good lesson for anytime of year. Pause. Listen. Let the Holy Spirit move and speak. Maybe the future is meant to look different than the past. Maybe God means to refresh what has always been, making usual traditions even better than before. We'll never know if we don't stop to listen.

Pastor Rachel

Other Upcoming Dates

- July 5th – Faith and Freedom 10 am Worship Service
- July 19th – Neighborhood Dinner from 5-7 pm
- August 9th – Swim Party at Spring Lake Country Club
- August 9th – Blessing of the Backpacks



Vermont Street Views

July 2026

July Birthdays

2	Elaine Sours	17	Brock Penn
4	Betty House	17	Adelyn Penn
4	David Self	19	Karen Weisinger
5	Elise Lindgren	20	Sissy Speak
6	Sue Wiseman	22	Alex Hanlin
9	Debra Wellborn	23	Rick Parise
11	Laura Ehrhart	24	Luke Gittings
12	Kae Blecha	25	Harold Hyslop
13	Sharon Dueterhaus	26	Nathalie Messan
14	Richard Ehrhart	27	Dan Hayden
16	Ryan Fierge	27	Erin Fierge
		27	Rev. Rachel Stockle
		28	Pat Dillion
		29	Kathy Emerick
		29	Ellen McIntyre

July Anniversaries

24	Chick & Diane Sloan
26	Jim & Karen Weede



Faith & Freedom Worship Service

On Sunday, July 5th, 2026, there will be one worship service at 10 am.

Church Office Hours for the Fourth of July

Vermont Street UMC offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of the Fourth of July. Thank you and have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Back to School Backpacks Collection

The annual Back to School Fair is to be held on **August 1, 2026, at Iles Elementary from 8 am to 11 am.**

Our help is needed in providing school supplies and backpacks for Jr. and Sr. High students. Below is the list of school supplies needed. The deadline for bringing items to church is July 21. Our Missions and Health Team will be purchasing the backpacks once we know how many we need. You may also contribute towards the purchase of backpacks; just make sure your donation is clearly marked.

Junior High/High School

- 2 binders (3")
- 10 mechanical or wooden pencils (#2)
 - 6 blue or black pens
 - 3 composition notebooks
 - 3 two-pocket folders
- 2 wide-tip dry-erase markers
 - (Expo brand preferred.)
- 1 pack of Crayola colored pencils
 - 1 pack of loose-leaf paper
 - 1 zippered pencil pouch
- Corded headphones/earbuds



We are taking cash donations for backpacks

Please do not purchase individual boxes of Kleenex/facial tissues for backpacks this year. The United Way will be providing these to all Back-to-School Help Fair participants.

Thank you!



			1. 10:00 am - Coffee & Conversation 4:45 pm – Praise Band	2.	3. <i>Church Offices Are Closed for the Fourth of July</i>	4. Fourth of July
5. 10 am – Faith and Freedom Worship Service Mission Trip	6. 9:00 am Care Team Mission trip	7. 9:00 am—Quilters 9:30 am - Staff Meeting Mission trip	8. 4:45 pm – Praise Band Mission trip	9. Mission trip	10. Mission trip	11.
12. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship	13. 9:00 am Care Team 5:30 pm Missions & Health Team 6:30 pm Discipleship Team Quilt guild in Fellowship Hall	14. 6 pm – Wow @ Sprouts Quilt guild in Fellowship Hall	15. 4:45 pm – Praise Band Quilt guild in Fellowship Hall	16. Quilt guild in Fellowship Hall	17. Wedding rehearsal	18. Wedding
19. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship 5 pm – 7 pm – Neighborhood Dinner	20. 9:00 am Care Team	21. 9:00 am—Quilters 7:00 pm – Cooperative ministries	22.	23.	24.	25.
26. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship	27. 9:00 am Care Team 6:15 pm – Leadership Board	28. 9:00 am—Quilters	29.	30.	31.	

