

*The Members of
Eastern Jackson County and South Kansas City Chapters
of
The Compassionate Friends
would like to thank each of you for joining us in this very special
evening of remembrance and for your participation in our
Candlelight Memorial Service.*

*Our hope is this night will bring some peace to you during this
holiday season.
Our children are "Always in our Hearts".*

We invite you to join us for our regular monthly meetings:

*Eastern Jackson County meets on the third Thursday of each
month at 7:30pm at Walnut Gardens Community of Christ
19201 E RD Mize Road, Independence, MO, and*

*South Kansas City meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at
7:00 pm at St Joseph Medical Center,
Community Center: Abell Lorenz Room
1000 Carondelet, Kansas City, MO.*

*Thank you to all our volunteers who, through their dedication to
our Chapters and their goals, have helped to make this event
possible. We would like to thank all who provided refreshments
so that we may enjoy some social time together.*

To all our Members and Guests,

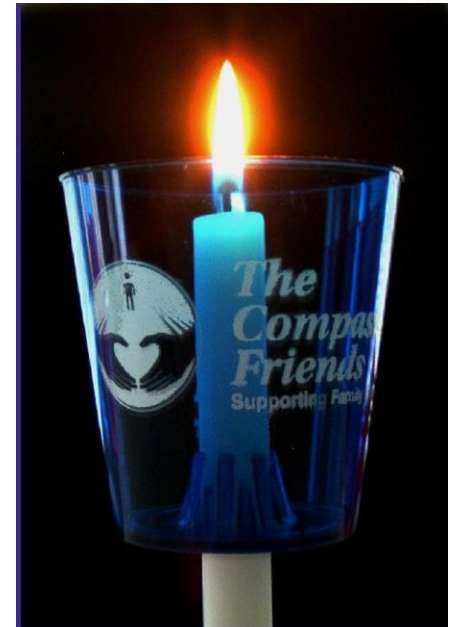
Have a safe and peaceful holiday season!

Worldwide Candle Lighting December 8, 2024

*"...that their
light may
always shine"*

*Those of us who have
walked through our grief-
and found there is a
future-are the ones who
must meet others in the
valley of darkness and
bring them to the light.*

*~Rev. Simon Stephens,
Founder, The
Compassionate Friend, Coventry, England*



Worldwide Candle Lighting
The Independence and South Kansas City Chapters of
The Compassionate Friends
Sunday, December 8, 2024

WelcomeBarbara Starr,
David's mom
Reading: River of Light..... Jeanne Bramwell,
Wyatt's grandma
Responsive Reading.....Theresa Phillips,
Sam's mom and Mary's sister

Music: "To Where You Are"by Josh Groban

Reading: Hope.....Shareen Baxter, Rodney's mom
Reading: Candle lighting.....Katie Knox, Mason's mom

Music: "Who You'd be Today" by Kenny Chesney

Candle Lighting

Grief.....Michelle Williams, Miranda's mom
Courage.....Barbara Batson, Amy and Sarah's mom
Memories.....Rachel Phillips, Sam's sister
Love.....Madelyn Knox, Mason's sister
Hope..... Kathy Wilcox, Jeff's mom

Lighting of Individual Candles

Music: "Tonight I Hold This Candle" by Alan Pederson

Reading: Candles in the Night..... Theresa Phillips,
Sam's mom, and Mary's sister

Music: "Amazing Grace"Scottish Bagpipes



Candles in the Night

By Genesse Gentry

Candles flame in the darkness, flicker, steadily glow
Bring light from shadows, and help to sooth us so.

Our children, like the candles, gave all of us life, true light
We use the candle's beacon to connect us in the night.

As we light the candles, our wish and our request
Is that they all see our signal, and know our love's expressed.

As their light joins our lights, our worlds touch and flame.
And as we snuff out the candles, we softly say their name.

Tonight I Hold This Candle

Tonight I hold this candle
In memory of you
Hoping some way somehow
My live will shine through
I close my eyes ~ lost in the glow
There are so many things
I want you to know

This candle says I love you
This candle says I miss you
This candle is saying
That I remember you
When I'm holding it toward Heaven
It feels like you are near



If you're looking down tonight
And see this candle burning bright
It says I'm wishing you were here

In the glow of this candle
I can almost see your smile
And it carries me away
For a little while
To another time, another place
When all it took to light up my world
Was your beautiful face.

Someday, some way, I'll see you again
I'll hold you in my heart, until then

This candle says I love you
This candle says I miss you
This candle is saying
That I remember you
When I'm holding it toward Heaven
It feels like you are near
If you're looking down tonight
And see this candle burning bright
It says I'm wishing you were here

Words and music by Alan Pedersen
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River of Light

by Genesse Bourdeau Gentry

A river of light, flowing east to west
lingering an hour, then moving on.

Like the children, here too short a time,
lighting our lives, then too soon gone.

Gathering together, being here for each other
on one special night this time of year.

We light the candles with pride and sorrow
reminding the world, they once were here.

Their lives live on in us, the living,
who guard their memories like precious gold.

To have them back, just one minute
we would give a thousand fold.

Tonight we say they are loved,
they're remembered and they always will be.

