



January 2026

Our next in-person meeting will be January 13, 2026 @ 7pm.

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)



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. - *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

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.

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

February – Taking care of your health during grief.

March – Spring renewal and remembrance

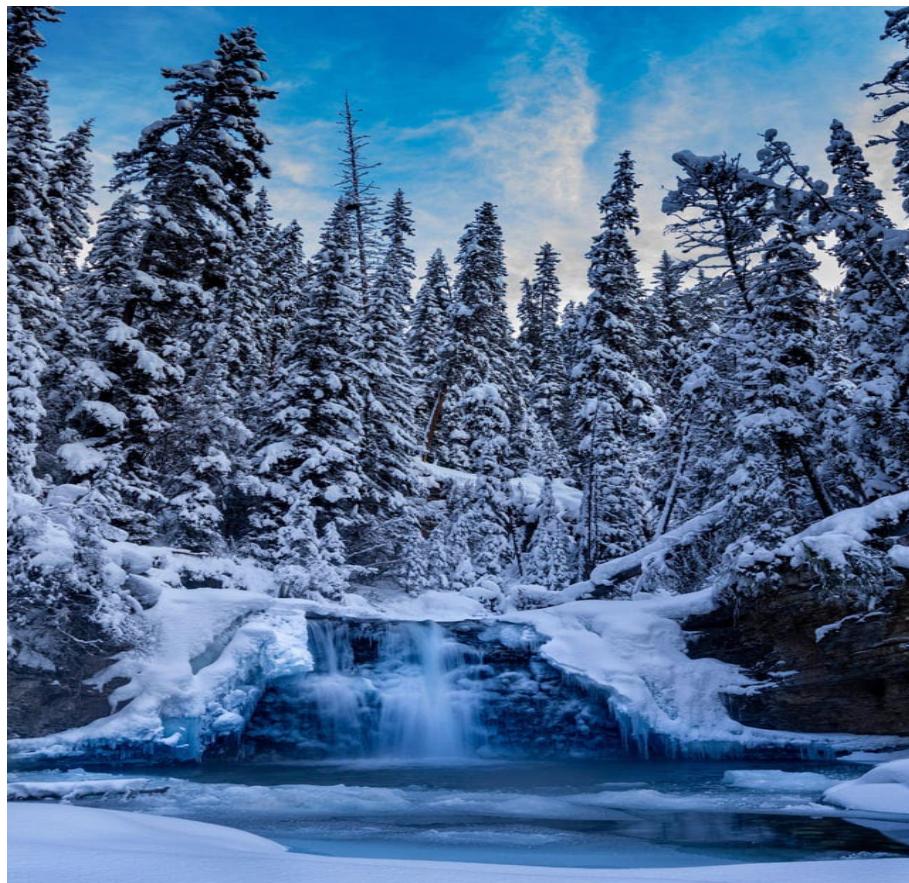


I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion – *Exodus 33:19*



Birth Date

Jackson	<i>Son of</i>	Ed
Melissa	<i>Daughter of</i>	Ruby
Victoria	<i>Daughter of</i>	Dawn & Bruce
Hannah	<i>Daughter of</i>	Angelica & Rodger
Pamela	<i>Daughter of</i>	Vivian & Brett
Sean	<i>Brother of</i>	Stephanie
Lacey	<i>Daughter of</i>	Penny & Pat
Lacey	<i>Sister of</i>	Christina
Brett	<i>Son of</i>	Michelle





Angel Date

Liza
Gabriel

Daughter of
Son of

Debra
Kealie



A Message for January – A New Year Held in God’s Hands

January arrives quietly. The holidays have ended, routines return, and the world seems to expect renewal. For grieving parents, grandparents, and siblings, the turning of the calendar can feel heavy and even painful.

As we step into a new year, we do so not alone. We walk forward **held in God’s hands**, carrying our children with us in our hearts and our faith. Scripture reminds us:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
— Psalm 34:18

This new year does not ask us to forget or to be strong. It invites us to lean on God, one day at a time.

Article One

God Is Near in the Quiet of January

For many bereaved families, January is one of the hardest months. The busyness of the holidays fades, leaving quiet spaces where grief can feel louder. In the stillness, the absence of our child may feel overwhelming.

