

CHURCH OF THE MONTH (JUNE) – MERIDIAN CHURCH OF GOD

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, antiperspirant

New Volunteer Expectations

It was decided 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 donate items throughout the month.

There were some great donations this month. The bread man delivering to Macon Dollar General donated 7 racks of breads and snacks. The Decatur Caseys donated 3 totes and 2 milk crates of frozen items (including ice cream)!

The Central Illinois Food Bank received food from the Springfield mail carrier's food drive. We were able to purchase a 518-pound tote at 19 cents a pound. Some volunteers from the First Baptist Church in Stonington came to help unload the tote and sort the food. It was like having a mini food drive!!!

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. First Baptist in Stonington sent lots of willing volunteers in May. They helped clean the floor of the walk-in cooler and washed windows!

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. I do have one high school student able to help in June and July. This would be an opportunity to earn service hours. Deliveries come on the first and third Mondays each month at about 9:00 am (or earlier) except for federal holidays.

I know that school is just now getting finished for this school year, but it is never too early to start planning for next year. We will be helping the students in the Meridian School District and those living in the Stonington area get ready to go back to school starting in late July. They will receive a backpack, a box of Kleenex, toothpaste with a toothbrush, any donated school supplies, and a gift card to Walmart to purchase school supplies. We have plenty of backpacks on hand that would be of interest to boys, but we only have 15 backpacks that are in colors girls would appreciate. Please consider purchasing a backpack

for a girl, boxes of Kleenex, or donating to the Wee Care Fund. This fund is also used to purchase Christmas gifts for these same children.

Now I am sending a plea for help! The food pantry is taking over my life. I need time to help with an elderly mother-in-law and to pick and process my berries and garden. On Saturdays after pantry (10-12) a high school student could earn service hours by packing boxes for me. They would need to text me and set this up in advance so there will only be one. Another way to help would be to donate an hour or two in the mornings to help do any other activities. I could also use high school students or anyone who can lift boxes to help me tear down and set up for the next week. At present I am here almost every day. Mornings work best for me, but I am also around some in the afternoons. Texting would be best. I had to put a block on phone calls not in my list because I was getting too many spam calls. If you call, please leave a voicemail. Then I know that call is legitimate and will answer you. Thanks for prayerfully considering helping the pantry.

The Jubilee Community Garden continues to need volunteers to help make the garden a success. People and businesses to sponsor boxes are also welcome. Food grown in the garden is donated to the food pantry for distribution all summer and is greatly appreciated. Contact Laurie Leuenberger at 217-820-7733 for more information.

The Stonington Summerfest will be June 13 – 15. The Stonington United Methodist Church will be serving the Friday night meal (June 13th) from 5:00-7:00 pm in the pavilion. The meal will consist of pulled pork, bread, cheesy potatoes, slaw, & Texan cake. The price is \$12. Their yearly parade will begin at 11:00 on Saturday June 14. Fireworks are Sunday June 15th at dusk.

Member Churches

2025

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
February – Remnant Church
March – First Baptist Church - Stonington