

Caring for
**GOD'S
CHURCH**

DEACON CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST



CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME! THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY.

WE'RE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE TO
FOLLOW JESUS AND POINT OTHERS TO HIM.

WE PRAY TODAY'S WORSHIP ENCOURAGES
YOUR HEART & STRENGTHENS YOUR FAITH.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH
US AS MUCH AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE.



CHECK-IN

LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE!

CHECK-IN ONLINE OR FILL
OUT A CONNECT CARD.

PROGRAM

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to Worship	Dean Baker
<i>Sing to Me of Heaven</i>	Ross Jordan
<i>Bind Us Together</i>	Ross Jordan
Opening Prayer	Jeremy Winger
<i>Purer In Heart, O God</i>	John Cox
<i>Because He Lives</i>	John Cox
Communion Prayers	Kelly Cherry
<i>This Is The Day</i>	Aidan Smith
Scripture Reading - 1 Peter 5:1-4	Liam Martinez
<i>It Is Well with My Soul</i>	Andrew Boone
Message: Caring For God's Church	Shane Robinson
<i>I Am Mine No More</i>	Andrew Boone
Deacon Confirmation	Elders
<i>I Love You With the Love of the Lord</i>	Ross Jordan
Final Remarks & Closing Prayer	Shane Robinson

SERVE COMMUNION IN MARCH

Noah Robinson, Chris Akers, Mark Stanley, Carter Pendley, Chris Smith, Danny Smith, Rhett Stanley, Leslie Waycaster

GREETERS

Porter & Lavelle Marcus, Tony & Yvonne Coley

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Cami & Callie Pendley

WEE WORSHIP

Luanne Holloway, Jennifer, Sophie & Mia Robinson

OVERVIEW

DEACONS TODAY & BEYOND

Over the past several months, our elders have worked diligently to examine the present needs of the church and seek out men who are respected, spiritually mature, and capable of faithfully helping meet those needs.

In January 2026, the elders spent time discerning and praying about the deacon selection process (**Phase 1**).

Beginning in February, the elders met with existing deacons and potential deacons to discuss church needs, future plans, and where these men stood in regard to moving forward in the process (**Phase 2**).

On March 8, the elders affirmed these men before the congregation as qualified candidates for the areas of responsibility they believe are necessary to maintain a healthy, functional, and spiritually mature congregation. At that time, the elders requested feedback from the congregation and set a date to confirm these men as deacons (**Phase 3**).

Today, March 22, we move forward with confirming these men to work alongside the church so that we may continue to meet real needs and help the congregation remain healthy and focused on its mission of *Pointing People to Jesus* (**Phase 4**).

As previously mentioned, confirming these men does not mean the work of developing additional deacons and ministry leaders is complete. The elders will continue to identify, encourage, and develop new leaders as needs arise (**Phase 5**).

Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this process. May God be glorified in and bless our efforts.

ACTS 6:1-7

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

WHAT DEACONS ARE CALLED TO DO?

- **Address areas of neglect (Acts 6:1).** When people or tasks are being overlooked, deacons give voice to those concerns to make sure they are properly addressed.
- **Take responsibility for specific needs (Acts 6:2-3).** When needs arise, those who are respected, spiritually mature, and capable step to meet those needs.
- **Provide stability within the congregation (Acts 6:5-6).** Tension subsides when qualified men are appointed to step into specific roles to oversee specific tasks.
- **Sacrifice energy so the Word can spread (Acts 6:7).** Administrative burdens can cause the ministry of the Word to be neglected; deacons help share the load.

MESSAGE

CARING FOR GOD'S CHURCH

This lesson highlights five principles for church leaders. While the text used (1 Peter 5:1-4) is primarily about elders, much of what is written applies to leadership is general.

1 LEADERS NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED (V.1)

"The elders who are among you, I exhort" (1 Pet. 5:1)

The Meaning of Exhortation: To exhort means to call to one's side, call upon for help, instill with courage, or treat someone in a _____ manner.

The Reason for Encouragement: Leaders carry great responsibility and need to be encouraged to not grow _____ while doing good (Gal. 6:9).

2 LEADERS DO NOT OWN THE ORGANIZATION (V.2A)

"Shepherd the flock of God, which is among you" (1 Pet. 5:2)

The Command to Shepherd: The verb "shepherd" means to tend to or _____ for (see also Jn. 21:16).

The Proper Perspective: Leaders carry responsibility within a congregation, not _____ it (cp. 1 Pet. 5:3a; 3 Jn. 1:9-11). The church was promised and purchased by Jesus. It is His church and He is the one who owns it (Mt. 16:18; Ac. 20:28).

3

LEADERS HELP PEOPLE FLOURISH (V.2B)

"*Serving as overseers*" (1 Pet. 5:2)

The Role of Overseers: The term means to accept responsibility or see to the _____ of someone or something.

The Purpose of Leadership: Leadership is diversified to ensure proper attention is given to _____ and their needs (Ac. 6:1-4; Tit. 1:7; Eph. 4:11-12).