Yet it is often in the quiet that God draws closest.

God is not distant from our pain. He is not uncomfortable with our tears. Jesus Himself wept, and He understands the depth of our sorrow. When words fail us, God hears the prayers of our hearts.

If January feels especially heavy, consider gentle faith-filled practices:

- Sit quietly and breathe a simple prayer
- Speak your child’s name aloud to God
- Read a psalm of comfort
- Light a candle as a reminder of God’s presence

There is no right or wrong way to grieve faithfully. Our grief is a reflection of love—and love is sacred.

Grief Quote of the Month

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
— Matthew 5:4

Reflection:

This promise assures us that God sees our sorrow and honors our tears. Our mourning matters to Him. As we begin a new year without our child physically here, we trust that God’s comfort surrounds us—through prayer, through community, and through the assurance that our children are held in His eternal love.

Article Two

Carrying Our Children Forward With Faith

A new year can bring fear—fear of birthdays, anniversaries, and milestones that lie ahead. We may wonder how we will face another year without our child by our side.

Our faith reminds us that **love does not end with death**.

Though our children are no longer with us in the way we long for, we trust they are safe in God's care. Jesus promised, "*I go to prepare a place for you*" (John 14:2), offering hope beyond what we can see or understand.

Many families find comfort in faith-based remembrance:

- Writing a prayer or letter to their child
- Serving or giving in their child's memory
- Choosing a scripture to carry through the year
- Creating a special space of remembrance at home

We do not move forward by leaving our children behind. We move forward knowing that God carries both us and our children in His everlasting arms.

Article Three

Hope Rooted in God's Promises

Hope after child loss is not loud or immediate. It does not erase sorrow or answer every question. Faith-based hope simply trusts that **God remains present even when life feels broken**.

Hope may appear quietly:

- In moments of peace during prayer
- In connection with another grieving parent
- In the strength to face one more day
- In trusting God when answers do not come

Scripture tells us, "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning*" (Psalm 30:5). That morning may not come as quickly as we wish—but it will come in God's time.

Until then, we walk together, supported by faith, compassion, and the promise that God is still at work.

Monthly Prayer – January 2026

A Prayer for the New Year

Heavenly Father,
As this new year begins, we come to You with tender hearts and deep sorrow.
We miss our children with every breath we take.

Wrap us in Your peace when the days feel long and lonely.
Give us strength when grief feels heavier than we can bear.

Help us trust You when we do not understand,
And remind us that our children are safe in Your loving care.

Guide us gently through the days ahead.
Surround us with compassion, comfort, and community.

We place this year—and our hearts—into Your hands.
Amen.

Grief Resources

The Compassionate Friends

- compassionatefriends.org
- National Support Line: 877-969-0010
- Local chapters and online faith-sensitive support

Faith-Based Support

- GriefShare (griefshare.org)
- Church grief ministries and prayer groups
- Pastoral counseling

Books

- *When a Child Dies from SIDS* - John DeFrain
- *Healing After Loss* - Martha Whitmore Hickman
- *Safe in the Arms of God* - John MacArthur

Crisis Support

If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsafe:

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** (Call or Text 988)
Available 24/7 in the U.S.

Closing Reflection

This new year does not erase our loss—it invites us to trust God with it. Our children are forever part of who we are, and their love continues to shape our lives. We walk this path together, held by faith, surrounded by compassion, and guided by hope.

May God's peace meet you wherever you are this January.

With love and understanding,
The Compassionate Friends

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.



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.



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Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church

We really appreciate your generosity!

A New Year's Wish - by Out of the Ashes/FB Page

A New Year's Wish

*A New Year's wish of peace and love
As we honor those above
To hear of them can make us smile
Please say their names once in a while
We need to speak of them to you
And know that you remember too
They're gone from sight, but not from heart
And for this time that we're apart;
We'll always miss them, always care
It helps when memories you share
To speak of them does not bring pain
It brings them close to us again.
So if you have a memory
A thought that you can share with me
I'd love to hear it if you could
Please speak their name, I wish you would*

*kp©2013
Out of the Ashes/FB*

The Compassionate Friends Resources

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