



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
of Brushy Creek
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

December 2025

No in-person meeting will take place in December due to Worldwide Candle Lighting Event

Location:

Christ Lutheran Church

510 Luther Drive. Georgetown, TX. 78628

PH: 512-966-8139 Email: TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com

(If you have problems finding us, call 512-966-1651)



The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

**Worldwide
Candle
Lighting®**

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

**Sunday, December 14, 2025
7 PM Around the Globe**



The Compassionate Friends of Brushy Creek
YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE; WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Welcome

We, of the Brushy Creek Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, offer you a warm welcome. Our in-person meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereave families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any time, of any age, from any cause is welcome. Our meetings give an opportunity to families to talk about their feelings as they go through the grieving process. The purpose of this support group is not the cause of death but rather to focus on being a bereaved parent, sibling, or grandparent. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues.

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

To Our New Members

We recognize that it takes great courage to come to the first meeting, whether you are a bereaved parent, sibling, or grandparent of one month or many years. Please don't be afraid to come to a meeting. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative for moral support if you wish. Nothing is asked of you. You will find that it is alright to cry, laugh, share how you feel, or listen. You do not have to talk at a meeting if you do not want to. We welcome your participation, but it is not a requirement. To be fair to yourself, please consider attending at least three meetings before you decide whether TCF is right for you.

To Our Members Further Down The “Grief Road”

Each meeting will have new parents, siblings, and grandparents. **THINK BACK** – what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF “veterans” to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you, and tell you, “Your pain will not always be this bad.” We welcome your presence and support!

Information Regarding Our Meetings

This is **YOUR** group, and we are here to support each other. Everyone in the room has walked the path you are on now. We hope you will find our meetings and newsletters to be a comfort and a place where you find hope.

Monthly Topic for Discussion

As we cover these subjects, some points may be made to help you cope a little better.
We are open to suggestions for additional subjects you might like to see discussed.

December – Candle Lighting Ceremony

January - How grief affects future plans, values, and daily life.

February – Taking care of your health during grief.



My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever – *Psalms 73:26*



Birth Date

Brian
Matt
Stephanie
Henry
Rylan
Carolee
Aaron

Son of
Son of
GR of
Son of
Son of
Daughter of
Son of

Brandy
Susan
Nicholas
Lourdes
Andy & Heidi
Tina & Mike
Nona





Angel Date

Matt
Chloe
Scott
Shawn
Stephanie
Antonia
Matt
Jeremy
Carolee

Son of
Daughter of
Son of
Son of
GF of
Daughter of
Son of
Son of
Daughter of

Susan
Francine
Tam and Sandy
Charlotte
Nicolas
Elisa
Rebecca
Becky
Tina & Mike



A Message for December - A Season of Light, Love, and Remembrance

December is a month of contrasts—twinkling lights against long nights, celebrations mingled with quiet ache, and memories that feel especially close to the heart. For many grieving families, this season can be both beautiful and painfully heavy. May this month hold moments of peace, kindness, and gentle comfort for each of you.

Article 1: Navigating the Holidays with Tenderness and Truth

The holiday season often brings expectations, festivities, gatherings, traditions, and smiles. But for grieving parents, siblings, and grandparents, December can amplify what's missing. It can feel like stepping into a world that is moving too fast, too brightly, without room for sorrow.

If you find yourself dreading certain events or traditions this month, know that it is not a failure, it is grief being honest. This year might require new boundaries, new rituals, or an intentional pause. Give yourself permission to:

Choose what you can handle.

You do not need to attend every gathering. It is okay to arrive late, leave early, or opt out completely.

Create space for your loved one.

A candle, an ornament, a photograph, a special food—small gestures can turn holiday pain into sacred remembrance.

Ask for understanding.

Your family or friends may not fully grasp your grief, but many will want to support you if they know what you need.

Be gentle with your heart.

Even years later, grief can swell during the holidays. Nothing is wrong with you—you are carrying love.

However, you move through December, know that you are not alone. Your community understands and walks with you.

Article 2: The Gift of Remembering

While the world celebrates gifts wrapped with ribbons, those who grieve know that the greatest gift is the memory of a life that touched ours deeply. Remembering is not living in the past; it is honoring the love that shaped us.

This month, consider creating one new remembrance ritual:

1. Write a letter to your child or sibling.

Share what you miss, what you've learned, what has changed, what remains.

2. Light a candle at the same time each evening.

Let it symbolize love that continues, even across worlds.

3. Hang a memory ornament.

Handmade or purchased, simple or ornate—what matters is the meaning.

