

BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2025

CHURCH OF THE MONTH – HOLY TRINITY

Suggestion item to donate – any kind of cereal or cereal bars; canned **vegetables** or fruit; **canned soup**; canned pasta; mac & cheese; shampoo; antiperspirant

For Christmas: cake mixes, frostings, pie filling, French style green beans, jello mixes, noodles, items to bake with, hams

Contact Information

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Volunteer Expectations

Church of the month please send 4 volunteers each Saturday. One person will lift boxes in and out of shopping carts. One person will assist people with produce and table items. Both of these volunteers will be out in any kind of weather and should dress accordingly. Two more 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.

I want to start with the information on the move in case you get bored reading the letter. At this point we plan on moving on Saturday, December 13th immediately after food distribution. The electricians have promised to do their work the first week of December. We don't know which day as of yet. I do have several tables from the clothing room which will now be for pantry use that can be moved any time prior. If they are moved, I can move some items that I know I will not be using until after the 13th. Please contact me if you can help move any of these items. Some of the tables do not have folding legs. Last time we moved most of the tables and shelving were already in place, so this time there will be a lot more to move. Please text me, or call and leave a voicemail.

Reminder to volunteers that there is no heat in the building. Please dress in layers, as the building is cooling as the weather outside is cooling. If you have issues with the cold, please do not come to volunteer. When we move to the new building volunteers will park in the northeast corner of the parking lot.

The pantry is very appreciative of all donations whether it is from the Dollar General Stores in both Macon and Blue Mound, from the member churches or from individuals in the communities. Churches and individuals really stepped up to help with the holidays.

We have had some more unexpected donations this month. The Rethreads Resale Store in Taylorville donated 3 boxes of food and \$50. Ashley Fontes donated 10 turkey breasts. Tina Noland donated \$100 and 25 pounds of ground beef. This meat is very welcome as meat coming from the USDA commodity program has decreased as the year progresses. All USDA commodities are down again this month.

We have had a few new volunteers come to help unload our bimonthly deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. These deliveries come on the first and third Mondays of the month around 9:00 am except for holidays. Please consider coming to help if it fits in with your schedule. With more help, the time goes quickly.

The WSOY food drive was successful as they met their goal. There are a few large, promised donations that they are still waiting for, so they have not yet dispersed their funds.

The Meridian Junior High School National Honor Society hosted their yearly food drive for our pantry during the week of November 3-7th. It was delivered November 10th. They reported 970 donations and \$30 from the grade school and 3,036 donations from the Junior High School as well as \$1170.50 in cash donations. I had 3 volunteers come to help sort and put away these donations.

After a slow start, donations have been coming in for the Wee Care fund to purchase Christmas gifts for children who come to the pantry who live in the Meridian School District or in Stonington. Leah Lookabaugh, Julie Bonn, and Alice Reed have been collecting information and will start shopping the day after Thanksgiving.

Because of the federal government shutdown, the number of households coming to the pantry for food has greatly increased. On November 1st we served 78 families. On November 8th we served 80 families. On November 15th we served 83 families, and on November 22 we served 96 families food for a Thanksgiving dinner. This has severely depleted our supply of items we distribute each week. I am especially low on canned vegetables and soup.

Recently we have lost 2 former regular volunteers to our pantry. Both had to discontinue service due to Covid restrictions. JoAnn Coffey from Stonington and Marcy Clay from Taylorville both passed this month. We will miss them and appreciate their previous service.

The Blue Mound United Methodist Women are continuing to make T-Shirts quilts priced at \$150. You bring in your T-shirts and they will turn them into a beautiful quilt. For more information, contact them at BMUMCquilt@gmail.com. The church will also be hosting a craft and bake sale on Saturday, November 8th.

Member Churches

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

May – Blue Mound United Methodist

June – Joy Assembly

July – First Christian

August – Old Stonington Baptist