

BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2026

CHURCH OF THE MONTH – JOY ASSEMBLY

Suggestion item to donate – any kind of cereal or cereal bars; **canned soup (chicken noodle & vegetable beef)**; mac & cheese; shampoo; antiperspirant, TOILET PAPER

Contact Information

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

The pantry is very appreciative of all donations whether it is from the Dollar General Stores in both Macon & 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. The extra freezer in the Macon Dollar General Store went out this quarter, and we rescued all the food from it. Then we got their extra frozen items until the freezer was fixed. We are gradually distributing those items. The First Baptist Church in Stonington held a food drive during the month of April. They donated a large amount of cereal, green beans, chicken noodle soup, and other items. Thank you to all who donated.

We are using a great quantity of plastic shopping bags and are running out. If you have any on hand and were wondering what to do with them, we would like to have them. Toilet paper did become available on the food list, but it is already gone. I have some left and have had some generous donations of toilet paper to keep us going.

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.

The new program offering free food items starting January 5th with the Central Illinois Food Bank has spent all the funds. The last free items arrived on our May 18th delivery. It has greatly reduced the amount of food that we have to purchase. The number of items coming from the USDA commodities has been greatly reduced. There will be one frozen meat in June. We have been getting fresh produce – oranges and pears.

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 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.

The Stonington Summerfest will be June 12 – 14. The Stonington United Methodist Church will be serving the Friday evening meal at the park pavilion. That menu includes pulled pork, potatoes, and cake.

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 job as director of the food pantry has become very labor intensive. I like to garden and can some of my produce. I also pick berries and make jam. It is time for some help at the pantry during the week. If someone could take over the Dollar General donations on either Monday or Thursday. Or willing to be “on call” when I get a big donation that needs to be sorted, weighed and put away. Please prayerfully consider helping in some way.

Member Churches

June – Joy Assembly

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 Church – Stonington

February – Meridian Church of God

March – Blue Mound United Methodist