



AMY GEARHART SAGE
Senior Pastor

TERESA STEWART
*Pastor of Children,
Youth and
Student Ministries*

BARRY WENGER
*Organist &
Director of Worship & Music*

BETTY CLAY
Administrative Assistant

KATYA WOOLARD
Publication Assistant

MAGGIE HOLLEY
*Early Childhood Center
Co-Director*

TRINA TAFT
*Early Childhood Center
Co-Director*

Central United Methodist Church

5144 OAK STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

PHONE: (816) 753-1844 • FAX (816) 756-1553
www.centralcares.com

Dear Central UMC Family,

One in our church family said they dreaded the ‘thin letter’ coming from the church—it usually meant bad news or an appeal for money! We’re breaking with some of those old ways of living for some Good News in this ‘thin letter’ !!

God is doing a new thing at Central UMC! As we step with bold faithfulness into the Ministry Plan which was adopted last February, new visions for ministry and reaching out to our community and world with the unconditional love of Christ are emerging everywhere! As ministries of compassion, justice, hospitality and worship emerge, so to do the needs for updated facilities, resources and staff. Your continued faithful stewardship toward meeting and exceeding your pledge are one part of the ways we are resourcing this new ministry vision.

Another part is through staffing. Central is in a moment of having exceptional, gifted and missional leadership in all of its areas of ministry. As we grow more deeply in our commitment and vision to Student and Young Adult Ministries, the SPR Committee has asked the Bishop to appoint Rev. Creighton Alexander, an elder in the UMC to a fulltime appointment as the Pastor of Student Life Ministries. Creighton formerly served as the Pastor/Director of the Wesley Foundations of Southern Methodist University and Kansas University, and has been instrumental in bringing the Project Transformation student intern program to Central UMC for the past two years. As an affirmation of his leadership and gifts to both Central UMC and the entire Missouri Conference, his fulltime position has been funded in full by the Missouri Conference Congregational Development Team, as it becomes assumed into the Central budget over the next four years.

On Wednesday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m., there will be a Charge Conference to approve the salary package for this position. All Administrative Council members make up the voting members of the Charge Conference and it is an open meeting to all.

We also welcome Ms. Donna Kinder to our church staff as the newly hired Director of the Early Childhood Center. Donna comes to us from the early childhood department of the Park Hill School District and brings many gifts of expertise and education to transitioning our current ECC parttime program to a full-day Children and Family Center that is envisioned to be housed in new or re-developed ministry facilities.

Central United Methodist Church celebrates Christ’s unconditional love
that changes lives everyday, as together we:

Reach up to God, Reach within ourselves, and Reach out to the world.

Central United Methodist Church

5144 OAK STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

PHONE: (816) 753-1844 • FAX (816) 756-1553
www.centralcares.com

Finally, our ministry staff is not only those who are on the payroll, but includes those laypersons who offer themselves for leadership ministries throughout our congregation. This Fall, we will launch our first ever Stephen Ministry class as Central deepens its commitment to strengthening and organizing our caregiving ministries. Consider being trained for one-to-one caring ministry as we accept applications for this ministry throughout July and prepare for our Tuesday evening classes this Fall. More information is available about Stephen Ministry at Central on the website, www.centralcares.com, or in the bulletin and newsletter. Applications may be downloaded or picked up in the church office.

This Good News is a result of your faithful prayers and God's amazing grace as we step boldly in faith into a new vision. God is doing more than we can ask or imagine—can you feel it? Thanks for your support and faithfulness in this exciting, hope-filled time.

Serving Christ with you,

Rev. Amy Gearhart Sage, Senior Pastor

Central United Methodist Church celebrates Christ's unconditional love
that changes lives everyday, as together we:
Reach up to God, Reach within ourselves, and Reach out to the world.