



THE NEW EZEKIEL PROJECT

24th Annual

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
PRAYER BREAKFAST
2.29.2020



Keynote Speaker
HEASTER WHEELER
Michigan's Assistant of Secretary of State



A Message from the President

Dear Community partners and residents of the Great Lakes Bay Region,

Once again it is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast. It is always a pleasure to welcome so many of our brothers and sisters to this annual event.

This year' theme is "2020 Perfect Vision". We all know "perfection" is hard to obtain but when it comes to seeing with 20-20 vision, "perfection" is often aided by "corrective lenses" (that is "glasses".)

For almost 25 years now it has been the Ezekiel mission to join with other faith and values-based organizations in the Bay region to be that "corrective lens" of justice, equity and the dignity of persons. In the last year we have joined with our Gamaliel (our National network) brothers and sisters to issue a statement **against** hate crimes and **for** a more civil society; we have organized a task force and tutoring program to improve the third grade reading scores in our Saginaw schools; we have joined with a state-wide coalition to push for "Full and Fair" funding for the education of our children; and we were part of the coalition to successfully call for the removal of children (17 year old's) from adult and dangerous prisons.

Last year, I introduced you to our new Executive Director, Saginaw native, Ms. Jessica Hernandez. For the past two months Ms. Hernandez has been on medical leave and we pray fervently for her recovery and her return to Ezekiel. We need her. In 2019, under Ms. Hernandez's leadership we enlisted two new member congregations; developed our tutoring program; brought on two competent and capable staff persons and trained neighborhood residents to be powerful leaders in the community.

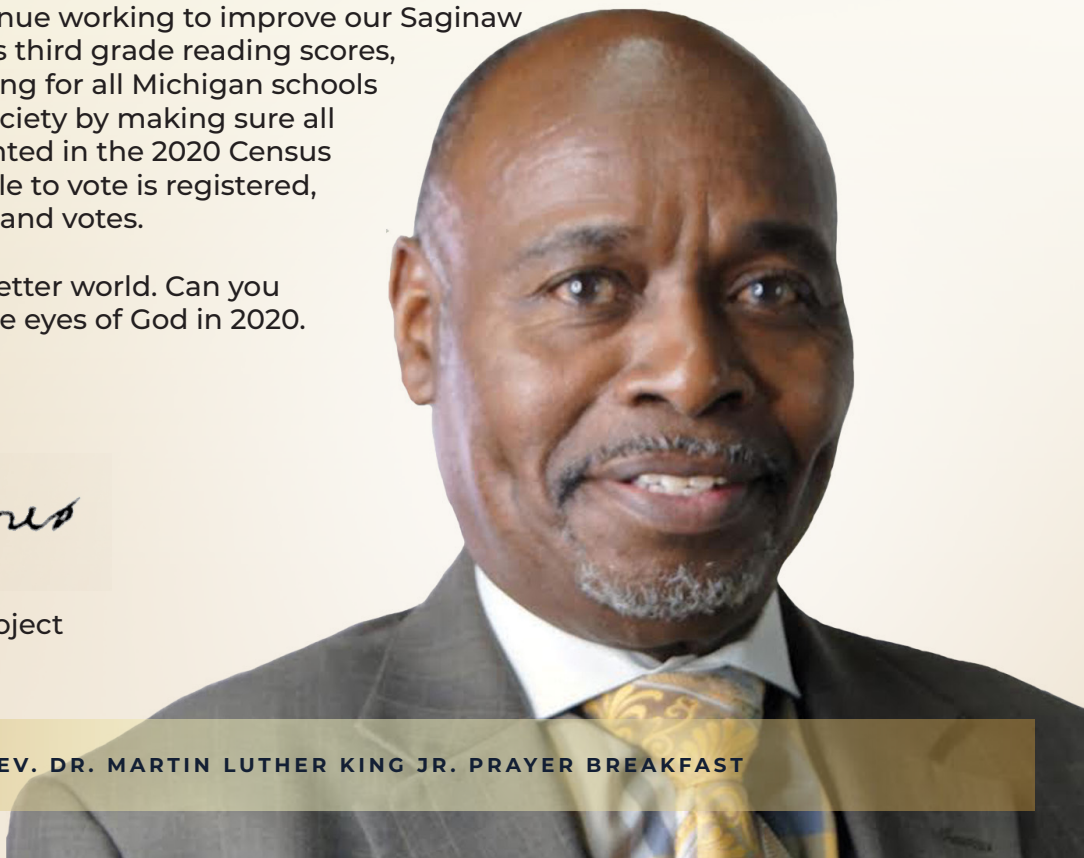
Our vision for 2020 is continue working to improve our Saginaw schools, raise our children's third grade reading scores, obtain "Full and Fair" funding for all Michigan schools and strengthen our civil society by making sure all our area residents are counted in the 2020 Census and everyone who is eligible to vote is registered, informed about the issues and votes.

