

Fierce Compassion

helping those grieving a loss from suicide

Sunday, November 8, 2009

4:00 - 5:30pm

First United Methodist Church of Austin
Family Life Center, Room 104
(at Lavaca and 13th)

How does anyone recover from a loss due to suicide?

When a loved one dies tragically our hearts break, but when the loss appears to be "by choice" it adds a deeper traumatic layer to our grief. Sadly, cultural (and sometimes even religious) stigma can make healing from a suicide loss even harder, more confusing and often very lonely. As a family of faith we care about this specific human pain.

We invite you to join us for a panel discussion and an open forum in which we hope to address many of the difficult questions that suicide creates. We will seek to gain a clearer picture of the impact of this type of grief from family members who have experienced it first hand, from professional therapists who help encourage the healing process to develop and from pastors who counsel people through the faith questions that often arise. We do not claim to know all the answers - only to create a place where it is safe to talk about this particular type of grief and offer hope. God's Love listens and creates a fierce compassion that becomes the seed for healing.

Rev. John McMullen (Senior Pastor of FUMC Austin), Rev. Mimi Raper (Associate Pastor of FUMC Austin), Rev. Kip Gilts (Senior Pastor of A&M UMC in College Station), Cheryl Bias, MSW and Khris Ford, LPC (Executive Director of My Healing Place Grief Center) will all be available to share their stories and their hope. There is no cost for this event, but the registration of your interest in coming will help us in planning. Please call the FUMC Austin church office at 512-478-5684 to let us know you plan to attend.