

**BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY LETTER FOR August 2024**

**CHURCH OF THE MONTH – Meridian Church of God**

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

Thanks to all the supporting churches and the individuals who donated items this last month. Jeff Martin and Gary Neimeyer donated 2 grocery carts of sweet corn distributed July 13th.

Bayer in Stonington read my previous newsletter and decided to make the following donations: 24 backpacks and 15 boxes of facial tissue for the back-to-school giveaway, 16 bottles of dish liquid, 22 bottles of shampoo & conditioner, 3 bottles of liquid hand soap, 30 tubes of toothpaste, 4 bottles of laundry detergent, \_\_\_ bottles of antiperspirant and 72 bars of soap.

The USDA has continued to send large quantities of free commodities over the past few months. We are now getting canned salmon and canned chicken. We are looking for people who can lift boxes to help with our deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. These deliveries come on the first and third Mondays of each month around 9:00 am, except for holidays.

We have been using a large quantity of plastic shopping bags like you get your groceries in at Walmart, Kroger, etc. If you can donate any clean bags without holes, it would be greatly appreciated. We are also starting to run out of canned vegetables. The food list from the Central Illinois Food Bank has been very limited lately, and I am having to shop at local stores for canned vegetables. We also continue to need

items like shampoo, bar soap, dish liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, antiperspirant, etc. I try to give out one of these types of items each week as they are not covered by SNAP (formerly food stamps).

We will be giving backpacks and other items to school children in the Meridian School District and those living in Stonington on August 3rd and 10th. I have a volunteer for those days to take care of that for us. At present we have 59 backpacks. We served 57 students last school year, so it would be nice to have some extra for the children to choose from. The children are also given a box of Kleenex along with a Walmart gift card to use to shop for school supplies. Donations of backpacks and boxes of Kleenex by the end of July would be greatly appreciated.

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 food pantry also gladly accepts donations of any excess fresh food you may have from your personal gardens. **There is a big crop of blackberries this season. I have been buying 2 cup containers to put the berries in to distribute on Saturdays. Any donations of clean plastic 2 cup containers with lids would be appreciated.**

The Macon United Methodist Church will be hosting Church in the Park at 11:30 AM on Sunday, August 11th. There will be praise music. Bring a picnic to share with your family. All are Welcome.

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

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

March – Stonington United Methodist

April – Remnant Church

May – First Baptist Church - Stonington

June – Meridian Church of God

### **Contact Information**

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