4. Play their favorite song.

Let the music hold you. Let it bring laughter or tears—both are welcome.

5. Donate or volunteer in their honor.

Acts of kindness ripple outward in powerful ways, creating meaning where sorrow feels overwhelming.

In remembering, we keep our children close. Love does not fade. It evolves, deepens, and finds new ways to live through us.

Article 3: The Longest Night – Finding Hope in the Darkness

On December 21, the winter solstice marks the longest night of the year. For many grieving families, this night symbolizes both our pain and our hope.

Darkness can feel heavy—like the world is wrapped in silence. Yet the solstice also reminds us that even the longest night eventually gives way to growing light.

What if this night became a moment of healing?

Many bereaved families light candles on the solstice as a symbol that love pierces even the deepest darkness. Some meditate, some play quiet music, some sit with a blanket and have a warm drink, simply allowing themselves to breathe.

Light one candle. Watch the flame. Let it remind you:

- **Your grief is valid.**
- **Your love remains unbroken.**
- **Light will return slowly and gently.**
- **You are still here, still standing, even when it feels impossible.**

Hope doesn't need to arrive in grand gestures—it often comes as a small, steady glow.

Monthly Prayer – December: A Prayer for Peace and Presence

Dear God,

As we enter this season of light and longing, we ask for Your gentle presence.

Hold our grieving hearts with tenderness.

Comfort those who face empty chairs, quiet rooms, and longing that deepens in the winter air.

Surround us with peace that softens the sharp edges of sorrow.

Let memories warm us, not break us.

Give us strength for the moments that feel heavy, and rest for the days when grief is exhausting.

May the light of our loved ones shine brightly in our hearts this season and always.

Amen.

Helpful Resources for December

The Compassionate Friends National Candle Lighting

Annual worldwide candle lighting on the second Sunday of December. Families light candles at 7 p.m. local time to honor children gone too soon.

Surviving the Holidays Workshops

Local chapters, faith communities, and grief centers offer free or low-cost programs to help navigate December emotions.

Grief Support Books for the Season

- *When the Holidays Hurt* by Nan Zastrow
- *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis
- *Finding Hope in the Darkest Days* by grief counselors Dr. Alan Wolfelt and Megan Devine

Online Support

- The Compassionate Friends (TCF) online communities and Facebook groups
- Bereaved Parents USA forums
- Option Line peer-support chats available evenings

Memory Ideas for the Month

- Holiday memory box
 - Personalized ornament
 - Candle lighting ritual
 - Photo tribute or slideshow
-

Grief Quote of the Month

“Grief is the price we pay for love, but love is the gift that makes the journey worth remembering.”
— *Unknown*

Closing Reflection – As We Step Into December’s Quiet Light

As this year draws to a close, many of us find ourselves holding both sorrow and gratitude, longing and love. December invites us inward—into memory, into stillness, into the tender places where our hearts keep the ones we miss alive.

Take a moment this month to honor how far you have come. You have carried love through painful days, moved forward even when it felt impossible, and held on to the precious memory of your child, sibling, or grandchild with unwavering devotion.

May the lights of this season remind you that hope can begin as a single spark.
May each memory bring warmth instead of only pain.
And may you feel the quiet companionship of others walking this path with you.

We hold space for you.
We remember with you.
And we wish you gentle peace in the days ahead.

December Information

Every month, we have a chapter meeting on the second Tuesday, EXCEPT in December. We don’t have a chapter meeting because we join the “Wave a Light” on the second Sunday to remember children, grandchildren, and siblings who left us too soon. The lighting of a candle on the second Sunday of December is open to everyone — the community, our friends, and family. The first page of this newsletter announces the TCF World Candle Lighting event on Sunday, December 14. Our chapter invites you to **come at 6:30 pm** to share dessert, listen to music, and hear the readings before we light the candles at 7 pm. Enter Christ Lutheran, 510 Luther Drive, Georgetown, at the south end of the building shortly before 6:30 pm. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this special event. **IMPORTANT: Please bring a framed picture of your loved one for use during the event.**

JACK'S HOT CHOCOLATE & MORE!



Join us for an afternoon of FUN and FUNDRAISING in memory of Jack Rider Claycomb.

Hot chocolate, fun photo ops, face painting, vendors, family-friendly movie, and a visit from Santa from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM!



There will be a silent auction from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM with all proceeds going to the Ascension Seton Williamson Foundation to benefit Labor & Delivery and NICU patients and to promote safe sleep.



Saturday, December 13, 2025
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Dell Children's Medical Center North Campus
9010 N Lake Creek Parkway, Austin, TX 78717

Special Thank You from the Camp and Claycomb Families



The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.



