

The Compassionate Friends
27th Annual Worldwide
Candle Lighting
December 10, 2023

Welcome *Kristin, Lael's Mom*
Sheila, Nate's Mom

Lighting of the Five Candles

Photos of Our Children *Micah, Nate's Brother*

Ceremony of Candles

“Precious Child” *Susanne, Darlene's Mom*

Song

Closing

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after the program to visit with old and new friends, share memories of your loved one, and enjoy a treat and a cup of hot cocoa or cider.

We are sorry for the loss that brings you to our chapter of The Compassionate Friends but are so glad that you have found us. Please join us for our regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (except December) at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3801 E. 26th St., Sioux Falls, SD. Meetings begin at 7:15 PM. If you would like more information or would like to sign up for our monthly newsletter, please contact us at:

contact@compassionatesf.org

To have your child included in next year's Candle Lighting Ceremony slideshow on December 8, 2024, please send us a photo of your child along with his or her name.

Email to: kristin@compassionatesf.org

(Please use .jpg format with “2024 Slideshow” as the subject.)

In Our Hearts Forever

With a donation of \$10 or more, your child's name will be included in our special

Valentine's Day Edition Newsletter

To be included, mail your child's name and donation to:

Tami Meeker (TCF Treasurer)

48424 Beaver Valley Road

Valley Springs, SD 57068

Must be postmarked by **01-05-2024**



First Christmas

It can't possibly be Christmas
without her being here.
Yet the world is singing round me,
joyful tidings and good cheer.

Though I try to put on armor
and brave the sights and sounds,
a few moments worth of shopping,
and the tears are spilling down.

I pray for strength to do it,
find a path through holidays,
look for shortcuts, good ideas,
some directions through the maze.

Then I find at last the answer:
I'll include her symbolically.
And the giving becomes perfect;
her love's flowing down, through me.

Genesse Bourdeau Gentry
from "Stars in the Deepest – After the Death of a Child"

One Little Candle

I lit a candle tonight, in honor of you.
Remembering your life, and all the times we'd been through.
Such a small little light the candle made until
I realized how much in darkness it lit the way.
All of the tears I've cried in all my grief and pain.
What a garden they grew, watered with human rain.
I sometimes can't see beyond the moment, in hopeless despair.
But then your memory sustains me, in heartaches repair.
I can wait for the tomorrow, when my sorrows ease.
Until then, I'll light this candle and let my memories run free.

Sheila Simmons
TCF Atlanta, GA



Let this be a loving reminder
That someone is missing today.
Someone our hearts still hold on to,
As we travel along life's way.
Someone who made life so special,
For all those who gather here.
Someone who won't be forgotten,
But cherished from year to year.
And now as we pause to remember,
Let us all fondly recall,
How dearly each of us loved him,
And oh...how he loved us all!

Author Unknown

About Christmas

For those who think that Christmas and Chanukah are just nice days to give and get presents, bereaved parents have another message. Mixed with the joy is the knowledge of sadness. With the hope of birth comes the threat of death. We should not try to cover up our sadness in front of people, for we have a lesson to teach them.

But the holidays have a lesson for us, too. Yes there is death. Yes, there is a great bitterness in life. There is darkness. But there is hope. There is birth. There is light.

In a society which works so hard to deny death, perhaps only bereaved parents and a few others can truly understand the depths of these holidays.

*Dennis Klass
TCF St. Louis, MO*



***The
Compassionate
Friends***
Sioux Falls Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

www.compassionatefriends.org

www.compassionatesf.org

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelighting



"... that their light may always shine"