This is a 2020 vision for a better world. Can you see it? May we see with the eyes of God in 2020.

God Bless you,



Deacon Willie Haynes,
President of the Ezekiel Project



Program

Welcome/Occasion **Willie Haynes**
President/The Ezekiel Project and New Mt Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

Invocation **Father Ron Wagner**
Pastors of Christ the Good Shepherd and St. John Paul II Parish

Lift Every Voice & Sing **Dr. Elizabeth Coleman, First Lady**
New Faith Temple C.O.G.I.C. Accompanied by Demona Reed

Grace/Release of Tables **Bishop Larry Camel**
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

***** BREAKFAST *****

Recognition of Guests **Rev. Dr. Charles Coleman, Pastor**
Pastor, New Faith Temple C.O.G.I.C.

Selection **Hillary Huebler**
Minister of Music, First Congregational Church

Prayers:

Education **Katie Stanley, Principal**
Weiss Elementary School

Justice **Honorable Judge Terry L. Clark**
Saginaw County 70th District Court

Program Overview:

Census **Brian Jackson, Director of Donor Services & Special Initiatives**
Saginaw Community Foundation

Full and Fair Funding **Michelle Iqbal, Education Organizer**
The Ezekiel Project

Task Force Summary **Barbara Noyes-Stark**
The Ezekiel Project, Environmental Task Force, First Congregational Church

Community Investment Offering **Rev. Douglas Leffler**
The Ezekiel Project, 1st Vice President, Retired Methodist Pastor

Introduction of Speaker **Rev. Hurley Coleman, Jr. Pastor**
World Outreach Campus Church

Solo "Precious Lord" **Demona Reed**
Minister of Music, The New Christ Community Church, Reed Music Studio

Speaker **Mr. Heaster Wheeler**
Assistant Secretary of State, State of Michigan

Rev. Dr. Hurley Coleman, Sr. Award **Rev. Hurley Coleman, Jr., Pastor**
Assisted by Dr. Charles Coleman

Posthumous Awards:

Mr. Charles McNair **Bonnie Woods**
30 Year Partner

Father Joseph Schabel **Bobby Deleon**
President, Mexican American Council

Closing Remarks/Prayer of Unity **Pastor Brant Piper**
Countryside Trinity Church

Keynote Speaker

HEASTER WHEELER

MICHIGAN'S ASSISTANT OF SECRETARY OF STATE



Heaster Wheeler is Michigan's assistant of secretary of state and serves under Jocelyn Benson, who was elected the 43rd secretary of state Nov. 6, 2018. Wheeler's responsibilities include helping advance the administration's initiatives for customer-service excellence, innovation and transparency while working to ensure Michigan's elections are fair and all citizens have equal access to the ballot.

As a lifelong Detroit resident, Wheeler's professional career spans several decades and includes roles involving advocacy for children, communities of color and the less fortunate, particularly in southeast Michigan. He began his service to the community as a Detroit firefighter, a job he held for 14 years before moving on to leadership roles across various sectors. His experience includes a tenure as assistant county executive for Wayne County,

Michigan's largest county. He also served as deputy director of the Michigan House Democratic Communications office and as a lobbyist for Ameritech and Detroit Public Schools. For more than a decade, Wheeler served as Executive Director for the Detroit branch for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, working to advance civil rights and social justice causes.