Contact Information

TCF Brushy Creek

Committee Members:

Robin Cassens

Mary Delaney

Penny Leone

Advisory:

Rebecca Burgman

Sibling Rep.:

Stephanie Thompson

Newsletter:

Todd & Joyce Camp

TCF Regional Rep.:

Gene Caligari

TCF National Office Information:

The Compassionate Friends

PO Box 46

Wheaton, IL 60187 (or)

900 Jorie Blvd. Suite 78

Oak Brook, IL 60523

Phone (630) 990-0010

Toll-Free (877) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

Email Address:

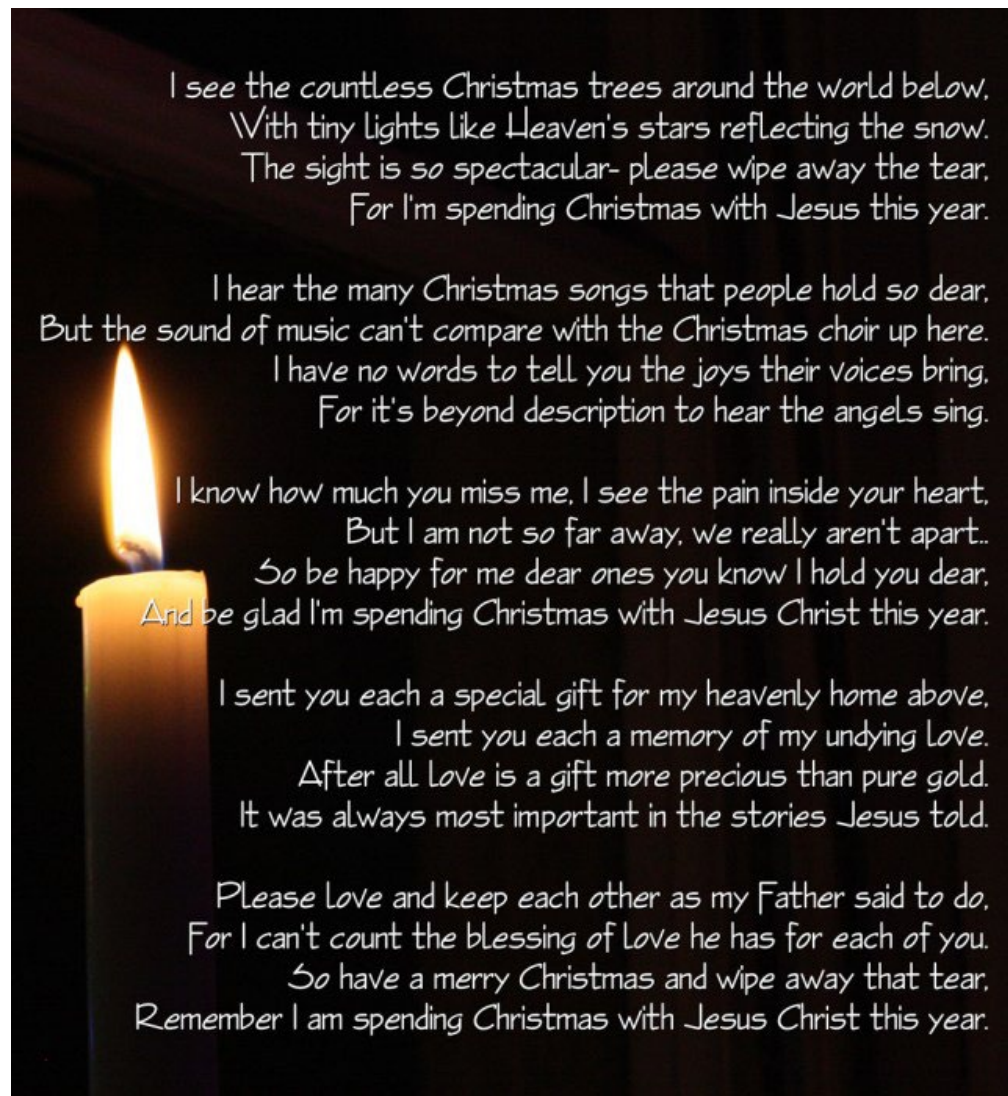
TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com



Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church

We really appreciate your generosity!

Christmas in Heaven – by Aisling Jennings



The Compassionate Friends Resources

Stay connected:

Email: info@compassionatefriends.org

Facebook: [Compassionate Friends Official](https://www.facebook.com/CompassionateFriendsOfficial)

Website: www.compassionatefriends.org

The Compassionate Friends of Brushy Creek

YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE; WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS