

## **Prayer vigil for Kelsie draws nice community crowd of support Sat.**

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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As the one-year anniversary of Kelsie Schelling's disappearance approaches on Feb. 4, a crowd of more than 100 gathered at Holyoke City Park Saturday, Jan. 25, to show support.

The wind from earlier in the day subsided and a nice, crisp evening air set the tone for the prayer and candlelight vigil.

It was still daylight as the crowd gathered at 5 p.m., lighting candles provided by the organizers. By the end of the 40-minute program, the candles shone brightly as the skies were filled with darkness.

"We're here to remind Kelsie's family that they're loved," said Pastor Gary Rahe as he led the program.



**Pastor Gary Rahe leads the prayer and candlelight vigil for Kelsie Schelling in Holyoke City Park Saturday, Jan. 25, as musicians Joe Bivins, at left, and Trey Bivins (hidden) share in the program which was attended by more than 100 community people. ☐☐**

—Enterprise photo

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Joe and Trey Bivins' music was a sweet addition to the evening as they shared "You're Never Alone," "Amazing Grace" and "Listen to Your Children Praying."

Isaac Kreider shared several passages of Scripture, the first being the 23rd Psalm. Pastor Rahe prefaced the reading by explaining this is a psalm which reminds us that in the very weakest moments, the strength of God is there to provide a message of hope.

A poem written for a young woman who turned up missing was printed on the vigil programs and was read Saturday evening. "The Great Eternal Silence," by Aquinas T. Duffy was chosen by Rahe for not only its appropriateness to Kelsie but to so many situations.

The poem served as the backdrop for Rahe's message, "Why we watch and wait."

"We need to know why we watch and wait," said Rahe. "I want you and I to be able to state—even though we know there's evil—we watch and wait. We're going to be victorious."

"We soar on wings like eagles. Why do we watch and wait?"

"Because," said Rahe, "we need to love those who need our love the most, we need to pray for those who need our prayers the most, and we need to support those who need our support the most."

"The Lord would say, 'Stand up, be strong.' Let the power and grace of God be found in us."

"The light came into the world, and the darkness can't put it out," said Rahe.

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A portion of the crowd attending the Jan. 25 candlelight prayer vigil for Kelsie Sunday, Jan. 26