Additionally, Wheeler is founder and CEO of his own company, providing leadership, community engagements and government affairs consultation to businesses, educational institutions, community leaders and policy makers across Michigan.

Wheeler believes that the best way to predict the future is to create it.

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...and as always, we are grateful for the continued support of our community

About Us

OUR MISSION

The Ezekiel Project is a Community Organizing Collective committed to Saginaw, MI. Our mission is to empower people through organization, relationship building, skill development, information, and belief to transform communities with advocacy and activism.

We use these tools, and others provided by the ever-evolving discipline of community organizing, to guide everyday people to be powerful leaders within Saginaw; leaders who effectively impact the political, social, economic, and environmental, decisions that affect daily life. We are not timid about stating how our long-term aims are tied to dismantling the very system that perpetuates inequity and injustice our communities such as racism, sexism, and classism.

Ezekiel presently consists of approximately two dozen member organizations, an army of leaders, a small staff, a devoted board, and an innumerable list of partners working towards improving people's quality of life through systemic/institutional change. Our organization functions on shared leadership and welcomes new faces to join in the work to make Saginaw, and by extension the world at large, a more peaceful, equitable place by whatever means of participation suits your lifestyle.

At the Ezekiel Project we value and strive for radical inclusion and representation. Ezekiel is interfaith and interracial, respectful and inviting of the entire community.

THE FACES OF EZEKIAL PROJECT



Douglas Leffler
Vice President



Pastor Joyce Seals
Treasurer



Superintendent
Thomas Brown, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Charles Coleman



Ms. Mary Jean McDonald
Secretary



Father Ron Wagner



Ms. Jessica Hernandez
Executive Director

The Ezekial Project Members

MEMBERS OF VICARIATE III:

- Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption, Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss, Bishop
- St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Fr. Richard Bokinskie
- Holy Family Parish, Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Roger Pasioneck
- St. Dominic Parish, Fr. Gerald Pehler, Fr. Steve Gavitt
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fr. Gerald Pehler, OFM Cap
- St. Joseph Parish, Fr. Frank Voris, OFM Cap.
- St. Frances de Sales, Fr. John Mancini, OSFS
- Holy Spirit Parish, Fr. Peter Gaspeny
- St. Agnes Parish, Fr. Andy LaFramboise
- St. John XXIII Parish, Fr. Michael Steltencamp
- St. John Vianney, Pastoral Administrator: Sr. Janet Pewoski, CSJ
- St. John Paul II, Fr. Ron Wagner
- Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, Fr. Ron Wagner

- Countryside Trinity Church, Pastor Brant Piper
- Counter Culture, Ben Champagne & CJ Dalton
- Islamic Center of Saginaw, Imam Safwan Eid
- World Outreach Campus, Rev. Dr. Hurley J. Coleman, Jr.
- First United Methodist Church, Pastor Amy Terhune
- First Congregational Church of Saginaw, Reverend Jim Williams
- The New Christ Community Church, Pastor Eugene Seals & Pastor Joyce J. Seals
- Rhema Worship Cathedral Church of God in Christ, Supt. Thomas Brown, Jr.
- New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Alfred Harris, Jr.
- New Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, Rev. Dr. Charles Coleman
- Saint John's Episcopal Church, Rev. Curt Norman
- Greater Love Ministries, Pastor James Snead
- New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Bishop Larry Camel

Our member organizations represent different races, denominations, faiths and socio-economic backgrounds. We would like to recognize and celebrate the steadfast support of our dedicated, diverse religious community of Saginaw. Each member makes our collective strength ability to speak truth to power.

