

McFarland UCC + Wisconsin Conference Partnership = Turnaround Success



Confirmand Lauren Raese snaps her picture in the “Made in God’s Image” mirror at McFarland UCC, a Wisconsin Conference turnaround

WE DID IT! The wild success of dreaming big for Mission:1 has become a touch-stone event in the turnaround of McFarland UCC.

Flash back to a church that had dwindled to about 40 in worship. They engaged in the Conference Turnaround Church Program, which you support through **Strengthen the Church**. Conference staff led a year-long self-assessment and identified a pastor with the right leadership profile. Worship, nursery and outreach were made more family friendly. A church Turnaround Team now meets regularly with revitalization coach Paul Nickerson.

Beginning to grow, they dared to adopt their first “really big” focused project – Mission:1. Really big because they set ambitious goals:

- Raise \$1,111 for NIN... *they raised over \$1,300*
- Send 111 letters to Congress... *they sent 130 letters*
- Collect 1,111 food items... *over 1,300 items totaling 833 pounds were donated to the community food pantry*
- **AND** they reached out, hosting a community meal

Pastor Kerri Parker’s message and frequent reminder: “Don’t you ever say you’re just a little church again. With God we can do it.”

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