

# Welcome

VANDERGRIFT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Mission Statement

### To Glorify, Follow & Serve

Vandergrift Presbyterian Church prayerfully seeks a Pastor/ Head of Staff to join us as we grow together in Christ and strengthen our Gospel Presence within our community.

We invite you to learn more about us and the position on the following pages.

For additional information, please contact Beverly at [VPCsearch@gmail.com](mailto:VPCsearch@gmail.com).

Application information can be found on page 8.

We look forward to meeting you.

Warm Regards,

The VPC Search Committee



Pastor Search Committee

# Who We Are

## Our Family

The Vandergrift Presbyterian family is a blend of strong leaders, dedicated volunteers, quiet servants, faithful and less frequent worship attendees and occasional seekers. Many of our covenant partners have worshipped and served side by side for years, resulting in strong supportive relationships. Although a close-knit community, we maintain a friendly outlook and newcomers are warmly received.

In worship, the clear preaching of God's Word is welcomed and application to life's challenges is appreciated. The children's sermon is enjoyed by the entire congregation. We also find great joy in music that lifts our hearts in combined praise. Scripture reading is integral to our service, as are shared prayer and foundational creeds.

Our church family has a history of maintaining long-term pastoral calls. As our fellow traveler and leader, we respect and support our pastor's gifts. We are loyal in our commitment to him/her and strive individually and jointly to support our shepherd (and their family) as we journey together with God.

## Church Statistics

Active Covenant Partners - 198

Worship Attendance Pre-Covid: 110-120

Current: 60-70

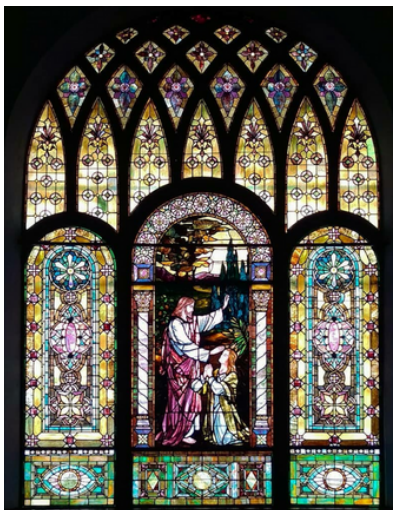
Adult Sunday School Pre-Covid: 30-35

Current: 18-20

Children's Sunday School Pre-Covid: 7

Current: 5

2021 Working Budget: \$177,000



# Who We Are

## Our Story

Built upon land donated by the town's founder, Vandergrift Presbyterian was established in 1897 and houses a beautiful sanctuary, multipurpose social hall, education annex (circa 1960s) and attached manse. As a fixture in the community, our church offers a legacy of preaching the Gospel and shining God's light within our small town and surrounding rural area.

Our recent history includes a merger between First and Trinity Presbyterian Churches – forming Vandergrift Presbyterian Church in 2001. Both PCUSA congregations brought a rich tradition of active congregants, local witness, and global outreach to the merger. Our combined congregation continued this legacy; however, over the past few years, we have seen a decline in the participation of young families and teens.

Following a lengthy discernment period and with over 95% of our congregants approving, Vandergrift Presbyterian was amicably dismissed from PCUSA's Redstone Presbytery. With our pastor, we were welcomed into ECO in May of 2018. In the Fall of 2019 approximately 40 adults participated in ECO's Flourishing Church Series and with a collective sense of renewal, our Session, committees, and laity began envisioning a bright future for our church family and community.

During 2020 we faced the challenges of the Covid Pandemic, and our energies became focused on adapting as a congregation. We mastered new technological skills that included live streaming worship and hosting a daily (zoom) coffee & devotional time. As soon as it was feasible, we began offering in-person worship.

In November 2020, we experienced the heartbreaking and sudden death of our pastor and friend of 16 years. Upon the recommendation of Rivers of Life Presbytery, the Session sought a transitional pastor to guide us through our grieving process and prepare us for a permanent call. Rev. Brenda Reibson was called and began a one year contract on April 12, 2021.

Today we are a congregation feeling the deep loss of our leader and navigating the many challenges that arise during seasons of transition. We are endeavoring to "fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2) as we redirect our focus to the future.



