

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

Shelbi Ball is the Grants and Partnerships Specialist for AncoraTN, formerly known as End Slavery Tennessee. She will be our speaker for Campaign for Children at Riverside United Methodist Church, 313 6TH Ave. in Columbia on Sunday, April 23 at 3 pm.

End Slavery Tennessee was founded and named to sound the alarm that human trafficking exists and is happening in our very own backyard. In the past decade, they've grown from raising awareness to providing survivors a place of healing and restoration. Although anyone can be impacted by human trafficking, people of color, immigrants, and people who identify as LGBTQIA+ are disproportionately exploited. People affected by economic disparity, mental illness, housing insecurity, systemic oppression, along with runaway youth and children in foster care, often fall victim to human trafficking.

AncoraTN manages all human trafficking referrals in the Middle Tennessee region as a member of the Tennessee Counter-Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), formerly known as Tennessee Anti-Slavery Alliance. TCTA ensures quality consistent human trafficking focused services will be provided statewide in the most effective and efficient way possible. TCTA advocates for systemic change and provides comprehensive trauma-informed aftercare to survivors of human trafficking anywhere in Tennessee.

Shelbi Ball will share information; along with ways we can support and be involved with AncoraTN.



Christ UMC Franklin, United Women in Faith

On February 26th, the United Women in Faith of Christ UMC Franklin hosted a salad lunch for their first meeting of 2023. Their program focused on food insecurity in local schools. Robbin Cross and Marne' Price, church members who supervise the food and culinary services of the Franklin Special School District, shared information from their work with schools.

With that in mind, Christ UMC's UWIF group invited all church members to bring items for GraceWorks to use in creating fuel bags which are send home with students who need them. They collected pudding/Jell-O cups, raisins and fruit snacks, juice boxes, peanut butter/cheese crackers, microwavable meat meals, mac n cheese, cereal, and ramen noodle soup – all individual sizes – and delivered them to GraceWorks.

Fuel bags are also supplied to children in need over the summer, so look for more news about an opportunity to volunteer with this group at GraceWorks in a couple of months. And please be sure to check to see if there are opportunities in your local community.

