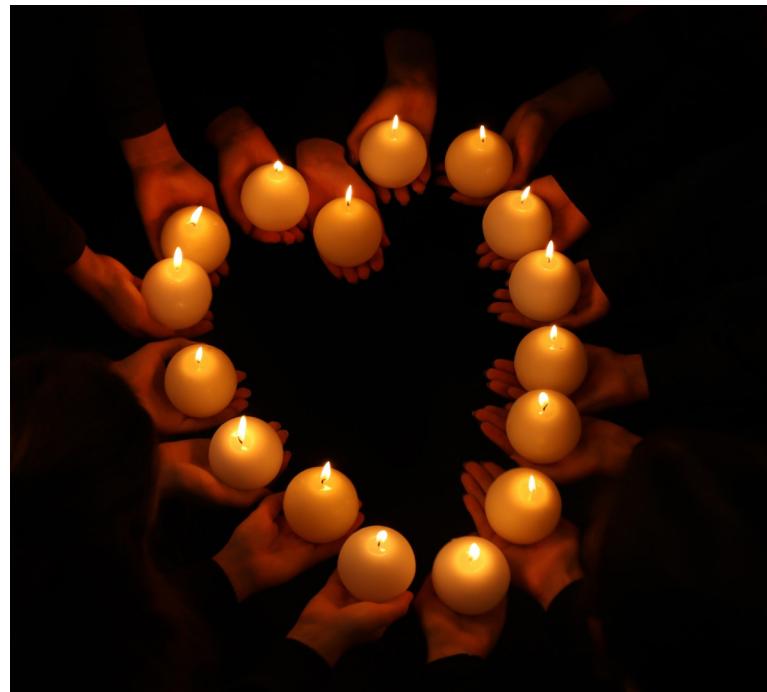


Join people from around the world in this World Wide
Candle Lighting by writing a message in the Remembrance
Book on the national website today:
www.compassionatefriends.org.

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. 14, 2025

The Compassionate Friends
Miami Valley Chapter
#1732



Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony

Dec. 14, 2025

Instrumental Prelude	Danny Voris
Introduction & Welcome	Sarah Brockman
World Wide Candle Lighting	7:00 PM
Candle lit by Tina Grimme	
Reading “Four Candles” p. 4	Dolly Brunner
Candles lit by Tina Grimme	Kathy Beaty
Reading: “Gone too Soon My Son” p. 5	Charles Francis
Reading: Grandparent Remembrance p.6	Becky Morin
Sibling Reading “A Letter to my Sister”	Briona Kessel
Song: “Tears in Heaven” Eric Clapton	
Reading: “Silent Goodbye” p.10	Joe & Rachel Niswonger
Song: “Precious Child” (Lyrics on p.11)	
Reading: “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
P.O. Box 292112, Kettering, OH 45429
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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

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.

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.

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 grandparent 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 journey 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	David McKinniss	W. Russell Stefan	Matthew Lewis
Adele Schlamersdorf	David Michael Jennings	Justin Gambrell	Adam Hughes
Alex Myers	David Vantrease	Justin Lucas Niswonger	Phoebe Eloise Manley
Alex Wilcox	Denis Jacob	Justin McCurdy	Rachael Jones
Amanda Brooke Worley	Donnie Grzywinski	Justin Ratliff	Rachel Abigail Ramsey
Amy Webeck	Dylan Coffman	Linda Ratliff	Rashad Lateef Burnley
Andrew Haas	Matthew Pratt	Justin Whitt	Rob Kaminski
Ashley Matheson	Elizabeth Ann Fargey	Justus Posey	Ronnie Bowers
Ashley M. Wormsby	Elizabeth Ann Lawrence	Kalman Kolotkin-Harlow	Ryan Beaty
Austin Siler	Erin M. Quigley	Karen Hendrickson	Ryan Gilhooly
Austin Singletary	Doug Brunner	Ke'Andrae Thomas	Sarah Renee' Rhoads
Belle Marck	Evan Rey Henry-Singleton	Keith Richard Grimme	Scott Freiberger
Bianca Tala Bepler	Farley Minor	Kelli Withrow	Seth Vision
Brad Miller	Frank Elliott Paxson	Kevin Arnett	Shane English II
Brett Hobbs	Graeson Riley Rutman	Andrew Zachary Arnett	Shannon Keith Mason
Robert Hughes	Gwendolyn Mooney	Kyle Lister	Shelby McMahan
Brian Terry	Heather Marie Daniels	Kyle Morgan	Sherena Richter
Bryan David Holl	Hunter Hill	Lana T. Knorr	Stephanie Clark
Brittane Henderson	Isaac Matthew Reeser	Leah Ritter	Steve Carnegis
Brooklyn VanSkoyck	Jacob & Ryan Knapke	Lucas Wang Li	Sung K. Hipple
Caleb Baker	Jacob Derek Polete	Madison "Maddy" Richards	Susan Sharp Crago
Cameron & Keaton Schneider	Jaxxen Baker	Makayla Leilani Rhiner	Susan Holcomb Lerner
Caresse Amber Crotty	Jeff S. Clark	Marcus Bowling	Tera Davis
Carter Kelb	Jessica Black	Mark Wenclewicz	Theodore Clark Nelson
Chad Gibson	Mary Duckett	Mary Taulbee	Thomas Joseph Dingler
Chris Mason	Jessica Bruchey	Matthew K. Schleich	Christian Alfonso
Corey Andrew Richards	Jessica Laycox	Maura Homan	Trent Weiss
Nathan Daniel Davidson	Jimmy Blanton II	Melodey Chandler	Trishia White
Cortney Rogers	Joe Gschwender	Michael David Kraus	Tristan Hooper
Courtney Trent-Daley	John Xu	Michael Jacob McGrath	Violeta Margaret Court Rivera
Dalton Fletcher	Jonathan Reiff	Michael Talbot Sharp	Zachary Schaeffer
Darlene Whitman Armitage	Joseph Fernandez	Molly Beth Louis	<i>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.</i>
David Allbery	Joseph Francis	Nathan Darr	
Danny Allbery	Joseph Walling	Nathan Griffith	
Kathy Sabia	Scott Matthew Walling	Noah Mejia	
David Knowles	Joshua R McCoy	Peyton L. Shillingburg	