UNMET NEEDS - 30 YEARS in 2027

In 2024, the Adams County Community Needs Assessment <https://bit.ly/uwacdata> reveals that nearly 40% of households struggle to afford necessities like housing, food, and childcare. Specifically, 27% of the county is classified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

Barb Gerdes served as a representative from our church in 1993, along with Rev. Tim White from Trinity Church of Christ and Claire Robinson who, together with others, formed a private pool of donations to assist families during crises or disasters. The flood of 1993 had devastated the financial stability of many families and threatened their future sustainability. Today, the collaborative program offers a safety net through referrals for individuals or families with rent and housing payments, utility bills, emergency home or car repairs, and/or medical or dental expenses.

The committee formalized with United Way of Adams County in 1997. It receives individual donations, bi-weekly pledges from twenty member churches, and also receives many grants because of its continued transparency and accountability. VSUMC has four members (Susan Kissick, 2000; Karen Weisinger, 2015; Diana Calvert, 2023; and David Lewis, 2026) who rotate at biweekly meetings and oversee current client referrals. We also oversee the former Herald Whig Good News at Christmas campaign and the newly established Refugee Support Fund. We appreciate your continued support as we approach 2027.

Children & Youth Swim Party

When: Sunday, August 9th

Where: Spring Lake Country Club

Time: Meet at Spring Lake at 1 PM

If you need a ride, meet at the church at 12:30 PM. We say, "Children & Youth," but the whole family is invited, and we aren't checking the ages of some "big kids" who want to join us!

Sign up at church or by calling or emailing the church office or Pastor Rachel.



Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is made up of people who receive the weekly prayer list by email from the Care Team. We pray for the people on the list during the week. The list is confidential. Would you be interested in being a member of this important ministry?

Flower of the Month - June and July

June Flowers are
Honeysuckle and the Rose



July flowers are the
Water lily and Delphinium



Neighborhood Dinner

Sunday, July 19th, from 5-7 pm, we will be having a dinner in the east parking lot for our neighborhood Family. Everyone is invited!

Name Tags

Please wear your nametags! If you need a new one, please let the Church office know!

Youth Mission Trip

July 5th - July 10th

Greeters & Ushers Schedule

July Schedule

10 am Communion:
Diana Calvert & Laura Hampsmire

9 am Ushers July:
Don Altheide & Travis Brown

11 am Ushers

July 5th:
July 12th: Jim Weede
July 19th: Justin & Nathalie Messan
July 26th: Maxine Paluska

Gathering Place Hosts

July 5th:
Faith and Freedom Service
July 12th: Alan & Judy VanDeBoe
July 19th: Beth Buckley
July 26th: Fae & Charlie Jones



Worship Attendance

May 2026

	9 am	10 am	11 am	Total
3 rd	65		34	115
10 th	93		34	127
17 th	75		28	103
24 th	70		27	115
31 st	65		37	102

June 2026

	9 am	10 am	11 am	Total
7 th	79	-	36	115
14 th	PARK			PARK
21 st	66	-	42	108
28 th	60	-	31	91

If you would like to sign up to be an usher or greeter for the 9 am or 11 am worship services, Please contact the church office at 217-222-7468. If you have already contacted the church, please let us know how many Sundays and times you are willing to serve as a greeter. Thank you.

Leadership Board Meeting Notes

Leadership Board members for 2026 are:

Dikki Andrews	Fae Jones	Cathy Staff (chair)
Brad Billings	John Kissick	Clif Weisinger
Julie Brink	Gary Livesay	John Wooleyhan

A. Phone

The bid from Adams was approved and the new phone system is being installed.

B. Building / Grounds

A sensor for the chiller is ordered and will be installed by Keck Heating and Air Conditioning.

No new boiler is needed, just a thorough cleaning.

Painting is being done.

The phone system is being installed this week.

