

Dear Family Members,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of *The Compassionate Friends*. This Sunday, December 8th beginning at 7:00pm in local time zones around the world is the *Worldwide Candlelight Memorial*. We will be participating in the Memorial at the same location as our monthly meetings, *Govans Presbyterian Church* at 5828 York Rd. in Baltimore also beginning at 7:00pm. The church is one short block south of the *Senator Theatre* and across from *Staples*. For parking, pull into the Govans driveway (which is directly across from Staples), drive around to the right side of the buildings and follow the driveway around back and continue to the parking lot past the playground. Additional information is included in the Newsletter.

The Memorial gives us the opportunity to take time to pause, reflect and celebrate our loved ones in the midst of the chaos that this time of the year can bring. It's a wonderful, emotionally uplifting event full of activities. We have "Madeline's Butterfly Garden". The Garden is a physical reminder that our children, grandchildren and siblings will always be remembered. It's an amazing display of love and of our loved ones. To read the story behind the garden, go to our website www.BaltimoreTCF.com to the *Calendar of Events* and *Special Events* pages. Please arrive early at 6:30pm to allow time to create a butterfly to honor your loved one and add to our Garden. To have your child, grandchild or sibling included in our program, please submit their name by Thursday, December 5th to Candlelight@BaltimoreTCF.com. If you wish to tell a story, share a poem, do a brief reading, play or sing a song include that and the title in the email as well. After the candle lighting we follow the Memorial with a reception. The food is provided by those who attend so bring a dish to share, maybe even a favorite of your loved one. We will need help with the reception. Please consider volunteering to help with the set up and especially the clean up. Join us so **you** can light a candle and speak their name. Take the time to attend and share the healing journey with others. Even if you haven't been in a while or if you've never attended a Memorial, come and join us. If at the last minute you decide that you want to join us, please know that you are welcome to "just show up". We always have room for family. Help make your Chapter's event a success. Here's the *Signupgenius* link for suggestions of what to bring for the reception:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084CAFAA2FAAF58-2019>

One thing that I've wondered over the years is if social media influences participation in the Memorial as well as the monthly meetings. I mentioned this last year. I know that the social media groups can offer support in a unique way. I'm so glad that TCF has so many groups and others can reach so many so easily. I often hear how the on-line community has helped them. They can indeed fill a major void and need especially for those who have no other connection, live too far away from a meeting or can't squeeze another minute out of their day. But I still can't help wonder if that can become a substitute for a personal face to face connection and healing in a different way that, I feel, can come from being with others in a group setting. Are we in a way isolating or even insulating ourselves if we purposely avoid a group? We're "wired" for relationships including those where we can look into another's eyes and hear their voice. I totally understand that sometimes that the social media groups may be the only way we get the much needed support. With those groups we have the opportunity to share the journey with so many others that we wouldn't be able to otherwise. Time and, as we all know too well, "life" can also get in the way of our plans. That's exactly why we're part of this family. I also know that sometimes we just don't have the emotional strength or "gas in our tank" to get to a meeting or an event. If there is a "need" to attend a meeting, are we honestly truly trying? A great number of our family members are in a place of peace, acceptance and healing. We're so grateful that they no longer have the need to attend a meeting but they still share the journey. Our Chapter's membership isn't limited to the Greater Baltimore region. Our combined email and USPS lists reaches out to over 550 of our family member's addresses and then to their families. This includes families that live all over the country reaching to Hawaii and even internationally with folks that have moved to other countries. We invite, celebrate and are honored that you who are unable to join us include your children, grandchild and siblings in our Memorial gathering by sending their names. We light a candle for them and speak their name so all attending will know of your and our love for them and for you. I toss out the challenge to those who live locally and send in their loved one's name with no intention of attending, to join us. I'm not thinking of the person that doesn't have transportation, those unable to drive at night, someone with health issues or the family that just isn't able to make it happen. Please include your children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters by sending us their names. My thoughts are about those who really need to share the moments and to know that they are not alone.

We will be having our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 4th. We made the decision years ago to have the December meeting in addition to the Memorial. Not every chapter has both. With knowing how difficult the Holidays can be, not everyone has the ability to attend the Memorial but still need support. Coming together and sharing the journey is part of the healing. Isn't that what we're supposed to do? Every so often we need to move our monthly meeting from the first Wednesday of the month to the second Wednesday. This is the case for our January meeting date. Being that the first Wednesday is January 1, we are moving our January meeting to the second Wednesday which is January 8. We will be back to the first Wednesday in February. For those who plan way ahead, this is the same case for July. Our July meeting will be moved to the second Wednesday of the month which is July 8. We will be back on our first Wednesday of the month schedule in August. Also, we will be changing our USPS mailing address in the near future from Ellicott City to the Post Office near Govans Presbyterian Church. Temporarily please send all correspondence to Garrett Tollenger, 520 Priestford Rd., Churchville, MD 21028.