4

LEADERS NEED PROPER MOTIVATION (VV.2-3)

"...not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

Don't Do This: Don't lead because you're pressured, have selfish reasons, want to _____ or intimidates others.

Instead, Do This: Lead from a willing and surrendered heart. Lead from a place that is glad to help and eager to serve. Show people _____ to live by the _____ you live.

5

LEADERS FOLLOW THE CHIEF SHEPHERD (V.4)

"*And when the Chief Shepherd appears*" (1 Pet. 5:4).

Jesus As The Model for Leadership:

The Good Shepherd who _____ His life for sheep (Jn. 10:11).

The Great Shepherd who _____ His people (Heb. 13:20).

The Chief Shepherd who _____ faithful service (1 Pet. 5:4).

DEACONS

AREAS OF SERVICE



BENEVOLENCE & GROUNDS

Tony Coley is married to Yvonne Coley, and together they have two sons, Seth and Sean. Tony continues to serve as deacon over Benevolence and Grounds Ministry.



YOUNG AT HEART

Gary Duke is married to Becky Duke, and together they have two children, Kyle and Erin. Gary will serve as deacon of Young @ Heart Ministry.



YOUTH AND FAMILY

Darrell Edwards is married to Amanda Edwards, and together they have two daughters, Rachel and Reagan. Darrell serves as deacon of Youth and Family.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Patrick Goble is married to Mendy Goble, and together they have two children, Madelyn and Carter. Patrick will serve as a deacon of Children and Families Ministry.



BUILDING OPERATIONS

Roger Hughes is married to Andy Hughes, and together they have two sons, Weston and Hogan. Roger continues to serve as deacon of Building Operations.



COLLEGE MINISTRY

Sam Lewis is married to Samantha Lewis, and together they have one daughter, Nora. Sam will serve as deacon of College Ministry.



LADS 2 LEADERS

Matt Locke is married to Alison Locke, and together they have two children, Maddi and Will. Matt will serve as deacon of Lads2Leaders Ministry.



ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Tim Nelsen is married to Stefany Nelsen, and together they have two children, Lexi and Drew. Tim will serve as deacon of Adult Bible Class Ministry.



FINANCE (STRATEGIC PLANNING)

Tom Pendley is married to Cami Pendley, and together they have three children, Carter, Brady, and Callie. Tom continues to serve as deacon of Finance (Planning).



MISSIONS MINISTRY

Josh Quinn is married to Sarah Quinn, and together they have three children, Brodie, Jenna, and Caleb. Josh will serve as deacon of Missions Ministry.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Phil Shannon is married to Amanda Shannon, and together they have two daughters, Grace and Julia. Phil will serve as a deacon of Children and Families Ministry.



FINANCE (OPERATIONS)

Terry Shepherd is married to Connie Shepherd, and together they have two sons, Jordan and Justin. Terry continues to serve as deacon of Finance (Operations).



FELLOWSHIP AND FUNCTIONS

Chris Smith is married to Chrissie Smith, and together they have two sons, Caleb and Carson. Chris will serve as deacon of Fellowship and Functions Ministry.



SECURITY

Rhett Stanley is married to Ana Stanley, and together they have one son, Everett. Rhett will serve as deacon of Security.



MEDIA MINISTRY

Jeremy Winger is married to Erin Winger, and together they have three children, Connor, Ronan, and Piper. Jeremy will serve as deacon of Media Ministry.

OUR FOCUS

POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

The Central Church of Christ in Dalton, Georgia is about "Pointing People to Jesus." Our desire is to put the cross at the center of all we do. Our actions, motives, and aspirations are all upward focussed. Our front door is open wide to all who enter to be changed by the power of the gospel.

Our logo is patterned after these concepts as well as the physical design features at the entrance of our building.



The Steeple: points upwards towards the heavens.

The Cross: the cross is "central" to "Central."

The Lines: the upward direction pointing towards the cross and the heavens.

The Entrance: the front door is wide-open.

Our mission of *Pointing People to Jesus* is carried out in three movements or *Next Steps*. Join in the mission with us!

CONNECT → GROW → SERVE

While these three movements have specific details and phases, it is important to note that all three have a theme that run underneath: God. God's word. God's people.

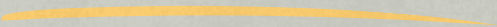
Connect people to God, His word, and His people.

Grow with God, His word, and His people.

Serve with God, according to His word, with His people.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

**POINTING
PEOPLE
TO JESUS**



1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:8-13, NKJV)

Deacon CONFIRMATION

CONDUCTED BY THE ELDERS



INTRODUCTION (DEAN BAKER)

A brief explanation of the process that led to this day.



SCRIPTURE READING (GEORGE BROCK)

A reminder of the biblical qualifications for deacons from 1 Timothy 3:8-13.



PRESENTATION OF DEACONS (FRANK BROWN)

The men are invited forward and their specific areas of service are presented.



CHARGE TO THE DEACONS (STEVE GRIGGS)

A charge is given to the men concerning their work and responsibility.



PRAYER OF BLESSING (BOB LEE)

A prayer offered asking God to bless our deacons and strengthen His church.