Action Through 5 Taskforces



CRIMINAL JUSTICE & REFORM

- Championed Raise the Age, a bipartisan package of bills which passed and was signed by Governor Whitmer
- Partnered with the ACLU to address the Smart Justice Campaign
- Involved in expungement workshops to assist formerly incarcerated citizens

ECONOMIC

- Taken lead in recruiting religious organizations to be involved in Census. Have held 5 meetings to engage religious leaders.
- Worked on the successful campaign with Voters Not Politicians that worked to pass legislation for voting reforms and gerrymandering.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

- Began Partnership/Collaboration with Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy regarding litter in the City of Saginaw. SBLC has worked for the Saginaw Land Bank to clear trash and brush in vacant lands currently owned by the Land Bank. Past activities with SBLC have been in the area of Pollinator plots.
- Helped sponsor a gardening workshop and seed exchange with H.M. Boyd Community Garden.
- Continued working in H. M. Boyd Community Garden during 2019 growing season.
- Changes in countywide recycling efforts have been disappointing. Refocusing on litter problems, especially cigarette butts.

TRAINING

- Three community leaders and two staff members were sent to N'TSOSAKE -- Women who walk with Lions and Carry their Own Things – a special training just for women.
- One Staff person was sent to week long training in Clarkston, Michigan
- 6 Community leaders were sent to week long training in Clarkston, Michigan
- 1 Staff person and 2 community members attended “Race & Power” in Nashville, Tennessee, Rev. Dr. Charles Coleman was a presenter at this national conference.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS TABLE

- Participated in statewide religious leaders' trainings in Lansing and Ypsilanti.
- Participated in a legislative education day in Lansing.
- Religious leaders host monthly meetings that have addressed Census and consensus statement on hate crimes and white nationalism
- Participated in National Religious Leaders Meetings and drafting of National Theological Statements

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Ezekiel Project's Education Task Force is strengthening education access and quality across the state from a direct-impact standpoint as well as a policy standpoint through the Literacy Expands Greater Opportunities (LEGO) program and the full and fair funding campaign in partnership with the Michigan Education Justice Coalition (MEJC).

The LEGO program is an after-school reading program that pairs third-grade students from Jessie Loomis and Jessie Rouse Elementary Schools with trained adult mentors from the community to improve their reading comprehension, reading speed, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. There are currently around 20 students participating in this program and 17 mentors between the two schools. Saginaw Public Schools provides a snack for the students as well as transportation from the schools to their home. We want our students to not only master the M-STEP test coming up in April but to move up beyond their grade-level in reading comprehension.

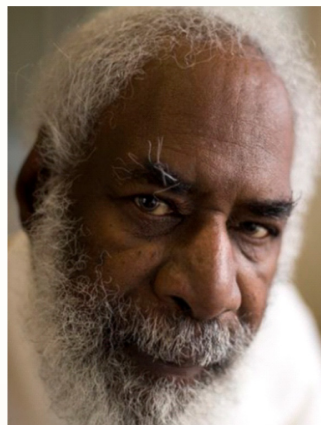
The long-term solution The Ezekiel Project is working on is the full and fair funding campaign with MEJC. It is a ballot initiative that will repeal the flat income tax rate in the state of Michigan and replace it with a graduated income tax structure that will lower income tax rates for all Michiganders except the top 4% of income earners who earn \$200,000 per year individually or \$400,000 jointly. This fair income tax structure will generate \$2.25 billion that will go towards Michigan public schools and our infrastructure. We will start collecting signatures in just a few weeks, and we need 425,000 signatures by the end of June to get on the ballot this November.

I know I can count on you to sign the petition in a few weeks, so if you want to be even more invested in the process of doing right by our students, our teachers, and our community's future, attend the next Education Task Force meeting in just two days on Monday, March 2 from 5:30PM to 6:30PM in Suttner Hall at First Congregational Church in Saginaw.



It gives us great pleasure to celebrate by recognizing individuals who promoted social justice within our community and exemplifies the spirit of Reverend Dr. Hurley J. Coleman, Sr. This award, named in honor of one of the founders of The Ezekial Project goes to three community leaders who have shown leadership in moving our community together and in speaking truth to power.

