



# Duanesburg

## REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Our church exists to help people come to Jesus,  
connect with His people, commune with His  
Father, conform to His likeness, and commit to  
serving in His kingdom.*

6512 Western Turnpike, Duanesburg, NY  
12056

[duanesburgchurch.org](http://duanesburgchurch.org)  
(518) 895-2448

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in Duanesburg Reformed Presbyterian Church as we look for a new pastor. We seek a man of wisdom, humility, and zealous fervor for the Lord Jesus Christ to shepherd our church as Senior Pastor.

### Our (brief) Background

The Duanesburg Reformed Presbyterian Church, PCA has a rich history of God's faithfulness dating back to its origin in 1793. Our Duanesburg community contains a healthy mix of working-class, agricultural, and professional families who have built homes in Duanesburg. We gather to worship and strive to show Christ's love through service in our community.

### Philosophy of Worship

Duanesburg's worship is focused on biblical teaching, discovering our purpose in Christ, based on His word. Our church exists to help people come to Jesus, connect with His people, commune with His father, conform to His likeness, and commit to serving in His kingdom. The Gospel of Grace is the foundation of all ministry, as we strive to be Christ centered, prayer permeated, and love motivated. We also have an external focus, to share the gospel with the surrounding community and beyond.

### Pastoral Goals and Community Needs

Our congregation is looking for a pastor to lead our church. Specifically, we are looking for applicants that God has equipped with the gift of instruction, a man who can help the church find and use our spiritual gifts, who can identify our strengths and weaknesses, and encourage us to be a more vibrant and faithful body of Christ. We hope our next pastor will share our outward evangelical focus, prepared to help us to be a greater light to our community in service, love, and evangelism.

We believe that a pastor with these specific gifts would complement the skills of our existing leadership, which include hospitality, missions, and serving the current congregation's needs.

### Direction to Further Inquiry

We on the pastoral search committee thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to getting to know you better. If you are interested in applying for the position of Senior Pastor, Please reach out to Joe Sell, Chairman of the pastoral search committee at joeridesbikes@gmail. Our church phone number is (518) 895-2448. Our website can be found at <https://duanesburgchurch.org/>



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## **Church Assessment**

### **Church History**

Duanesburg Reformed Presbyterian Church (DRPC), PCA has a rich history of God's faithfulness dating back to its origin in 1793 when Rev. James McKinney preached to the communities of Duanesburg and Princetown in homes, barns, and woods to the townspeople before the formal organization of the church in 1795. The history of the church has not been without hardship including fires that destroyed the church building first in 1836 and again in 1951. The re-built church building served the congregation well for over half a century. From 1973 to 1983 DRPC operated its own school, Covenant Christian School.

The needs of the congregation began to outgrow the sanctuary and other spaces necessary for teaching and fellowship; therefore, DRPC acquired land adjacent to its historic site and cemetery and built a multi-purpose church building. Our first formal worship service was held here in 2010. We have supported church planting throughout New York State both financially and by sending members. The church has also mentored candidates seeking ordination and missions work. Members of the church participate in short-term missions work such as ministering to the seniors of the Cherokee Nation and to those in countries that do not have sufficient access to medical services.

### **Description of Worship Service**

Sunday morning services are comprised of a blend of traditional and contemporary worship songs woven through scripture readings, seasons of prayer, and the sermon. Prior to the Pandemic, evening services and prayer meetings were held at the church. With the Pandemic there has been a focus on virtual church services with the worship service made available on streaming platforms. Many members continue to participate in the worship life of the church virtually. The Sunday worship service has returned to in person worship and attendance has grown steadily.

### **Congregation Profile**

DRPC averages one hundred in attendance virtually and in person. The major programs of the church are Women in the Church (WIC), Ladies Bible Study, Foreign and Domestic Missions, Young Adult Group, Men's Group and Children's Church. Sunday School for children through adults has not resumed yet. The outreaches of the church have included VBS and Trunk-or-Treat. The church partners with the Northeast Regional Food Bank to provide food for students and their families in the local Duanesburg school system through the Backpack Program. The church supports LifeSavers Ministries in their work to minister to young families and women who are facing unplanned pregnancies. The church also supports Schenectady City Mission and volunteers to help at their community meals.

The current pulpit vacancy is due to our former pastor, Dr. Kenneth McHeard being called to serve a church in Augusta, Georgia.

Our Assistant Pastor, Cody Gibson, is preparing to plant a church in Oneonta, New York.

## Duanesburg Community Profile

### Location

Duanesburg is located in a scenic area one-half hour west of the Capital District area which includes the cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY. The hamlet of Duanesburg is at the crossroads of US Route 20 and NYS Route 7. The nearby exit of I-88 links us to the NYS Thruway, Northway, the Schoharie Valley and NYS Southern Tier. The Adirondack and Catskill Mountain Ranges and the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers are close by. While still rural in character, our community has seen steady growth over the last several years. We enjoy the benefits of country living with a proximity to city activities.

### Employment

While there are still dairy and vegetable farms within our local area, most people commute to the Capital District area. There is a diversified economic base anchored by NYS government offices located in Albany. General Electric originated in Schenectady, about 15 minutes from us, and is still a major employer. In nearby Saratoga County a computer chip fabrication facility operated by Global Foundries is another new major tech employer. Creative, incubator businesses have made an impact substantial enough to have earned the Capital District area the label of "Tech Valley."

We also have a strong academic presence: Union, Siena, RPI, SUNY Albany and Cobleskill, Russell Sage, Albany Law, Skidmore, and Hartwick, as well as, Schenectady County and Hudson Valley Community Colleges. There are several major hospitals, including the teaching hospitals of Albany Medical Center and the Albany College of Pharmacy. The Capital District area is a vibrant area with many employment opportunities at NYS Offices, restaurants, shopping malls, and commercial businesses. The excellent road network in our area allows for a very reasonable commuting time and distance between home and work. With the transition to remote work that resulted from the Pandemic, Duanesburg has become even more attractive as an area to live and work. The town itself has a major grocery store and pharmacy, as well as restaurants and shops.

### Cultural and Recreational

This area offers an almost unlimited range of activities. From hiking in the hills and mountains to "big-name" shows at Saratoga Performing Arts or the Times Union Center, there is something for everyone. Proctor's Theater stages Broadway shows. There are many local music groups, ranging from the Schoharie Valley Choral Group to the Schenectady Light Opera. There is a bike trail along many miles of the Mohawk River. Watching boats navigate the locks and picnicking at area State Parks are summer activities enjoyed by many families. Skiing and



snowmobiling are popular winter sports. There is a Community Center with gym and pool for year-round fitness opportunities.

### **Local Education**

Duanesburg Schools are rated highly within our area. Both traditional and ACE Christian Schools are available. Home-schoolers are supported by an active LEAH organization.

### **Summary**

Our Duanesburg community offers a fine place to live. We are small enough to still know our neighbors but have city amenities nearby. The continuing growth in our area will offer us many new opportunities to fulfill the church's mission.