

**BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY LETTER FOR January 2025**

**CHURCH OF THE MONTH – MACON UNITED METHODIST**

**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, **Macaroni and cheese; and toilet paper are also needed.**

**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 Dollar General stores in both Blue Mound and Macon have continued to donate 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 again in December! We distributed 102 Christmas boxes to needy families on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. We also distributed Christmas gifts purchased from money in the Wee Care Fund to 75 children in 29 families who live in the Meridian School District or Stonington. Thanks to Leah Lookabaugh, Julie Bonn, and Alice Reed (and Family) for purchasing, organizing and distributing these gifts. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Wee Care Fund or donated wrapping paper or tape.

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! In January these deliveries come on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> around 9:00 am.

B J's Hideout held a food drive during the months of November and December to aid in our holiday distributions. There were about 3 big boxes each month.

The Macon Community Christmas drive donated their excess food items to our pantry this year. They completely filled my SUV with wonderful holiday items and other staples! Thanks for the generous donation!

Because of the high number of families coming for food during the holiday season, I have had to purchase more food than normal, especially at local merchants. Macaroni and cheese and toilet paper are 2 items that are packed in the boxes weekly. They have not been on the Central Illinois Food Bank food list for me to order. After my delivery this Monday, I will not get another delivery for 3 weeks. I do not have enough on hand to make it until then, IF they come up on the food list in January. Please consider donating either of these items as soon as possible.

I have been notified that the US Department of Agriculture has made a program change which is effective as of January 1, 2025. Pantries receiving USDA commodities (we are one) will have to serve anyone living anywhere in the state of Illinois who comes to us for food.

The next Interchurch Council board meeting will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the pantry Distribution Room. I hope the weather will permit as many representatives and pastors that can possibly attend.

The Stonington United Methodist Church will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The price of a meal is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under. Bruce and I went last year and the food was wonderful!

### **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