2020 HURLEY J. COLEMAN SR. COMMUNITY SERVICE POSTHUMOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

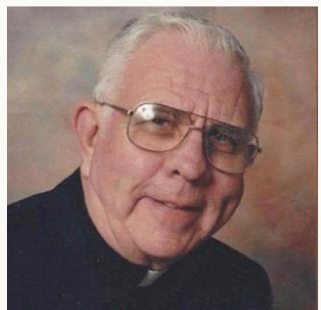


DR. CHARLES MCNAIR

Mr. McNair was affectionately known as Doctor McNair, perhaps because he had an uncanny ability to broaden your perspective on any situation. He also believed that "me and you" together can solve any problem that we face today. "You and me" can make this world a better place. Along with his students and teachers, Mr. McNair received numerous awards and letters of recognition, including science fair awards and the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Mr. McNair worked in education for 53 years where he served as a teacher, counselor, principal and father figure to many.

He served his community in so many ways. He was a member of SANKOFA, Inc. for twenty years; the Morley Enrichment Center Inc. for seven years; active volunteer for the Boy Scouts for thirty-five years; twenty-year member and volunteer for the Growth in Afrocentric Program. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for more than 50 years.

Mr. McNair was a longtime organizer of the Saginaw African Cultural Festival, which is one of the longest-running Black Art Festivals in the country.



FATHER JOSEPH ALLEN SCHABEL

He was a champion for the poor and disenfranchised. He started a lot of programs, marched in more than a few protests and wrote lots of letters to the editor over the years. He loved his hometown of Munger. He was available to people when they needed somebody to listen to them or help them through hard times. His pastoral work in parishes is still treasured by people. He was faithful about anointing people at the hospitals and often did funerals for people who had no church affiliation.

2020 HURLEY J. COLEMAN SR. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT: BISHOP LARRY D. CAMEL



Bishop Larry D. Camel was born and raised on the North Side of Saginaw, Michigan. He graduated from Arthur Hill Tech in 1970. On June 30th, 1979 he married his wife the beautiful First Lady Shirley J. Camel. He is a devoted husband and father of two wonderful daughters, Beyonca Caruth and Jasmine Camel. Bishop Camel retired from the Grey Iron/Delphi after 33 years of service in the General Motors Corporation. Bishop Camel first accepted his calling in 1996 under the leadership of Pastor Roy Manning at Corinthian Baptist Church. After serving faithfully under Pastor Manning, the Lord spoke and Bishop Camel answered the call. Three years later October 31st, 1999, Bishop Camel founded the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church holding their first services at The First Ward Community Center. In 2001 New Birth moved to 1418 South Warren Street in Saginaw, MI. Five years ago they moved to a new building with a new name, the New Birth Missionary Cathedral on 3121 Sheridan Avenue. This

is a much larger and spacious location with a sanctuary that will seat up to 400 people.

In 2017 he was nominated to Bishop-elect under Christ Fellowship Diocese, Prelate Bishop David Miller. In 2019 Bishop Camel was consecrated as a diocesan bishop for JKAI International, Prelate Bishop Richard Brown. Bishop Camel is currently appointed as the Regional Prelate of the Michigan Great Lakes Region.

Bishop Camel is one of the co-founders of The Parishioners on Patrol, which is a faith-based organization working in partnership with the Saginaw Police Department to help reduce crime and violence in our community. They continue to do community outreach and patrolling the streets evangelizing to citizens of Saginaw at Birch Park, The Crossing, Vista Villa, and surrounding Tri-city areas. Parishioners on Patrol have sponsored many food distributions, partnering with many other organizations. As of October 13, 2011, Parishioners on Patrol have fed over 50,000 people in Saginaw County. Also in 2011, the Bishop launched the first-ever "100 Days of Non-Violence" in the city of Saginaw with his organizations the Parishioners on Patrol and the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. This is a movement to bring peace to our streets, stop the gang violence, bullying in our schools, and take back our streets from the enemy. This movement has swept the community and brought many pastors and organizations together to stop the violence in our neighborhoods. Bishop Camel also started Cyber Education School located in his church. This program was designed to help individuals in his community to complete their high school diploma.

Bishop Camel has excelled within his community and has received numerous awards. Including the following...

