

The Compassionate Friends 26th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting

December 11, 2022

Welcome *Kristin Seruyange, Lael's Mom*

Lighting of the Five Candles

Photos of Our Children

Micah Kittelson, Nate's Brother

Sheila Kittelson, Nate's Mom

Ceremony of Candles

"Precious Child"

Susanne Harmon, Darlene's mom

Song

Micah and Sheila

Closing

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after the program to meet 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

I Will Light Candles This Holiday

Candles of joy
despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope
where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage
for fears ever present,
Candles of peace
for tempest tossed days,
Candles of grace
to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love
to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn
all the year long.

TCF Portland, Oregon

If your child's picture wasn't in the slideshow this year and you would like him or her included in next year's Candle Lighting Ceremony slideshow on December 10, 2023, please send us a photo of your child along with his or her name.

Email to: kristin@compassionatesf.org

(Please use .jpg format with "2023 Slideshow" as the subject.)

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We have decided that it is time that we bring our slideshow (now more than 200 pictures in number) up to date. We have many pictures of children whose families have moved on from our group. While we will always honor all of these children in our hearts, the time required to include each picture during the candle lighting has become quite long. Therefore, if your child is currently in the slideshow and you would like to continue to have him or her in the slideshow next year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet as you exit the sanctuary or send an email to kristin@compassionatesf.org. Our desire is to serve our members in the best way possible.

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 **01-05-2023**





The Candle

A candle's but a simple thing,
 It starts with just a bit of string.
 Yet dipped and dipped
 With patient hand,
 It gathers wax upon the strand
 Until, complete and snowy white,
 It gives at last a lovely light.
 Life is so like that bit of string,
 Each day we do a simple thing,
 Yet day by day if on life's strand
 We work with patient heart and hand
 It gathers joy,
 Makes dark days bright,
 And gives at last a lovely light.

by Clara B. Thurston

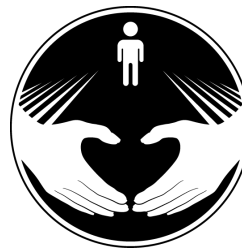
About Christmas

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 Candle Lighting



"... that their light may always shine"