# Who We Are

## Our Leadership

Pastor/Head of Staff (FT)  
Worship Assistant (volunteer)  
Administrative Assistant (PT)  
Custodian (PT)  
Treasurer (PT)

Music Director (PT)  
Pianist/Organist  
12 Member Session  
6 Deacons  
Ministry Teams/Committees – Chaired by  
Session Members

## Our Fellowship

We have numerous opportunities for fellowship and many ways for our members to work alongside one another as we serve our community. Some of our favorites include:

- Monthly Coffee Hours after worship
- Weekly Coffee/Snack Table (pre-worship)
- Annual Church Picnic & seasonal Fellowship Dinners
- Easter Morning “Love Feast”
- Summer Park Bible Study
- Vocal & Bell Choirs
- Card Ministry
- Food Bank Distribution Day
- Community Light Up Night
- Local Arts Festival - VPC Comfort Station
- Painting & Crocheting Classes
- & Many More



Easter morning Love Feast

# Who We Are

## Our Missions

We support and participate in a variety of missions – locally, nationally, and around the world. Our congregation sponsors several Compassion Children and a missionary family serving in Bolivia. Yearly we support various mission opportunities such as World Vision's Global 6K for Water, Blanket Sunday (CWS), Angel Tree (local), Kiski Area Youth Network, Brother's Brother (Disaster Relief), Pine Springs Camp, etc. We offer support to our youth through financial assistance and prayers as they serve God through mission trips, internships, and related projects.

## Our Ministries

- Children's Ministries
  - Sunday School
  - Kid's Praise – Weekly Community After School Program providing Homework Support, Bible Study, Worship and Dinner
- Adult Ministries
  - Sunday School (2 Adult Classes)
  - Ongoing & Seasonal Bible Studies
  - Small Groups (Presbyterian Women & Gathered In Grace)
  - Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Ongoing Community Ministries
  - Westmoreland County Food Bank
    - – Serving approx. 75 families
  - Hosting Site for:
    - Kiski Area Youth Network
    - AA meetings
    - Lenton Lunches (Local Ministerium)
  - Blue Christmas Service (For those grieving)
  - Good Friday Service
  - National Day of Prayer Service, etc.



# Who We Are

## Our Community

Vandergrift PA, a town of approximately 4275 residents, is located in Westmoreland County, approximately 25 miles NE of Pittsburgh. A historic steel mill town, Vandergrift is known for its Victorian Architecture and Frederick Law Olmstead's design influence. Vandergrift Presbyterian Church sits one block from the business district, which is home to several restaurants, a pharmacy, a public library, and various retail establishments. Situated on a residential street, our church is highly visible in the neighborhood.

Vandergrift is located within the Kiski Area School District, which enrolls approximately 3600 students. Kiski Area offers varied courses of study, numerous sports activities, and award-winning music programs. The PA ranking for KA is 198 out of 500 school districts. In addition to activities offered by the school district, there are many opportunities for children to find their niche in local sports, creative arts, scouting, etc.

Within a short driving distance from town, there are numerous year-round outdoor activities to be found. These include river kayaking, canoeing, boating and fishing, various bike and walking trails, several county and state parks, and winter ski resorts. A Drive-In movie theater and roller rink are fun family activities available in neighboring communities. Professional sports, fine dining, and cultural activities are abundant in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area.

For more detailed information, please follow these links.

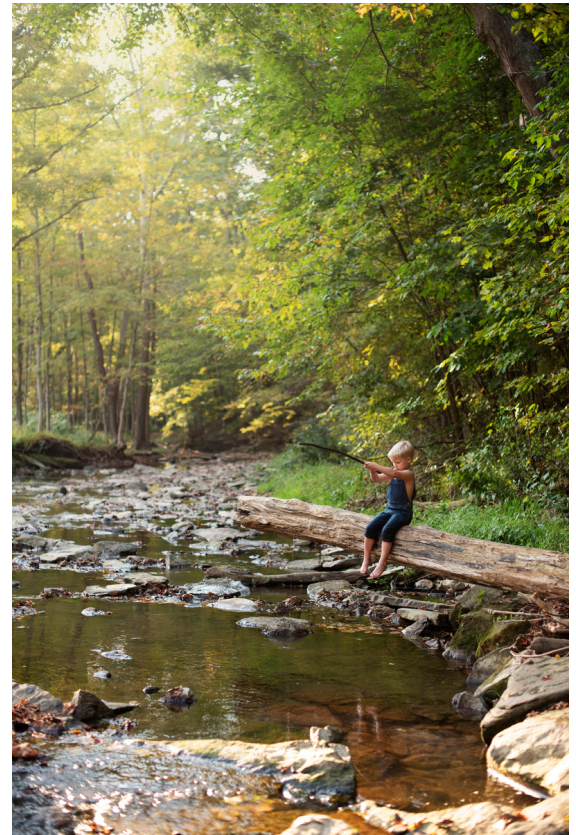
[Kiski Area School District](#)