Like candle flames, they warm our souls
and light our lives, to help us see.

A river of light, flowing east to west
lingering an hour, then moving on.

Like the children here too short a time,
lighting our lives... then.... gone...

A Litany of Remembrance – We Remember Them

by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

Leader: in the rising of the sun and in its going down...

All: we remember them.

Leader: in the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter...

All: we remember them.

Leader: in the opening of buds and in the warmth of summer...

All: we remember them.

Leader: in the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn...

All: we remember them.

Leader: in the beginning of the year and when it ends...

All: we remember them.

Leader: when we are weary and in need of strength...

All: we remember them.

Leader: when we are lost and sick of heart...

All: we remember them.

Leader: when we have joys, we yearn to share...

All: we remember them.

Leader: so long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us

All: we remember them.

**All: As Long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now
A part of us, as we remember them.**

Lighting of Candles

We light these five candles in honor of those who have died, we light one for our grief, one for our courage, one for our memories, one for our love and one for our hope.

Candle of Grief

The light of this first candle represents our grief. The pain of losing our children, siblings, and grandchildren is intense. It reminds us of the depth of our love for them.

Candle of Courage

The light of the second candle represents our courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, and to change our lives.

Candle of Memories

This third candle is a light to all of our memories of those who have died, to times we laughed, times we cried, the times we were angry with each other, the silly things they did, the caring and joy they gave to each of us.

Candle of Love

The fourth candle we light for our love. We light this candle that your light will always shine. We enter this holiday season and share this night of remembrance with our family and friends. Day by day we cherish the special place in our hearts that will always be reserved for our children. We thank them for the gift their living brought to each of us, no matter how long they lived.

Candle of Hope

The fifth candle we light for our hope. Hope, that our children will live on through us, never to be erased from memory; that their lives make a difference in the world, that they are proud of us and that we will be together again. May the glow of the flame be our source of hopefulness—Now and forever. We love you; we remember you.

Who You'd be Today

by Kenny Chesney

Sunny days seem to hurt the most
I wear the pain like a heavy coat
I feel you everywhere I go
I see your smile, I see your face
I hear you laughing in the rain
I still can't believe you're gone

It ain't fair you died too young
Like a story that had just begun
But death tore the pages all away
God knows how I miss you
All the hell that I've been through
Just knowing no one could take your place
Sometimes I wonder who you'd be today

Would you see the world, would you chase your dreams
Settle down with a family
I wonder what would you name your babies
Some days the sky's so blue
I feel like I can talk to you
I know it might sound crazy

It ain't fair you died too young
Like a story that had just begun
But death tore the pages all away
God knows how I miss you
All the hell that I've been through
Just knowing no one could take your place
Sometimes I wonder who you'd be today

Today, today, today
Today, today, today

Sunny days seem to hurt the most
I wear the pain like a heavy coat
The only thing that gives me hope
Is I know I'll see you again someday

Someday, someday

To Where You Are

Song by Josh Groban

Who can say for certain
Maybe you're still here
I feel you all around me
Your memories so clear
Deep in the stillness
I can hear you speak
You're still an inspiration
Can it be
That you are my
Forever love
And you are watching over me
From up above
Fly me up to where you are
Beyond the distant star
I wish upon tonight
To see you smile
If only for a while
To know you're there
A breath away's not far to where you are
Are you gently sleeping
Here inside my dream?
And isn't faith believing
All power can't be seen
As my heart holds you
Just one beat away
I cherish all you gave me
Every day
'Cause you are my
Forever love
Watching me
From up above
And I believe
That angels breathe
And that love will live on
And never leave
Fly me up to where you are
Beyond the distant star
I wish upon tonight
To see you smile
If only for a while
To know you're there
A breath away's not far to where you are
I know you're there
A breath away's not far to where you are

Hope

Written by Terre Haute, Indiana, TCF

Beyond the decorations, the angels, stars and beloved music,
Beyond the presents, the shopping, the baking and the cooking...
Beyond all of these sights and sounds of the holiday,
Beyond all of these...there is hope.

Hope...

For the bereaved families, even now,
one of the most, if not the most, painful times of the year—
there is an essence of hope.

Hope...

It is the hope that someday the pain of the deaths
of the children will be eased.

The hope is that someday our smiles will be real.

The hope is that once again we will laugh and love and cry
completely without fear and hollowness.

It is the hope that someday we can remember our children
with tenderness merely tinged with sorrow
and not overwhelmed with it.

So it is that for each of you I would hope...
peace, compassion, love, understanding,
sympathy, sharing and listening.

In the sharing of our grief with one another
and in the emotional support we give one another,
we receive and understand all of these gifts.

Candle Lighting

It's time again to light the candles,
And while we view the burning flames,
We think of our beloved children
And hear the speaking of their names.
All here have suffered heartbreak,
Each felt the crushing pain,
Our children are forever gone,
We can't forget them, so we came,
To grasp a hand, to lend an ear,
With helping friends, we gain
Support and understanding
And a hope that we can live again.
The candle lighting and remembrance
Affirms for us this truth so plain-
Our children live on in our hearts,
And love always remains.

