

## Blue Mound Food Pantry Newsletter for November 2023

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#### Church of the Month - Blue Mound United Methodist

#### Suggested Items to Donate This Month

**any kind of soup**; any kind of cereal or oatmeal; canned fruit; macaroni & cheese; toilet paper; dish liquid

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#### General Information

- The Taylorville Food Pantry continues to share with us many food and other items. These are free to us and are excess to them (more than they can distribute themselves.)
- The walk-in freezer went out again on October 6th (bad compressor). Thanks to the grade school for letting us store items in their walk-in freezer. The freezer was repaired October 18th and all food was returned to our NEW chest freezer. This freezer was paid for by 2 individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Thanks to Mitch Ward for taking care of the purchase and delivery with the help of Earl Alberts and Keith Reynolds.
- The Elwin United Methodist Church donated 117 cans of soup as well as other items.
- Dollar General in Blue Mound continues to donate fresh milk, juice, lunch meat as well as slightly out of date dry items. I got my first donation of fresh items from the Macon Dollar General this morning.
- The FCS Club at Meridian High School held a food drive on October 13th at the football game. Despite the rainy weather they were able to
- I request that the church of the month send **2** volunteers on Saturdays. Come at 8:00 and leave when finished. Be prepared to work without supervision and possibly do some cleaning or sorting of plastic bags.
- A donation of \$200 from the church of the month is requested to help share in the cost of rent, electricity, and pest control. Checks made payable to Interchurch Council.
- A representative from the Central Illinois Food Bank came on October 12th to conduct their annual monitor visit which we passed. Thanks to all the Saturday volunteers who helped clean the building!
- Last Saturday we began passing out forms to parents of children in the Meridian School District and Stonington for Christmas gifts this year. Leah Lookabaugh, Julie Bonn, and Alice Reed have agreed to shop again this year. The forms are going out now as they would like to shop on Black Friday, and all clients do not come every week. There has been a major increase in new families with children living in our service area coming for food since last Christmas.

collect 2 large boxes of food and \$92 in cash.

- The Meridian Junior High School Student Council will be holding their annual food drive for the food pantry the first full week of November. The students will deliver their donations on Monday, November 13 in the early afternoon. Anyone who would like to help sort and check dates on these food items during the week can contact Karen Wilson. It needs to be sorted by Saturday, November 18th, as that is when we will be distributing our Thanksgiving boxes.
- According to the Greater St. Louis Area Council Boy Scouts of America will be holding a food drive on November 18th.
- The Jubilee Community Garden is almost done for the season. Thanks to all the hard work done by Lourie and the board as well as other volunteers. Thanks also to all area gardeners who contributed fresh produce this summer. It has been greatly appreciated.

Donations to the Wee Care Fund will go directly to purchase Christmas gifts.

- I am starting to look forward to the upcoming holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas) and the special items I will need to pack in boxes. I will be needing more of these items: stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned milk, box mashed potatoes, cake mixes, frostings, pie fillings, mandarin oranges, pineapple, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, puddings and jello. Please have items for Thanksgiving at the pantry by November 11th as I will start packing boxes that day for distribution on November 18th.
- The Pleasant View Township board recently voted to donate \$2000 to the food pantry to help purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for Christmas to distribute to our clients.

#### **Member Churches**

**2023**

**November - Blue Mound United Methodist**

**December - Joy Assembly**

**2024**

**January - First Christian - Blue Mound**

**February - Old Stonington Baptist**

**March - Macon United Methodist**

**April - Holy Trinity Catholic**

**May - Stonington United Methodist**

**June - Remnant Church**

**July - First Baptist - Stonington**

**August - Meridian Church of God**



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