As a reminder, our Chapter is **entirely** funded by **you**, our family members. Please consider supporting your Chapter by helping those who are hurting know that,

"You need not walk alone"

May you find peace on your journey and find it in yourself to help others find theirs. Garrett Tollenger-Chapter Leader



*The
Compassionate
Friends*
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

The Greater Baltimore Chapter of TCF
P.O. BOX 2103 Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103
(410)560-3358
www.baltimoretcf.com

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

MEETINGS:

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

NOTE: MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR JANUARY ONLY

2nd Wednesday, January 8, 2020

**OUR LOCAL CANDLE LIGHTING MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH 2019, 7:00 PM
AT OUR REGULAR MEETING PLACE:
GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5828 YORK RD., BALTIMORE, MD 21212**

WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on the 2nd Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on December 8th, 2019 at 7:00 pm local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. TCF's WCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance, but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Every year you are invited to post a message in the Remembrance Book which will be available, during the event, at TCF's national website. The Remembrance Book will be open to post a message Sunday, December 1st, through Monday, December 9th. Photos can be posted on our Worldwide Candle Lighting Facebook page.

The Compassionate Friends and allied organizations are joined by local bereavement groups, churches, funeral homes, hospitals, hospices, children's gardens, schools, cemeteries, and community centers. Services have ranged in size from just a few people to nearly a thousand.

**TEMPORARY CHAPTER
MAILING ADDRESS:**
Garrett Tollenger
520 Priestford Rd.
Churchville, MD 21028-1010

CHAPTER PHONE NUMBER:
(410)560-3358

CHAPTER WEBSITE:
www.BaltimoreTCF.com

Meeting Information

The First Wednesday of the month at:
Govans Presbyterian Church
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
7:30-9:30 PM

TCF Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Leader: Garrett Tollenger
410-215-1873(c)

info@baltimoretcf.com
gtollenger@verizon.net

Treasurer: Howard Wade
Newsletter Editor: William C Ermatinger
410 357-8611

newsletter@baltimoretcf.com
wce34@comcast.net

Software Design: Lee Reed Website Design &
Maintenance: Ron
Brodrick Ron@WebWorldCreators.net

To Our New Members:

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We do understand.

To Our Seasoned Members: We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. TCF is here to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you



Lifedates

November

Birth Days

Spencer Vetter
Coibre Seth Morton
Joseph Alika Kealoha-Lopez
Autumn Olivia Winkler
Tallulah Marie Helen Larson
John Frederick Roche
Ceontay Coit
Joseph Polovoy
Deborah Castro
Brennen Aren Dae Petzel-Parrish
Alexandrea Chardonay Annetta Autry
Carlzell Chauncey Chavaz Connor
James William Day
Hannah Renken
Morgan Smith
Flavio Chery
Brendan James Truffer
Alexandra Ally Beaulieu
Samuel Ying Fu Pang
Kristin Rita Strouse
Jenna Katherine Miller
Irvin Bernard Lawson, Jr.
Joey Wayne DeHaven, Jr.
Matthew Jonis Johnson
William Michael Hogan
Ian Howard
Daniel Anderson Bowling
Irene Matthews
Karlee Marie Andrews
Justin Matthew Gregg
James Theodore Smith
Galen Harig-Blaine
Tiffani Rose Wiberg
Jeffery Van Wade
Kaia Morgan Moten Brown

Remembrance Days

Spencer Vetter
Joseph Alika Kealoha-Lopez
Autumn Olivia Winkler
Angela Grace DeCarlo
Alexander J. Wroblewski III
Diaz Jamie Wheeler
Samuel Cain Lennon
Justin Michael Hartman
Grace Gabrielle Erline
Benjamin Gehring
Wayne Edward Keim
Brian Eanet
Brandon Williams
Brennen Aren Dae Petzel-Parrish
Erik Pachino
Samantha Lynch
Flavio Chery
Tony Michael Richey
Chase Smith
Ashlie Lynn French
Kristin Rita Strouse
Janice Biondo O'Neill
Margret Kelly Lane
Aquil Abdullah
Casey Santana Butler
Kyle Brandon Rembert
Joe Harlee
Ian Howard
Marie Kamara
Tiffany Renee Russell
Kaia Morgan Moten Brown

