

Reaching Out Committee Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2025

Present: Greg Watling, Cindy Goller, Judy Gatewood-Keim, Margaret Hellenberg, Louanne Spearman

Absent: Kathy Menkes

Opening Prayer

The committee meeting began with introductions, an opening prayer led by Greg, and a brief discussion about the need to approve meeting minutes promptly to meet the newsletter deadline.

Minister's Update

Greg had updates regarding the Angel Tree tags and the Christmas Fund. Greg reported that 22 out of 25 Angel Tree items were turned in, and he suggested implementing a numbering system for 2026 to track who takes the items and when they plan to return them. He also emphasized the importance of including the age of the recipient to ensure appropriate clothing choices.

For the Christmas Fund, Cindy mentioned she would write up a report, send it to Liz for the newsletter, and copy Judy on the video script. including a blurb for the newsletter and a PDF for the bulletin insert. The group discussed announcing the special offering on November 30th, which is the first Sunday of Advent, Judy will be the liturgist, so she will make the announcement, and the choir performs, which typically draws a larger congregation, so more people would hear the announcement first-hand.

SNAP Fundraiser

The committee discussed their fundraising progress, noting they had raised \$976 toward a \$1,500 goal with one week remaining. Greg proposed that if they get within \$100 of the target, the committee would use their budget to make up the difference, which was agreed to by all members. Judy inquired about the budget amount, and Greg clarified that each committee has approximately \$200, with about \$40 likely spent so far.

Next Meeting

The group decided to cancel the December meeting, confirming January 19, 2026 as the next meeting date.

Pet Partners of Northern Michigan

Judy shared updates on the church allowing the training of Pet Partner teams to happen in Fellowship Hall. She revisited her role in training and evaluating therapy dogs, highlighting their impact on the community through partnerships with hospitals, assisted living facilities, and schools.

Closing Prayer

Cindy offered a closing prayer.