

Interchurch Food Pantry Newsletter

BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY LETTER FOR December 2024

CHURCH OF THE MONTH – OLD STONINGTON BAPTIST

Suggested items to donate this month –any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned fruit; **canned soup**; canned pasta; shampoo; bar soap; dish liquid

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 are payable to Interchurch Council.

The extra volunteers in front have been a great help to us. I am officially registering families online on an iPad, so someone to manage the table keeps the traffic flowing. The days when no volunteer has been available have been very wearing for me as I am doing 2 jobs at once. The extra person to help with the carts is a great help also! I really appreciated this Saturday's volunteers. They were able to work without any supervision while I was dealing with the great number of families that came for food.

On November 19th I attended the distribution of funds from the WSOY Food Drive that was held October 4th. We do not get any of the food items, but this year we received a check for \$20,250! These funds can only be used to purchase food for the pantry. The committee allocating the funds tried to give each recipient 75% of their yearly budget. Since we have no grocery stores and rely on donations, the pantry has to purchase a great amount of the food we distribute. Thank you to anyone who supported the WSOY Food Drive. They plan to do the drive again next year.

The Dollar General stores in both Blue Mound and Macon have donated a large amount of just past the due date items, as well as milk and other cold items which we have been putting out for the families weekly.

Thanks to all the supporting churches and the individuals who donated items this last month! We distributed 103 Thanksgiving boxes to needy families on Saturday.

We will need these items for the Christmas boxes: boxes of au gratin or scalloped potatoes, boxes of jello & pudding mix, cake mix, frosting, pie filling, and items to bake with. I will not need any flour as I will be getting free USDA flour in December. I am also getting free USDA potato flakes in December. I will need these items by December 14, as I will start packing boxes that day.

The USDA has continued to send large quantities of free commodities over the past few months. We are looking for people who can lift boxes to help with our deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. We

have had several volunteers not available again this month, so new volunteers are vital! These deliveries come on the first and third Mondays of each month around 9:00 am, except for holidays.

The Meridian Jr. High School National Honor Society food drive arrived October 31st. There was a \$1,605 donation as well as 4,230 cans from the junior high. The grade school also donated 1,168 cans. Thanks for the great job!! This is the biggest food drive of the year for us.

We have been collecting names and wishes for the children in the Meridian School District and Stonington whose families come to us for food. They will receive clothing and a toy for Christmas. The money for this comes from a separate fund called Wee Care. Any donations to this fund would be appreciated. The shoppers will be Leah Lookabaugh, Julie Bonn, and Alice Reed. Donations of wrapping paper and tape would also be helpful.

The Macon United Methodist Church will be hosting a luncheon and cookie walk on Sunday, December 8th from 11am to 12:30 pm. 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

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

July – Blue Mound United Methodist Church

August – Joy Assembly

September – First Christian

October – Old Stonington Baptist