[Vandergrift VIP](#)

[Vandergrift Borough](#)

[Westmoreland County](#)

[Visit Pittsburgh Website](#)



# Our Next Chapter

The Session shares a stated desire to become a multigenerational congregation once again – one with flourishing relationships between youngsters & seniors, singles & families, life-long & newly welcomed members. While we value the longevity of our congregation and continue to enjoy the benefit of long-time members, we also recognize the need to adapt in ways designed to reach a younger demographic as we build toward a healthy future.



We desire to deepen our spiritual roots, attract new covenant partners, and establish a united vision of God’s purposes for VPC. We hope the resulting growth will overflow into the surrounding community that we may be a visible and life-giving presence in Vandergrift. Continuing our support of numerous local, national, and international missions is foundational to who we are, and we envision expanding our local influence. While our community presents numerous opportunities for relational, life-giving outreach, we recognize the need for Spirit-led leadership to move us beyond our comfort zone and into our neighborhoods. The visioning prompt “What can our church do that 10,000 others cannot?” has captured our interest.

We look forward to exploring this question as we walk with a pastor who will encourage us to embrace new ideas, develop our God-given gifts, and step into a risk-taking, faith-building journey.



## **Details of Call** Expectations/Desired Attributes

- Demonstrates a disciplined lifestyle of seeking God above all
- Provides Spirit led & theologically sound teaching; relatable & challenging
- Exhibits enthusiasm that engages our congregation in worship, prayer & spiritual growth
- Displays servant leadership; humble and approachable
- Values clear communication as key to fostering relationships between Session, Committees, Covenant Partners, etc. Practices effective conflict resolution & reconciliation strategies.
- People oriented and possessing a strong interest in establishing ministries for children, youth, and families.
- Provides guidance and values our legacy as we define a future vision.

# Our Next Chapter

## Expectations/Desired Attributes (continued)

- Committed to Sequential Discipleship – from seekers to deeply committed believers – through support of Christian Ed, small groups, teaching/training opportunities, etc.
- Demonstrates effective administrative skills to organize, energize, oversee, and delegate our Staff, Session, Committees, Volunteers, and Covenant Partners. i.e.: Team Player/Team Builder
- Provider of sound counsel and a Godly presence in times of need. Leads by example though his/her own struggles and victories.
- Reflection of Christ's character beyond the walls of our church; demonstrating the gift of evangelism as he/she moves within the community.
- Willingness to collaborate with other community pastors/leaders.

### Qualifications

- Master of Divinity or equivalent experience
- Ordained (or working toward) Pastor in the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians or other Reformed Denomination
- 5 years demonstrated leadership experience
- Agreement with ECO Essential Tenants and ECO polity

### Compensation/Benefits

- Salary commensurate with experience, housing allowance, health benefits & others as specified by ECO.

---

## **We appreciate your interest in our Pastor/Head of Staff position.**

Applicants are asked to provide:

- Letter of Introduction; please include how your gifts and experiences dovetail with our expressed hopes as outlined in "Our Next Chapter".
- Resume/CV
- Statement of Faith
- 4 References who can speak to your character, gifts, and leadership/ministry experience
- Links to 3 sermons in video or audio format

Please email the above to Beverly at [PositionVPC@gmail.com](mailto:PositionVPC@gmail.com) (PDF format preferred) or by mail:

Vandergrift Presbyterian Church  
c/o Search Committee  
195 Washington Ave  
Vandergrift, PA 15690