

Join people from around the world in this World Wide
Candle Lighting by writing a message in the Remembrance
Book on the national website today:
www.compassionatefriends.org.

Monthly Support Group Meetings
Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 PM
Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church



*We are a family—
Broken by death; mended by love;
Let love be what you remember most.*

DARCIE SIMS

Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023

**The Compassionate Friends
Miami Valley Chapter
#1732**



Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony

Dec.10, 2023

Instrumental Prelude	Danny Voris
Introduction & Welcome	Richard Miller
World Wide Candle Lighting Candle lit by Tina Grimme	7:00 PM
Reading "Four Candles" p. 4 Candles lit by Tina Grimme	Dolly Brunner Kathy Beaty
Reading: "In This Place" p. 5	Charles Francis
Reading: Grandparents Grief p.6	JoAnn Nielson
Sibling Credo p. 7	David Wood
Song: "Tears in Heaven"	
Reading: "I'm Home" p.10	Joe & Rachel Niswonger
Song: "Precious Child" (Lyrics on p.11)	
Reading: "Remember Me " by Margaret Mead" p.12	Yolanda Pegg

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international nonprofit, self-help support organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to families grieving the death of a child, grandchild or sibling of any age, from any cause. There is no religious affiliation and no individual membership fees or dues are charged. All bereaved family members are welcome.

"The Compassionate Friends is about transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope. It takes people out of the isolation society imposes on the bereaved and lets them express their grief naturally. With the shedding of tears, healing comes. And the newly bereaved get to see people who have survived and are learning to live and love again."

Rev. Dr. Simon Stephens
Founder of The Compassionate Friends

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**We Need Not Walk Alone -
We Are The Compassionate Friends**



***The
Compassionate
Friends***
Miami Valley Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**This chapter is supported through donations only.
Thank you to those whose support keeps this chapter
viable so “those who need us will find us, and
those who find us will be helped”.
We are a 501 c (3) non-profit.**

Thank you

- Those who make love gifts to support this chapter. These donations are our only income...we appreciate your support.
- Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use this meeting place,
- Those who made food and cash donations:
 - The Wandering Griffin
 - LaRosa's Pizzeria (Cross Point)
 - Vinny's Bar & Grill
 - Dorothy Lane Market
 - Kohler Catering
- Those who participate on the Chapter Leadership Team as well as all other volunteers,
- Those who attend the monthly support group meetings,
- You, for attending this Candle Lighting Remembrance Service.

A special thanks to those who started this chapter in June, 1989.
And our greatest thanks to our children, siblings, and grand children who blessed us with their love!

Candle Lighting Ceremony

As your child's, grandchild's or sibling's name is read, we ask that you come forward with your votive and name card.

Make sure that your candle is switched on when you come forward. Please hand both the candle and name card to the attendant. They will place the candle and name card together on the table.

Reading of Names Mary Miller & Jen Albrecht

Placing of Candles Dolly Brunner

Bell Ringer Trinidad Francis

Video Presentation

The Compassionate Friends Credo p. 13 Karen Wireman-Brown

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

DURING THIS MOMENT OF REFLECTION ANYONE WISHING TO
COME FORWARD TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE TABLE MAY DO SO.

Closing Comments Richard Miller

Exit Music Danny Voris

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LOWER LEVEL FOR REFRESHMENTS

Four Candles

As we light these four candles in your honor, we light one for our sadness, one for our determination, one for our memories, and one for our love.

We light this first candle for our **sadness**. The pain of losing you is intense, and the grief we feel is often hard to handle. We want you to know that we miss you so much.

We light this second candle for our **determination**. Knowing you has brought us strength. We are changed because of you. Your life has made a difference in our lives. We want you to know that we will take the energy of your living to help us move forward in our own lives.

We light this third candle for our **memories**. There is so much we remember - your smile, your laugh - the good times and the bad ones, too - when we were angry and when we were happy - all those times that never could have been lived with anyone but you. We want you to know that we will always remember.

We light this last candle for our **love**. The specialness that we shared with you can never be replaced. During this holiday season, our love for you will shine as brightly as this candle. We will pass that love on to others, and as we do, our hearts will smile because of you. We want you to know that we will always love you.

And all of these candles together create the light of **hope**. Hope for healing of our hearts and hope for the years to come.

The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone, we are The Compassionate Friends.

We reach out to each other with love, with understanding and with hope.

Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for our children unites us.

Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.

