

July Food Pantry Newsletter

BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY LETTER FOR JULY 2024

CHURCH OF THE MONTH – First Baptist - Stonington

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. A Macon resident cleaned out his sister's kitchen after she moved to a residential facility and donated the unopened food to our pantry.

Thanks to the children attending Vacation Bible School at the First Christian Church of Blue Mound for collecting food for our pantry. They collected a grocery cart full of food and \$100 in cash donations.

A member of the Stonington United Methodist Church donated 2 used stand up air conditioners. A volunteer has already set one up in our dry storage room to keep those foods at a safe temperature. I was having to move any food likely to melt to the distribution room, which was causing crowding in that room.

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 got fresh apples and milk on July 1st. 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.

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).

I know that it seems like summer is just getting started, but we will be giving backpacks and other items to school children in the Meridian School District and those living in Stonington early in August. At present we have 35 backpacks. We served 57 students last school year. 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.

The next quarterly meeting of the Interchurch Council will be held on Saturday, July 13th at 10:30 am at the food pantry. The Distribution Room has air conditioning, so we will have a cool place to meet.

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

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

March – Stonington United Methodist

April – Remnant Church

May – First Baptist Church - Stonington

May -

Contact Information

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