

## BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2026

### CHURCH OF THE MONTH – STONINGTON UNITED METHODIST

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

#### **Contact Information**

Karen Wilson: Cell phone: 217-820-3988 (Please text or leave a voicemail.)

email: [kkwilson777@gmail.com](mailto:kkwilson777@gmail.com)

#### **Volunteer Expectations**

Church of the month please send **4** volunteers each Saturday. One person will lift boxes in and out of shopping carts. This person will be out in any kind of weather and should dress accordingly. One person will assist people with produce and table items in the new Bonus Room. This person is essential as Karen is trying to sign in families online as they come to get food. Two more people will sort, prep items, and possibly pack boxes for the next week. We are now located at our new location at 305 N. Bolls Street. Please enter through the **exit** on Power Street and park along the fence facing Bolls Street. **Do not park on the street** as this will inhibit the flow of traffic into and out of the lot. 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 thank everyone who was involved in any way to help us move to our new location. Earl Albert worked tirelessly moving items throughout the weeks beforehand. He called on Russ Kitchens, Greg Mathias, Keith Reynolds, and Mr. Kupish to help. Also, thanks to everyone who helped during the snow on December 13<sup>th</sup> to complete the move and wash down all the items covered with snow. Thanks to everyone who donated the use of their trailers and pickups to move items. Also, thanks to the township employees and board members for providing the building and assistance in moving and setting up. A special thanks to Mitch Ward for heading up the project and overseeing all the details that had to be done in advance and afterward.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> we distributed special boxes for Christmas to 87 households. Gifts for families with children in our service area were also distributed on that date. Leah Lookabaugh, Julie Bonn, and Alice Reed spent a lot of time collecting wish lists, shopping and organizing gifts purchased with money donated specifically to the Wee Care Fund for this purpose. Thank you to everyone who stepped up with donations to this fund. Gifts were given to 64 children from 26 families.

After a mild November we were hit with snow on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>. We were open both Saturdays. Twenty households were served on November 30<sup>th</sup> and 41 were served on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate all volunteers who ventured out to help those dates.

The pantry is very appreciative of all donations whether it is from the Dollar General Stores in both Macon and Blue Mound, the bread man who delivers to our Dollar General Stores, the Caseys store in Decatur, from the member churches or from individuals in the communities. Churches and individuals really stepped up to help with the holidays. Because of the ceasing of SNAP payments in November, the weekly trips to Taylorville to get donations has been suspended. We are still helping each other out when possible. I took them 8 boxes of bread products on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

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. Because Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday falls on the third Monday in January, the 2<sup>nd</sup> delivery will come on the fourth Monday (26<sup>th</sup>) at the same time.

The WSOY food drive pledges were finally received in mid-December. Our pantry received a check for \$20,250!

The next Interchurch Council board meeting will be on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the area that was formerly used for meetings (Room A). I am hoping for good weather and that everyone can come and tour our new location. I may be able to locate everything by then!

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](mailto:BMUMCquilt@gmail.com).

### **Member Churches**

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  
September – Macon United Methodist  
October – Holy Trinity Catholic