We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.

We are young, and we are old.

Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength; some of us are struggling to find answers.

Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression; others radiate an inner peace.

But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share just as we share with each other our love for our children.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together as we reach out to each other in love and share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

**We need not walk alone, we are
THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS.**

Remember Me
by Margaret Mead

Remember Me:

To the living, I am gone.

To the sorrowful, I will never return.

To the angry, I was cheated,

But to the happy, I am at peace,

and to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea

— remember me.

As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty

— remember me.

As you look a flower and admire its simplicity

— remember me.

Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved, the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.

For if you always think of me, I will never be gone.

In This Place

Brave hearts, you are here, You have traveled
a dreadful distance. You have come,
seeking solace, understanding, hope,
threads to patch what death's so cruelly undone.

In this place you can relax and breathe...
the costs of others expectations taken off.
Walk into these few hours as into an oasis
where draughts of love and memories can be quaffed.

In this place, all names can be spoken;
in this place each one's story may be told.
We will not be discouraged by your sorrow:
in this place ALL feelings, we enfold.

Here laughter does not mean we are forgetting;
we do not count how many tears are shed.
Both fuel us, fellow travelers, give us courage,
for the long and winding road we see ahead.

And those we loved are pleased that we are together,
smile down on us, and bless this day,
glad for every tiny step we are taking
as they send their light to guide us on our way.

Traveling with us as we journey onward,
sending strength for what the miles may bring,
they are part of everything we do that matters -
in every dance we dance, and every song we sing.

*Genesse Bourdeau Gentry written 30 July 2004
for those attending their first meeting of The Compassionate Friends*

GRANDPARENTS GRIEF

JoAnn Nielson, Corey's Grammy
Miami Valley TCF 12/10/23

Today I speak for Grandmothers and Grandfathers who have lost a precious grandchild, from the tiny infant to the "grown" child, all lives gone from us too soon.

This isn't the Circle of Life as we imagined it. It is so difficult when young departs before old. Our reality, based upon what we thought was our place in life, is changed.

The grandparent-grandchild bond is VERY special! The children of our children are indescribably dear to us.

When a grandchild dies, our grief is complicated: we grieve for our grandchild, but we also feel overwhelming helplessness at not being able to take this intense pain away from our grandchild's parents, one of whom is our child – and in many cases, certainly in ours, the other of whom is as dear as any child-in-law could possibly be.

Parents protect, solve problems, comfort sorrows, encourage, advise. But now, NOTHING can be said or done to ease this pain, to lessen this suffering. There's no band-aid for this wound, no spoonful of medicine for this hurt, no hug for this sadness. Our OK-ness on any day depends on how we perceive our children are doing: we look for a sign that today is reasonably OK for them. Then it is reasonably OK for us.

To support and portray some strength, we often hold back our own tears.

Grief is the price we all pay for loving! And the hopefulness we do find, after time, comes because love remains. Very slowly, time brings the start of healing, as we remember, as we tell stories that now bring smiles and not just tears, as we actually are able to find joy, as we realize that we are still here for some reason that just might include somehow helping others through this uninvited journey, and as all our grandchildren become even more precious to us

Precious Child

by Karen Taylor-Good

In my dreams, you are alive and well,
Precious Child, Precious Child.
In my mind, I see you clear as a bell
Precious Child, Precious Child.

In my soul there is a hole
That can never be filled.
But in my heart, there is hope,
'Cause you are with me still.

In my heart you live on, always there, never gone
Precious Child you left too soon.
'Tho it may be true that we're apart
You will live forever in my heart.

In my plans, I was the first to leave
Precious Child, Precious Child.
But in this world, I was left here to grieve
Precious Child, my Precious Child.

In my soul there is a hole, that can never be filled
But in my heart, there is hope, and you are with me still.

In my heart you live on, always there, never gone
Precious Child, you left too soon.
Tho' it may be true that we're apart
You will live forever in my heart.

God knows I want to hold you, see you, touch you
And maybe there's a heaven and someday I will again.
Please know you're not forgotten until then.

In my heart, you live on, always there, never gone.
Precious Child, you left too soon.
'Tho it may be true that we're apart
You will live forever in my heart.