Sealing and striping the 8th at Vermont parking lot will begin in late June or early July

Wooden doors are being refurbished by Kemner

Replacing the toilet in the women's restroom is being discussed.

C. Paid Leave Policy

The Board approved paying Christina Kaufman for her 2024 paid leave hours and rolling over the 2025 hours.

D. Preschool Sale

The sale has changed to allow other preschools / daycares / classrooms / museums to have access to the materials one group at a time. The sale will begin July 1 and conclude before school starts. Sarah Bange and Ian Mehaffy are overseeing the sale.

E. Intern

Sandra Sony will serve VSUMC from May 29 – August 9.

She has set some goals for her time here which include work with the youth group, children's ministry, neighborhood outreach, worship, and community ministry opportunities.

F: Handbells

Three octaves of handbells and the chimes will be serviced this fall by a mobile company from Texas. The company will clean, replace needed parts, and adjust the bells for optimum ringing. Money from the Cory fund will be used.

G. Trespass Letter of Consent

Pastor Rachel contacted the Quincy Police Department to inquire about the wording of the required sign. A sample sign was sent and the Leadership Board approved the wording and requested that Pastor Rachel have the signs made and installed.

H: Sunset Apartments

Brad Billings and Clif Weisinger met with the Sunset Home to inquire if they would be willing to contribute to the upkeep of the parking lot as tenants and employees of Sunset Apartments use it. She discussed it with the Sunset Board at their meeting. Pastor Rachel was informed that the employees and residents were told not to use our parking lot.

The Leadership Board approved that the residents and employees of Sunset Apartments may continue to use the parking lot at 8th at Vermont St. but we would appreciate an annual contribution to the church by those individuals.

Leadership Board Summary continues on the next page.

I: Parking Lot

The pastor at St. John's Parish has expressed interest and willingness to contribute to the upkeep of the parking lot at 8th at Vermont St. in exchange for their parishioners and visitors being able to use it.

J: UWF Funeral Lunches

The UWF has suggested a policy regarding funeral lunches. A cold sandwich lunch with sides and dessert will be offered with the family encouraged to make a donation to cover costs.

If the family wants something different, the UWF will work with the family regarding catering but the family will be responsible for the cost.

K: Letter regarding Traditional Worship

A parishioner wrote a letter to the Board asking that the screen not be used during the traditional service (9:00). The screen hides the architecture and stained-glass window. It was decided to lower the screen during the 9:00 service and see how the congregation responds.

There have been positive comments regarding lowering the screen during the 9:00 service. There are large print bulletins available as well as large print copies of both hymnals.

L: New District

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference will move to four districts beginning January 1, 2027.

We will be in the Central District and Rev. Jessica Baldyga will serve as our superintendent.

Church Goals

Implement aspects of the marketing plan (Brad Billings, Julie Brink, Cathy Staff)

A request was made to have pictures from VBS put on social media

Expand cooperative UMC ministry work to increase visibility in the community

(Fae Jones, Gary Livesay, Rachel Stockle)

Vacation Bible School / Church in the Park

Next meeting is in July, next event is the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day

Determine the best way to increase children and youth ministry (Dikki Andrews, Fae Jones)

Mission Trip: July 5-10 to Wheaton, IL

Youth group continues to meet in the summer

Working to reestablish Sunday School for the younger children

Fae Jones in pursuing a person to start a Children's choir

Leadership Board Goals

1. Restructuring of Sunday Steward position (John Kissick, Clif Weisinger)

Work continues

2. Vision of potential building use i.e. preschool rooms (Dikki Andrews)

Ideas suggested: short-term day care for foster children

indoor playground

sensory room

room for quilters

music studio rentals

food pantry storage

3. Enhance and maintain communication between the Leadership Board, committees, and the congregation. (Pastor Rachel, Cathy Staff)

Ongoing

The Leadership Board thanks Kelly and Priscilla McElroy for cleaning up the flooding that occurred on Sunday, June 21. Your help was most appreciated!