

BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY LETTER FOR MAY 2024

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CHURCH OF THE MONTH – Stonington United Methodist

Suggested items to donate this month – any kind of cereal or oatmeal; canned fruit and vegetables; canned soup; pasta sauce; shampoo

New Volunteer Expectations

It was decided at our quarterly meeting that starting now member churches need to send **4** volunteers each Saturday instead of 2. One person that can lift boxes in and out of shopping carts and into cars. One person that can assist people with produce and table items. Both these volunteers will be out in any kind of weather and should dress accordingly. Two people to sort, prep items, etc. as you have been doing. Please park on Lewis Street on the west side of the building. You can enter through either the front or back doors. 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 payable to Interchurch Council.

We continue to receive donations from the Taylorville Food Pantry, the Dollar General Stores in both Blue Mound and Macon, and from the Caseys store in Blue Mound. The Caseys store in Blue Mound and Dippin Mervs save boxes for me to pack food in for our neighbors. The storage freezer at the Macon Dollar General went out April 10th. We were given the opportunity to rescue any frozen items they could not fit in their freezers in the store. We also received frozen items from them on April 17th. We were given over 100 pounds of items both days. As a result, we were able to distribute ice cream items to every family this last Saturday.

Thanks to all the supporting churches and the individuals who donated items this last month. A resident of Blue Mound donated \$100 worth of food items. The number of families coming for food in April has been lower than in March.

Thanks to the employees of Bayer Corporation in Stonington who held a food drive among themselves in March. They donated a grocery cart full of food and cleaning supplies as well as \$250 in monetary donations.

The USDA has been sending large quantities of free commodities over the past few months. There have been 3 different frozen meats as well as canned, fresh, and frozen fruits. In April we also received fresh milk and cheese. In April we also received several items from the TANF program. This program gives us free food items that can only be given to families that have

children 18 or younger. We are looking for people who can lift boxes to help with our deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. These come on the first and third Mondays of each month around 9:00 am, except for holidays.

A non-working chest freezer has been donated by Charlene Beckett to use outside as the weather warms up. We can now keep cold foods at a safe temperature outside during distribution.

The Jubilee Community Garden in Blue Mound is looking for volunteers to do any kind of work in the garden. Contact me with any questions, and I will put you in touch with the garden manager. Any students needing community service hours for school are welcome to volunteer. Your report forms will be filled out and signed for this requirement. The Jubilee Community Garden provides fresh produce to the food pantry throughout the entire growing season.

The Stonington Community Garage Sales will be May 3rd & 4th. The Stonington United Methodist Church will have rummage and a lunch counter both days. The Stonington Summerfest will be held the weekend of June 21st – 23rd. The Stonington United Methodist Church will have its pie and ice cream booth open both Friday and Saturday that weekend. If your church is having a fundraiser or any event open to the public, please contact me by the 20th of the month so I can add the information to the newsletter.

Member Churches

2024

June – Remnant Church

July – First Baptist – Stonington

August – Meridian Church of God

September – Blue Mound United Methodist

October – Joy Assembly

November – First Christian – Blue Mound

December – Old Stonington Baptist

2025

January – Macon United Methodist

February – Holy Trinity Catholic

Contact Information

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217-820-3988 – must leave a voicemail or your call will not be returned