

August, 2026

Vermont Street Views

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Pastors Corner *Letter from Sandra*

Dear Vermont Street UMC Church Family,
As I come to the end of my summer internship, my heart is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside you. I arrived here in Quincy with two bags, but I am leaving with so much more than that. I am leaving with a family, friendships, and countless precious memories that I will carry with me. Thank you for welcoming me with such kindness, encouragement, and generosity. From the very beginning, you made me feel at home, and through this community, I have truly experienced God's love in meaningful ways.

Serving in children's ministry has been a special blessing. Watching the children grow in their faith, listening to their stories and questions, sharing Bible stories, laughing, and praying together have reminded me that God is at work in every generation. The relationships we have built, their joy, honesty, and curiosity have strengthened my own faith and deepened my calling to ministry.

Article Continues on page 4.

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 Ruemmler,
Director of Praise Team

Other Upcoming Dates

- Aug 30th— 5-7 pm Neighborhood Meal
- Sept 9th— Bible study starts
- Sept 20th— 4-6 Church Picnic at Upper Moorman Park
- Sept 24th— Norma Crossland's 100th birthday
- Oct 4th— Rivers of Life Clergy Band Concert at 6 pm
- Oct 11th— 1:30 pm Charge conference at Melrose Chapel UMC
- Oct 17th— Sleep in Heavenly Peace at Melrose Chapel UMC
- Oct 25th— Neighborhood Meal with the Fall Carnival
- Oct 26th— Trunk or treat at Melrose Chapel UMC
- Nov 1st— All Saints Service

Vermont Street Views

August 2026

August Birthdays

2	Emma Staff	16	Shirley Tode
4	Chris Hyslop	16	Nadya Hayth
6	Jessica Koscielski	17	Andrew Sloan
6	Esther Strosaker	18	Ron Howell
7	Barbra Fry	21	John Duker
8	Donald Smith	27	Randy Fierge
8	Darrin Fierge		
9	Boniface Messan		
11	Andrew Brown		
12	Jan Quintero		
12	Gwynn Eadie		
14	Leah Hanlin		

August Anniversaries

4	Don & Sue Altheide
14	Hubert & Debbie Staff
15	Brad & Bonnie Billings
17	Wyverne & Bernita Penn
21	John & Candy Scott
26	John & Rhonda Basinger
29	Bill & Linda Dean

LEADERSHIP BOARD NOTES

Pastor Rachel Stockle
Marian Sorenson serves as secretary

Paycheck
The board approved changing the payroll vendor to Paychex, a company used by the conference. The cost is about half of what we are currently paying and they are very familiar with church accounting.

Air conditioner repair
A bid for the replacement of the compressors on our chiller has been received from Keck Heating and Air Conditioning. Another company has been contacted, but no bid has been received. The board approved seeking another bid before proceeding.

2027 Pastor’s Salaries
The forms from the conference were presented to the board and additional information was requested. The salaries for 2027 will be discussed and voted on at the August meeting.

Educational Expenses
The board approved making a \$2000 contribution to Sandra Sony’s educational expenses to be paid directly to Garrett Seminary.

New District Superintendent
Rev. Jessica Baldyga, the new district superintendent as of January 1, 2027, will be in Quincy and attend the August Leadership Board meeting.

Good Futures Acceleration
The board approved participating in this program designed to match our organization’s resources and facility with community needs to generate income. It is a self-paced program which will require 3-7 volunteers to spend 40 hours over 7-9 months. Cost is \$375.

Charge Conference
Charge Conference will be held October 11 at 1:30 pm at Melrose Chapel.

Preschool Sale
Items are still available and the sale continues.

Trespassing Sign
Work in progress

Leadership Goal 2: Vision of potential building use i.e. preschool rooms
The former preschool rooms were inspected by DCFS and Connect – Child and Family Solutions for use as short-term / emergency day care for foster children. No report was available from this inspection. Many questions need to be answered about how this concept would work. Adam Adrian from Connect is working with Dikki Andrews and Pastor Rachel.



						1.
2. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship	3. 9:00 am Care Team	4. 9:00 am—Quilters 9:30 am - Staff Meeting	5. 10:00 am - Coffee & Conversation 4:45 pm – Praise Band	6.	7.	8. Union UMC Ice Cream Social 4-7 pm
9. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship 1-3 pm Swim Party	10. 9:00 am Care Team	11. 9:00 am—Quilters 6:00 pm – WOW @ Sprouts	12. 4:45 pm – Praise Band	13.	14.	15.
16. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship	17. 9:00 am Care Team 6:00 pm – Building and Grounds	18. 9:00 am—Quilters	19. 4:45 pm – Praise Band	20.	21.	22.
23. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship	24. 9am—4 pm Clergy Consultations 9:00 am Care Team 6:15 pm – Leadership Board	25. 9:00 am—Quilters	26. 4:45 pm – Praise Band 7:00 pm – Chancel Choir	27.	28.	29.
30. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11 am Connection Worship 5 pm – 7 pm – Neighborhood Dinner	31. 9:00 am Care Team					

Rivers of Live Clergy Band Concert

*Rivers of Life Clergy Band Concert to Benefit
Sleep in Heavenly Peace On October 2nd*

Mark your calendars to enjoy an evening of great music while supporting an equally great cause! Vermont Street UMC proudly presents the Rivers of Life Clergy Band in concert on Sunday, October 2nd at 6 PM. Proceeds from this concert will be donated to Sleep In Heavenly Peace, the charity which builds beds for children who have no beds.



The Rivers of Life Clergy Band has been presenting benefit concerts throughout the state of Illinois for the past 18 years. Composed of five Methodist pastors, the Band presents a varied mix of Christian music which includes contemporary, gospel and hymns. Members of the group include Vermont Street's own Pastor Annelle along with Dan Perry, Joe Scheets, Tim Pate, and Mark Doane.

