

CHURCH OF THE MONTH (July) – BLUE MOUND UNITED METHODIST

Suggested items to donate this month—any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned vegetables and fruit; canned soup; canned pasta; Kleenex; shampoo; toothpaste, antiperspirant

Contact Information

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Volunteer Expectations

Thank you, member churches, for sending **4** volunteers each Saturday. One person will lift boxes in and out of shopping carts and into cars. One person will assist people with produce and table items. Both these volunteers will be out in any kind of weather and should dress accordingly. Two people will sort, prep items, etc. 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 items just past the due date. The milk and other cold items have been limited this month due to remodeling at the Macon store and some changes possibly coming to the Blue Mound store. I continue to pick up items from the Taylorville Food Pantry each Friday. Thanks to the churches that continue to bring by donated items throughout the month.

There were some great donations this month. Kevin Bafford donated meat from one of his cows. We received 6 cases of ground beef this Monday. After her sister passed away, Gail McFarrin donated canned goods from her kitchen. After the fish fry at the Masonic Lodge, we received 2 big bags of slaw mix which I repackaged and distributed the next Saturday. Elwin United Methodist Church continued their support with 23 boxes of cereal and oatmeal, canned goods and toothpaste.

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.

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. Due to a generous donation, we were able to purchase 5 more backpacks of interest to girls, which raises that number to 20. 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 (10am-noon) 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. After putting this plea in the last newsletter, I received **ZERO** offers to volunteer.

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. Donations of excess produce from local gardeners is always most welcome.

Member Churches

2025

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

April – Meridian Church of God