I'm Home

I'm home,
Dancing among the stars,
I feel your heavy heart from afar,
I see a thousand tears you cry,
Cry if you must but remember to smile,
I wish not to be a sad thought,
I long to be a memory of glory,
For my short life is my precious story,
To most it might seem a lot,
To me, its everything I've got,
The life before we had to part,
How I dance to the beat of your heart,
there's so much I didn't get to see,
I pray you'll be my eyes for me,
As each new day begins to start,
Approach it with an open heart,
As though your very eyes are mine,
See things as though it's the first time,
See awe and wonder in all that be,
And when you do, think of me,
Then I will see the wonders too,
By living through the eyes of you.

SIBLING CREDO

We are the surviving siblings of the Compassionate Friends.
We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters.
Open your hearts to us, but have patients with us.
Sometimes we will need the support of our friends.
At other times we need our families to be there.
Sometimes we must alone, taking our memories with us, continuing to become the individuals we want to be.
We cannot be our dead brother or sister; however a special part of them lives on with us.
When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.
We are living a life very different from we have envisioned, and we feel the responsibility to be strong even when we feel weak.
Yet we can go on because we understand better than many others the value of family and the precious gift of life.
Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners that we sometimes are, but to walk together to face our tomorrows as surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends.

Adam Sommerhause
Adele Schlamersdorf
Alex Myers
Alex Wilcox
Alex Wood
Amanda Brooke Worley
Amy Webeck
Andrew Haas
Ashley Matheson
Ashley M. Wormsby
Austin Siler
Austin Singletary
Belle Marck
Bianca Tala Bepler
Brad Miller
Brett Hobbs
Robert Hughes
Brian Terry
Bryan David Holl
Brittane Henderson
Brooklyn VanSkoyck
Caleb Baker
Cameron & Keaton Schneider
Caresse Amber Crotty
Carter Kelb
Chad Gibson
Chris Mason
Corey Andrew Richards
Nathan Daniel Davidson
Cortney Rogers
Courtney Trent-Daley
Dalton Fletcher
Garrett McCollough
Darlene Whitman Armitage

David Allbery
Danny Allbery
Kathy Sabia
David Knowles
David McKinniss
David Michael Jennings
David Vantrease
Denis Jacob
Donnie Grzywinski
Dylan Coffman
Matthew Pratt
Elizabeth Ann Fargey
Elizabeth Ann Lawrence
Erin M. Quigley
Doug Brunner
Evan Rey Henry-Singleton
Farley Minor
Frank Elliott Paxson
Graeson Riley Rutman
Gwendolyn Mooney
Heather Marie Daniels
Isaac Matthew Reeser
Jacob & Ryan Knapke
Jacob Derek Polete
Jaxxen Baker
Jeff S. Clark
Jeffrey Scott Bernard
Jessica Black
Mary Duckett
Jessica Bruchey
Jessica Laycox
Jimmy Blanton II
Joe Gschwender
Jonathan Reiff

Joseph Fernandez
Joseph Francis
Joseph Walling
Scott Matthew Walling
Justin Gambrell
Justin Lucas Niswonger
Justin McCurdy
Justin Ratliff
Linda Ratliff
Justin Whitt
Justus Posey
Kalman Kolotkin-Harlow
Karen Hendrickson
Ke'Andrae Thomas
Keith Richard Grimme
Kelli Withrow
Kevin Arnett
Andrew Zachary Arnett
Kyle Lister
Kyle Morgan
Lana T. Knorr
Madison "Maddy" Richards
Makayla Leilani Rhiner
Marcus Bowling
Mark Wenclewicz
Mary Taulbee
Matthew K. Schleich
Melodey Chandler
Michael David Kraus
Michael Jacob McGrath
Molly Beth Louis
Nathan Darr
Nathan Griffith
Noah Meija

Phoebe Eloise Manley
Rachael Jones
Rachel Abigail Ramsey
Rashad Lateef Burnley
Rob Kaminski
Ronnie Bowers
Ryan Beaty
Ryan Gilhooly
Sarah Renee' Rhoads
Scott Freiburger
Seth Vision
Shane English II
Shannon Keith Mason
Shelby McMahan
Sherena Richter
Stephanie Clark
Steve Carnegie
Sung K. Hipple
Susan Sharp Crago
Susan Holcomb Lerner
Tera Davis
Theodore Clark Nelson
Thomas Joseph Dingler
Christian Alfonso
Trent Weiss
Trishia White
Tristan Hooper
Zachary Schaeffer

*We also remember those babies
who died and were named only
in their parents' hearts. and those
at home lighting candles for their
loved ones.*