Join us for a lively, fun-filled evening of music and, oh yes, bring along your checkbook to help build some beds for deserving children!

WOW Information

Our next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, at Sprouts at 6:00. Our project will be collecting money for Iles School so teachers can buy what they need/want for their classrooms. This has become an annual event for us. Hope to see you there. RSVP Karen Weisinger at 217- 653-3690.

Confirmation Class

We will be having a confirmation class this fall. This is for young people to consider the faith they have been taught, claim it for themselves, and take on the joys and opportunities of church membership. The class will be open to youth from grades six and up. Please contact pastor Rachel if you are interested.

Flower of the Month – August

Poppies and Gladiolas



Back—to—School Blessing

Bless my paper and my pen.
Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me play,
This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class,
Guide my footsteps; clear my path.
Keep my tongue to speak your words.
Let your will for me be heard.

In every subject high or low,
May God's excellence be shown!
Keep me strong to reach the prize,
To grow in grace, becoming wise.

Whether far from home or near,
May I hold God's precepts dear.
To do my best at every task;
For this blessing, I do ask.

Help my family be a part
As I lift my mind and heart.
As I study, work, and pray,
Be with them throughout the day.

Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!
by the Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton

Greeters & Ushers Schedule

August Schedule

9 am Ushers

August

Brad Billings & John Staff

11 am Ushers

August 16th

Justin & Nathalie Messan

August 23rd

Maxine Paluska

August 30th

Don Larson

September Communion Schedule

9:00 am Brad Billings
& Diana Calvert

11:00 am— Dikki Andrews
& Maxine Paluska

Gathering Place Hosts

If you are interested in being a Gathering Space Host, reach out to the Church Office at 217-2245-7468 or Suzi Duker.

Worship Attendance

July 2026

	9 am	10 am	11 am	Total
5th		95		95
12th	72		34	106
19th	75		37	112
26th	56		25	81

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.

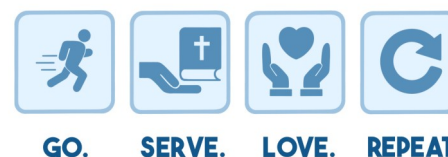
If you have already contacted the church, please let us know how many Sundays and times you are willing to serve as a greeter. Thank you.

Name Tags

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

Neighborhood Dinner

Sunday, August 30th from 5-7 pm, we will be having a dinner in the east parking lot for our neighborhood Family. Everyone is invited!



Sandra's Letter Continued

I am especially grateful to Pastor Rachel and Pastor Annelle for your wisdom, leadership, time, and support throughout my internship. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your ministry and for trusting me with this opportunity to serve. It has been a privilege to witness God's faithfulness in this congregation and to walk alongside people who faithfully share Christ's love with others. I am forever grateful, and I pray that the Lord will continue to use you for His glory. To all the staff, thank you for your support, encouragement and for welcoming me so warmly. It has been an honor to serve alongside you. To the parents, thank you for trusting me with your children and allowing me to be part of their faith journey. I will carry the lessons and experiences I have gained here as I continue to grow in ministry.

To my hosts, Kim and Chris Larson, words cannot fully express my gratitude. Thank you for your love, care, generosity, and support throughout this journey. You have truly been a blessing to me, and I pray that God continues to bless you abundantly. Jim and Elaine Sours, thank you for welcoming me to Quincy and for the love and support you have shown me. Your kindness has meant so much, and I pray that God continues to bless you as well. To the Care Team, the WOW, the Praise Band, and the many others who supported me in ways big and small, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness and encouragement have meant more than you know. I leave with a grateful heart, cherished memories, and confidence that God will continue to bless this church, its ministry, and the lives of all who worship and serve here. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your story. May we continue to trust God's guidance as we share His love with the world. As I embrace this next step of my journey, I humbly ask that you keep me in your prayers as I continue to follow God's calling and grow in ministry.

With love and gratitude,
Sandra Sony

College Student Information

Help the church family stay in touch with our college students. If you have someone in your family starting this exciting chapter of their lives, or continuing the journey. Please make sure we have their new address and information so we can continue to support them.

Gathering Space Hosts

We owe a huge thanks to the following

Gathering Place Hosts for the past year:

Beth Buckley, Mark / Pat Davis, Carol Gilliland, Charlie & Fae Jones, Chris & Kim Larson, Maxine Paluska, Esther Strosaker, and Alan & Judy VanDeBoe.

This faithful group has filled a special volunteer spot that we all enjoy on Sunday mornings.

Now it is time to fill a new schedule for a year that will begin in September. As of now we do not have enough people to fill 52 weeks so please consider talking with Suzi Duker or any current servers to find out just

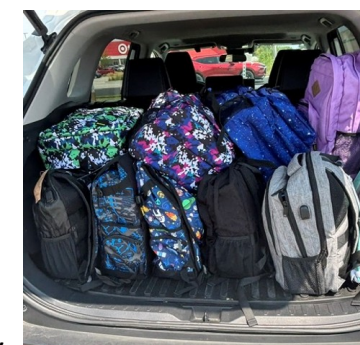
how easy this task is!

Typically people have worked 4-5 Sundays a year and the group is very good about trading days when conflicts arise. You do not have to provide anything but just set up before 10:00 and clean up at 11:00. Often two friends work together to fill a slot.

Please consider joining this mission.

Back to School Backpacks Collection Update

On August 1st, the Back to School Fair was held at Iles Elementary. Vermont Street United Methodist Church donated backpacks filled with school supplies.



These 20 backpacks are thanks to the amazing generosity and kindness of our Vermont Street family.

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? If so, contact Sue Altheide at 217-222-5689.