

REACHING OUT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM

OPENING PRAYER led by Pastor Greg.

MINUTES taken by Cindy.

DISCUSSION

1. Digital Ministries

- A. Proposal for a new podcast initiative, "Ponderings with Pastor Greg," which would involve recording 5-10 minute conversations with Greg after church services. Judy suggested implementing this immediately after services to maximize engagement. The group agreed this approach would be simpler than a separate production, though Greg expressed some concerns about balancing this with his post-service availability for congregation members.

Action item: Judy to meet with Greg and Laura to discuss the podcast/interview concept, determine logistics, clarify Laura's intended role, and plan next steps.

- B. Facebook Communication - Need volunteers to monitor Facebook during service to greet online attendees, troubleshoot technical issues, and respond to prayer concerns; Greg to provide training/information on appropriate responses.

2. Special Offerings

- A. One Great Hour of Sharing (Cindy volunteered; underway in March)
- B. Blanket Sunday (May; Margaret volunteered)
- C. Donate Now Button Update - Greg to continue working with the website provider to resolve the "donate now" button issue and report progress to the committee.

MINISTER'S UPDATE

- A. Assembling personal care kits will be a part of the Maundy Thursday service.
- B. The committee discussed two main disaster relief efforts:
 - 1) A relief fund through the Union City UCC church where a tornado damaged the area. The relief fund will help community members with housing needs. And
 - 2) An ice storm-affected UCC congregation in Alpena.

The committee agreed to allow Greg to work directly with local church leaders on disaster relief announcements including appropriate ways to give, rather than requiring committee approval.

Action item: Greg to update the committee on the status of support for Alpena and other affected communities as information becomes available.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Back to Basics Food and Housing special offering in February totalled approximately \$400, to be split between the Otsego County Food Pantry and The Refuge, with checks to be sent in April.

OTHER BUSINESS

People will have the opportunity to bring diapers of various sizes to church over the next two Sundays for the family with the new baby, with a collection planned for March 29th.

Action item: Greg will announce "Diaper Sunday" from the pulpit and put an announcement in the bulletin(s).

CLOSING PRAYER led by Cindy.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM via Zoom <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/86904855449>