- The Key to the City Award on numerous occasions
- The Martin Luther King Legacy Award, a national award from The US Department of Education
- The Community Service Award from Alturas International Inc.
- The Community Service Award from the Saginaw Branch of the NAACP
- The Faith of our Father's Award from Greater Coleman Temple
- The Next Generation of Leaders Award of Recognition
- The "Walley Bronner" Award from the American Red Cross of Michigan
- The Saginaw Valley "Bridge for Racial Harmony" Award
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Award on behalf of Parishioners on Patrol
- NBC 25 News nominated Bishop Larry Camel for the MSNBC's Grio's 100 annual lists of African-American Leaders

Bishop Larry Camel truly exemplifies the icon of great leadership and community service in the Great Lakes Bay District.

The Ezekiel Project in the Community



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Rev. Alfred L. Harris, Jr., Pastor

Church (989) 754-0801
Office (989) 754 - 1181
Email: newmtcalvarybapt@gmail.com

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Presbyterian Church USA & United Church of Christ
Pastor Brant Piper

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Call 313-578-6830



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GET WELL SOON, JESSICA!

Exodus 15:26
Qur'an 26:77-82



Many thanks to the Ezekiel Project for playing an active and crucial role in our community all year round!


Vanessa Guerra
State Representative for the 95th District

Constituents are encouraged to contact us at
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vanessaguerra@house.mi.gov

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Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sundays

**EXTENDS
CONGRATULATIONS**

TO

**SAGINAW EZEKIEL PROJECT
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Dr. Eugene O. Seals M.D., Pastor
Joyce Seals, Co-Pastor
Audrey Parker, Assistant Pastor



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"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Kathy Stewart

To serve, innovate, and empower while shifting toward an equitable, inclusive educational organization is exactly the legacy that Superintendent Dr. Kathy Stewart has accomplished. We wish you many blessings in your retirement. Thank you for moving Saginaw County forward.



FULL AND FAIR FUNDING FOR MICHIGAN SCHOOLS

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Since 2000, inflation-adjusted spending in Michigan has **fallen by \$663** per pupil, while the U.S. average for per-pupil spending increased by over \$1,400.¹

A recent study showed that, at current levels, our schools are **underfunded by over \$3 billion a year.**²

It's no surprise, then, that between 2003 and 2015, Michigan was the only state whose test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) **declined.**³

But, the money is there. If Michigan's corporations and wealthy individuals paid their fair share, we could **raise \$2 billion dollars** per year to #FundMISchools.

Now is the time for us to demand the schools our kids deserve.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AT WWW.BABIESOVERBILLIONAIRES.ORG

MICHIGAN EDUCATION JUSTICE COALITION

¹ Governor's 21st Century Education Commission Report, 2017
² MI School Finance Research Collaborative, 2017; MI Senate Fiscal Agency, 2018.
³ Professor Brian Jacob, University of Michigan, 2017.

**We are the First Congregational Church of Saginaw,
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historic cathedral district— We are here to stay!**

**Our tradition is one of social justice and cultural engagement where
we believe we can make a
difference in our city.**

PROUD HOST OF THE EZEKIEL PROJECT

We are an open and affirming church and all are welcome.

10:30AM Sunday Service
403 S. Jefferson Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989-754-6565 fccsaginaw.org/

Thank you for recognizing our congregation with the Untener Cup!



**RE-ELECT
Mike
Hanley**
SAGINAW COUNTY CLERK


OFFICE OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY CLERK
SAGINAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN

I'm proud to support
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The Ezekiel Project 24th Annual
MLK Prayer Breakfast

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are opened,
you'll see the
things worth
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- Rumi

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**MICHIGAN
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**We are a statewide education justice
coalition organizing to fully & fairly
fund our schools and communities**

In Saginaw, we are so excited to be working
with the Ezekiel Project. Link up with Ezekiel
Organizer Michelle Iqbal to learn how you can
get involved in the fight to win revenue for our
schools, water infrastructure and roads!



Babies Over Billionaires

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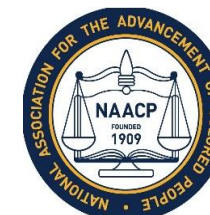
CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Saginaw Ezekiel Project
Board of Directors & Staff

On your years of advocacy & effort
In support of area citizens

From



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LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

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