

Human Trafficking Vigil and Awareness Program

Ecumenical Service – Wednesday, January 11, 2012 – 6:00-6:50 p.m.

Fort Lewis Christian Church – 2931 West Main Street, Salem, VA 24153

Candlelight Vigil in the Garden of Justice with Procession to Disciple Fellowship Hall

(In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the educational space and process from there.)

Gathering in the Garden of Justice:

Welcome – Why We Are Here – Lighting of Candles – Rev. Dr. Terry W. Elkins

Responsive Prayer (Provided by the Rev. Sarah Hass, Assoc. Pastor of Friedens UCC, Indianapolis, IN)

Leader: “Maker of heavens and the earth, we rejoice in you and we cry out to you from the depths of our hearts.

People: We thank you for each of your precious and beloved children.

Leader: We thank you that each of your sons and daughters is created with worth and value.

People: We ask your forgiveness when our actions put any of your children in harm’s way.

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for our greed, our selfishness, and our complacency, which have led to human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

People: God of liberation, we pray for your freedom and justice for all who are oppressed and all who are held captive.

Leader: God of transformation, we pray for your healing.

People: God of hope, we know all things are possible through you.

All: Please fill us with your spirit, that we may be people of courageous compassion who follow in the ways of Christ and join in your work for a peaceable community for all.”

Amen.

Silent Processional to Disciple Fellowship Hall

Awareness Program in Fellowship

Around the tables gathering with hot tea, coffee and chocolate

Background of Human Trafficking Awareness Day – January 11, 2012 – Jennie Sue Murdock

The United Nations defines human trafficking as “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

Resource available: DVD *Look Beneath the Surface: Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking in the U.S.*

Speaker/Discussion- Judy Sykes, Special Agent, F.B. I. (Richmond office)

Closing Litany: Donna Webster, Director of Women’s Ministries (DOC in VA)

One: “Gracious and Glorious God, we give you thanks for allowing us to come before you with all our prayers.

All: We see your justice and your truth.

One: When we learn about human trafficking and modern-day slavery, we feel filled with despair, confusion, sadness, and fear.

All: We seek your guidance and your strength.

One: When we realize that our choices and our purchases contribute to the destruction of life, we cannot find words to express our grief.

All: We seek your mercy and your healing.

One: Mighty and Miraculous God, we know that you are a God of liberation. We know you are able to open a way when there seems to be no way. We ask for transformed hearts and minds. We ask for wisdom to live in ways that bless all your precious and beloved children.

All: Please fill us with your Spirit that we may have courage to speak up. Please help us to trust you, and to follow in the radical ways of peace made know by your Son.” Amen.

(Provided by Rev. Sarah Hass, Associate Pastor of Freidens UCC, Indianapolis, IN)

Q & A with Judy Sykes - Mingling and Conversation