BLUE MOUND FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2026

From: Macon United Methodist Church <maconumc@gmail.com>
To:
Bcc: calmjl92@aol.com
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CHURCH OF THE MONTH – HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC

Suggestion item to donate – any kind of cereal or cereal bars; **canned fruit**; canned pastas; shampoo; antiperspirant

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. Two persons will pack boxes. Two more people will pack kid bags, sort and prep items. **Please arrive at 7:30 am**. 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.***

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 & Decatur, Taylorville Food Pantry, the member churches or from individuals in the communities.

I am still looking for someone to help with pickups from the Dollar General Stores.

The ice cream freezers in the Dollar General Store in Macon have been out of order for several weeks. On September 18th they were mistakenly sent items to fill those freezers. We took in those items which weighed 471 pounds. Because of limited freezer space and an order coming the following Monday, we shared some of those items with the Taylorville Food Pantry. In the past, that pantry has shared many items with us. There were enough ice cream items to distribute for 3 weeks!

The need continues to be present in our communities. In the month of September, we averaged 55 families per week. We have had about 20 new families over the months of August and September

combined.

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.

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 Jubilee Community Garden has been providing fresh produce during the last 3 months, but this is slowing down. Also, area gardeners have been bringing their excess produce. If you have excess produce, please consider bringing it to the pantry. The neighbors coming to get food are very appreciative of these items.

In September the Central Illinois Food Bank returned to their program of offering some items to the pantries for free. Because they are limited, this is causing more trips to Springfield to pick up these items in a timely manner.

The annual WSOY food drive will be held this Friday, October 2, at the Kroger Store by Decatur Airport. I was interviewed by WAND TV on Monday, and a short segment was aired that same day. We hope to receive money from their food drive again this year. Last year we received a check for $20,250 which could only be spent on food purchases. This money was spent by mid-September.

The FCS Club at Meridian High School is holding a food drive during homecoming week (this week). We should receive those items next week. The National Honor Society at the Meridian Middle School plans to hold a food drive in November.

Don’t forget about our Wee Care fund! Last year we had to put out a last-minute plea to have enough funds for our wonderful volunteers to shop for Christmas gifts for the children in the Meridian School District and Stonington, whose parents signed them up.

The Stonington village wide rummage sales will be held October 9 & 10. The Stonington United Methodist Church will again be serving lunch both days. They will also be offering gently used Christmas decorations for purchase.

The next quarterly board meeting of the Interchurch Council will be October 10th at 10:30 at the pantry in Room A (where the volunteers work). A reminder to all pastors that you are officially board members and welcome to attend. Mitch usually sends out a reminder closer to the meeting date.

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.

Member Churches

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
May – First Christian
June – Old Stonington Baptist
July – Macon United Methodist