

Dear Central Bay Churches,

As we approach this Christmas season, we want to share a Kingdom-advancing opportunity for your church to invest in.

You may know that the New Heart United Methodist Church, formerly West Michigan UMC, has had a dramatic turn-around story in the last five years. The church was ready to close in 2015, but New Heart now has many ministries to compassion and evangelistic outreach to the low-income, racially/culturally diverse neighborhood around it. An estimated 40% of the local population does not have a car. Twenty-two percent of the children live below the poverty level. New Heart's ministries are truly focused on "the least of these." (Matt.25:34-40)

Operating on a shoestring budget, New Heart has leveraged many ministries well beyond its size. Unfortunately, a number of these ministries have been temporarily suspended due to Covid, while others like the weekly food pantry and children's clothing pantry are thriving.

We need your help to position New Heart to sustain its current good works and position us for resuming many needed ministries as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted.

Would you, your church, consider taking up a Christmas offering and/or making a missions appropriation for New Heart's building repair project? This project is outlined in the attached "Building Repairs proposal." While this is a roof, window, and thermostat replacement project, the intent of this is request to repair the structure so that New Heart is set free to continue its ministries to the needy:

- Ministry to "the least of these" (Matt.25:34-40)
- "Proclaiming the Good News to the poor... to set the captives free" (Luke 4:18-11)
- To be agents of God giving "new hearts" into the heart of Saginaw (Ezek.35:26-27)

Please prayerfully consider our request which you will find in full with this letter. We ask this on behalf of the people of South Saginaw.

In Jesus Name,

Melene Wilsey
Pastor

Emmit Green
Trustee & SPRC Chair

David Stewart, Sr.
Assistant Pastor

