

## BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2026

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From: Macon United Methodist Church (maconumc@gmail.com)

Bcc: calmjl92@aol.com

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 11:32 AM CDT

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### **BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2026 CHURCH OF THE MONTH – FIRST CHRISTIAN OF BLUE MOUND**

**Suggestion item to donate** – any kind of cereal or cereal bars; **canned soup (chicken noodle & vegetable beef)**; mac & cheese; canned pastas; 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 pack boxes. 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 **\$300** 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. ***Do not mail items to the physical address. Mail to PO Box 246, Blue Mound, IL 62513.***

When Covid began over 6 years ago, we were concerned that people would be lined up into the 4 way stop intersection. So, we began distributing food at 7 am if we were ready. We continued to do so as it helped spread out the distribution, so people were not having to sit in a line for a long time. For some reason this year more people are coming early. Our big rush used to be around 9:00 am. Now it starts at 7:30 am. **We are asking the church volunteers to please come at 7:30 rather than 8:00 am.**

The big news of the month was the power outage in Blue Mound. I discovered that our new building is connected to the generator at the firehouse across the alley. Because of this the pantry did not lose any refrigerated or frozen foods. This was a good thing as I had just filled the walk-in cooler with fresh produce that Wednesday. There was also no damage to the building on any of the 3 days the storms hit Blue Mound.

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 stores in Blue Mound and Decatur, Taylorville Food Pantry, the member churches or from individuals in the communities. All these stores were affected by the power outage and lost all their refrigerated and frozen items. As of today, the freezers and coolers were still empty at the Dollar General stores. We will not have fresh items donated from those stores for at least 2 weeks.

The Stonington United Methodist Church donated leftover desserts from their fundraiser dinner at the Stonington Summerfest.

We continue to use a great quantity of plastic shopping bags and are running out. If you have any on hand and are wondering what to do with them, we would like to have them.

The Central Illinois Food Bank has another offering of free items. This time it is fresh produce. The problem is it is never available at the time of our deliveries, so it has to be picked up at the food bank. The

quantities are also small so if I don't order soon enough, it is already gone. The Central Illinois Food Bank is holding a mandatory food safety class which I will be attending on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Deliveries come from the Central Illinois Food Bank 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. We could also use extra help on some Saturdays as some of the "regulars" are taking vacations. Please text me when you are available, and I will fill in those empty slots.

Don't forget about our Wee Care fund! It may not be Back-so-school time or Christmas, but donations can be made to this fund at any time throughout the year. In late July we will be giving away Walmart gift cards, backpacks, and donated school supplies to students whose families come to the pantry from the Meridian School District and the Stonington area. We have 21 boy backpacks and 24 girl backpacks on hand. We also have 17 plain (black, navy, green) backpacks, so there is no need for them. This fund was severely depleted at Christmas.

I did not receive a single communication about assistance after my plea in the June newsletter. My mother-in-law passed since then, and I have had to be away from the pantry for one or two days each week. This will still be the case for a while as I help my family clean out her house (which is in Charleston.) The closing of the Dollar General Stores because of the power outage is what is making it possible for me to keep up with what needs to be done. If our pantry is to continue our needed service to our communities, people are going to have to prayerfully consider volunteering some more time with us. It has been pretty much the same core group in the last 6 years since Covid.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday falls on a Saturday. The pantry **WILL** be open that Saturday during regular hours. The Interchurch Council quarterly board meeting will be the next Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in our air-conditioned room at the pantry.

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**

July – First Christian

August – Old Stonington Baptist

September – Macon United Methodist

October – Holy Trinity Catholic

November – Stonington United Methodist

December – Remnant Church

### **2027**

January – First Baptist – Stonington

February – Meridian Church of God

March – Blue Mound United Methodist

April – Joy Assembly