

## Interchurch council food pantry April newsletter From Karen Wilson

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### **CHURCH OF THE MONTH – REMNANT CHURCH**

**Suggested items to donate this month** --any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned vegetables and fruit; canned soup; canned pasta; shampoo; bar soap; toothpaste

#### **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. I continue to pick up items from the Taylorville Food Pantry each Friday. Thanks to the churches that continue to bring donated items throughout the month.

The number of families coming to get food each week continues to stay steady. Because of this, the extra people to help us in the front are extremely appreciated. I am expecting larger numbers in April with the holiday and warmer weather.

The USDA has continued to send large quantities of free commodities over the past several months. We are still looking for people who can lift boxes to help with our deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. All my regular volunteers are retired or in Gary's case, a farmer who will soon be planting his fields. The delivery on April 7<sup>th</sup> looks to be larger than normal, and I will be short of at least 2 main volunteers. Deliveries are the first and third Mondays each month at about 9:00 am except for federal holidays.

The Bayer plant in Stonington recently held a food drive among their employees. I believe the company also ordered several household and grooming items for us. We received toilet paper, dish liquid, shampoo, laundry soap, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, antiperspirant, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, canned pasta, noodle mixes, spaghetti sauce and \$160 in cash. The interim newsletter came out after their drive was completed, so they went out and bought boxed potatoes, mashed potatoes, and other Easter items with some of the cash. Thanks to Bayer employees and the company for this much needed food drive!

I want to thank all churches and individuals who came through with the much-needed items for the Easter boxes. Some of these items recently became available from the Central Illinois Food Bank for me to pick up, since I don't have a delivery until the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. I will be making 100 boxes to be prepared for an increased number of families. These boxes will be distributed on April 12<sup>th</sup>, so the meat can have time to thaw for Easter dinners.

The next Interchurch Council Board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the food pantry. This change in date is due to the Easter distribution on April 12<sup>th</sup>. I have a student coming after the distribution that day to help get reorganized for the following week.

The Jubilee Community Garden board met recently to discuss the upcoming growing season and work that needs to be done at the garden. Two workdays have been set: Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11 each day. The garden is located at 116 Kathy Court in Blue Mound. Please consider helping to get the garden prepared for this year. Food grown in the garden is donated to the food pantry for distribution all summer and is greatly appreciated. Garden boxes will also be available to individuals if you would like to grow your own vegetables. Contact Laurie Leuenberger at 217-820-7733 for more information.

### **Member Churches**

2025

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

November – Macon United Methodist

December – Holy Trinity Catholic

2026

January – Stonington United Methodist