

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](http://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. 14, 2025

The Compassionate Friends  
Miami Valley Chapter  
#1732



## Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony Dec. 14, 2025

<b>Instrumental Prelude</b>	Danny Voris
<b>Introduction &amp; Welcome</b>	Sarah Brockman
<b>World Wide Candle Lighting</b> Candle lit by Tina Grimme	7:00 PM
<b>Reading</b> "Four Candles" p. 4 Candles lit by Tina Grimme	Dolly Brunner Kathy Beaty
<b>Reading:</b> "Gone too Soon My Son" p. 5	Charles Francis
<b>Reading:</b> Grandparent Remembrance p.6	Becky Morin
<b>Sibling Reading</b> "A Letter to my Sister"	Briona Kessel
<b>Song:</b> "Tears in Heaven" Eric Clapton	
<b>Reading:</b> "Silent Goodbye" p.10	Joe & Rachel Niswonger
<b>Song:</b> "Precious Child" (Lyrics on p.11)	
<b>Reading:</b> "Feathers" by Donna Ashworth 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

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

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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)
  - 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** Yolanda Pegg

**Placing of Candles** Dolly Brunner

**Bell Ringer** Trinidad Francis

**Video Presentation**

**The Compassionate Friends Credo p. 13** Karen Brown-Wireman

**MOMENTS OF REFLECTION**

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

**Closing Comments** Sarah Brockman

**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.**

## **Gone too Soon Dear Son**

### **Feathers**

by Donna Ashworth

I sent you a little white feather  
I placed it right there in your way  
I wrapped it in love with a message  
to let you know you will be okay  
I drew you a colorful rainbow  
It followed your car for a while  
I made a spectacular rainbow  
I hoped it would show me your smile  
I flew down a beautiful robin  
It landed right there on your ledge  
I prayed he would give you the strength  
to push yourself back from the edge  
I try every day to remind you  
that I never did go away  
the feathers, the rainbow, the robins  
are my way of trying to stay.

A part of me  
was snatched away  
on that very fateful day.  
A part of me vanished suddenly  
when death took you away.

You meant everything to me;  
You were everything a son could be...  
You were precious and so wonderful;  
You were one in a million indeed.

Your future looked promising and good;  
Your future could have been so beautiful...  
Why couldn't death have spare you?  
You had your whole life ahead of you...

To have cut off in your prime  
is a loss that is hard to bear;  
I miss you and think of you all the time.  
How I could have you back here...

Death took you away from my hand,  
but never away from my heart.  
I'll treasure my memories of you for evermore.  
Rest in perfect peace,  
my dearest son.

Grandparent Remembrance  
Written by:  
Susan Mackey, TCF, Rutland, VT

We are the grieving grandparents, shepherds of our children  
and grandchildren's lives.

Our grief is two-fold.

We seek to comfort our children in the depths of their grief  
and yet we need the time and space to face our own broken  
hearts.

We have been robbed of the special tender touch a grandpar-  
ent shares with a grandchild.

We have lost a symbol of our immortality.

As we walk by our child's side, we both give and draw strength.

We reach into their hearts to comfort them.

When they reach out to us in their distress, we begin the jour-  
ney to heal together.

Even though at times we feel powerless to help, we continue  
to be their guardians.

We allow traditions to change to accommodate their loss.

We support the new ones, which symbolize the small steps on  
their journey.

It is in their healing that our hearts find comfort.

**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.

### **Silent Goodbye**

Author: Unknown

You never cried, yet I heard you,  
In the hush between my heartbeats.  
You never opened your eyes, yet I saw you,  
In the dreams I held for tomorrow.

Your tiny hands never reached for mine, but I felt them.  
Woven into the threads of my soul.  
Your breath never touched the air,  
Yet you filled every corner of my world.

Though the cradle stays empty,  
My arms will always remember  
The weight of you,  
The warmth of you,  
The wonder of you.

This is not the end of your story —  
You live in the quiet places,  
In the soft light of dawn,  
In the love that will never fade.

My sweet one.  
Though we never said hello,  
I will carry you  
Through every silent goodbye.

### A Letter to my Sister

Briona Kessel

I remember holding you in my arms in the hospital on the day you were born. I was so proud and excited to be your big sister. As siblings we experienced ups and downs, as only we could understand. We were the best of friends and the greatest of enemies. Like, when you went prom dress shopping with me and held the blue dress I wanted to try on hostage until I tried on the yellow one you picked out. When I tried it on you said “you look like a banana” as you were on the floor laughing at me. I did indeed look like a banana it wasn't funny then but I can laugh about it now.

I lost my Frenemy, my partner in crime, and my ONLY sibling. You taught me so many things, like how to crochet. Do you remember how dad would complain about having two kids in their 20's crocheting like little old ladies on the couch. Then we would say there are worse things we could be doing. You showed me how to smile, stay positive, and keep my head up even when it feels impossible.

You are always at my side even when I cannot see you. I know you are there.

I promised you I would take care of mom and dad. I will continue to keep that promise until I no longer can. I will play therapist, best friend, or confidant when necessary. I cannot replace you or fill the gaping hole left by your absence; at each family gathering, holiday and birthday when the wound feels the rawest. But I know you are always with me, and I will continue to carry you in my heart, mind and soul.

Until I see you again, I love you forever and always.

Love, your big sister.

Adam Sommerhause  
Adele Schlamersdorf  
Alex Myers  
Alex Wilcox  
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  
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  
Hunter Hill  
Isaac Matthew Reeser  
Jacob & Ryan Knapke  
Jacob Derek Polete  
Jaxxen Baker  
Jeff S. Clark  
Jessica Black  
Mary Duckett  
Jessica Bruchey  
Jessica Laycox  
Jimmy Blanton II  
Joe Gschwender  
John Xu  
Jonathan Reiff  
Joseph Fernandez  
Joseph Francis  
Joseph Walling  
Scott Matthew Walling  
Joshua R McCoy

W. Russell Stefan  
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  
Leah Ritter  
Lucas Wang Li  
Madison "Maddy" Richards  
Makayla Leilani Rhiner  
Marcus Bowling  
Mark Wenclewicz  
Mary Taulbee  
Matthew K. Schleich  
Maura Homan  
Melodey Chandler  
Michael David Kraus  
Michael Jacob McGrath  
Michael Talbot Sharp  
Molly Beth Louis  
Nathan Darr  
Nathan Griffith  
Noah Mejia  
Peyton L. Shillingburg

Matthew Lewis  
Adam Hughes  
Phoebe Eloise Manley  
Rachael Jones  
Rachel Abigail Ramsey  
Rashad Lateef Burnley  
Rob Kaminski  
Ronnie Bowers  
Ryan Beaty  
Ryan Gilhooly  
Sarah Renee' Rhoads  
Scott Freiberger  
Seth Vision  
Shane English II  
Shannon Keith Mason  
Shelby McMahan  
Sherena Richter  
Stephanie Clark  
Steve Carnegis  
Sung K. Hipple  
Susan Sharp Crago  
Susan Holcomb Lerner  
Tera Davis  
Theodore Clark Nelson  
Thomas Joseph Dingle  
Christian Alfonso  
Trent Weiss  
Trishia White  
Tristan Hooper  
Violeta Margaret Court Rivera  
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.*