December

Birth Days

Andrew Wilson Duff
Jacob Kealoha-Lopez
Stephen Robert Bogusky III
Thomas Russell Coburn, Jr.
Hannah Nathan Rosen
William James Taylor IV
Jeremy W. Amell
Ryan Thomas Harris
Brian Alan Basik
Daniel Levitt
Justin Michael Hartman
Cynthia Melissa Greenberg
Joseph Riley Armstead III
Donnae Katrice Burrell
Thelma Louise Johnson
Dominic Raymond Cordle
Katie Henninger
Terry Angel
Brandon Williams
William Patrick Ford III
Zachary Michael Larson
Landen David Hoffman
Shastri Mark Ali
Aarna Acharya
Gordon Phillipson
Nico David Crary-Pohl
Tracy Renee Wood
Jack Levee
Irina Goslin
Esther Ann Brown Adler
Jennifer Nicole Schissler
Charles Dean Saenz
Judah Ahiva Blakeslee-Ringer
Kelly Nicole DallaTezza
Tony Michael Richey
Tylour Long
David J. Houck
Sarah Marie Stebbins
Keith Joseph Soskin
Aquil Abdullah
Kathy Ermatinger
Z. M. Dawson
Jessie Badders
Christopher Gregory
Michael Iwashko
Joseph Allan Caskey, Jr.
Robert James Berg
Matthew John Payne

Remembrance Days

Jacob Kealoha-Lopez
Philip David Hobson
Nicole Teresa Keffer
Julian O'Neal
Ceontay Coit
Roger Lawrence Simpson
Warren Jeffery Keim
Bobby Bateman, Jr.
Karin Suzanne Masal-Hurley
Megan Richardson
Landen David Hoffman
Aarna Acharya
Joseph Edward Belcher, Jr.
Nico David Crary-Pohl
Brandon Nowlin
Alexandrea Chardonay Annetta Autry
Carlzell Chauncey Chavaz Connor
Raquan Demetrius Ali Campbell
Joseph Sanfilippo
Michael Francis Gist
Daniel Carl Torsch
Emily Elizabeth Blische
Jason Louis Patterson
Bryan Bolster
Z. M. Dawson
Jessica Brower-McGonigal
Chelsea Rae Propper
Melisa Renee Lisa Shamer
Daniel Keith Richardson
David Franklin Howell, Jr.
Jessie Badders
Joseph Edward Benham
Mark Anthony Elicerio
Chad Eric Petterson
Patrick Michael Butler
Robert James Berg
Elijah Joseph Virago

The Greater Baltimore Chapter of Compassionate Friends

Worldwide Candle Lighting Program

You Are Cordially Invited

Sunday, December 8, 2019 Beginning Promptly at 7:00 PM

Govans Presbyterian Church

5828 York Road

Baltimore, Maryland*

If you wish your child(ren), grandchild, or sibling's name included in the program or to share a story, song or reading as part of the program, let us know by

December 5th.

Please call 410-215-1873 or email your information to

Candlelight@BaltimoreTCF.com

(Email is preferred so we can have the proper spelling)

You are invited to bring:

- A butterfly with your loved one's name to adorn Madeline's Butterfly Garden which will be located in the back of the Sanctuary building. Please feel free to include a picture of your loved one on the butterfly. We will have items available for you to make a butterfly at the Garden. Please arrive early (6:30pm) to allow time to create your butterfly and browse the garden.
- Pictures of your beloved for the Memory Table in the main building
- Desserts & food items for our Reception also located in the main building immediately after the close of our Candlelighting.

In harmony with:

The Center for Infant & Child Loss

Baltimore County Department of Health Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Program

***Route 695/Exit #26 – MD 45 which is York Road South Toward Towson**

Approximately 4.3 miles on the right

1 short block south of The Senator Theatre and across from Staples.

The driveway may be difficult to see as there is parking on that side of York Rd.

Drive to the right around the church to the back of the buildings.

Continue straight through to the parking lot.

Please assist us as we give a financial donation to the church for their support of our Chapter as they provide their facility as needed for our monthly sharing circle and our Candlelight Memorial. Your gifts are the only funding our Chapter receives to maintain our Website, the Post Office box and Chapter phone line as well as fund the Memorial, the USPS mailings and purchase brochures that are distributed to our members and other organizations.

We are a 501c(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible.

We need your help to keep getting the word out to the hurting.

We can't do it without you.

Holiday Donation and Membership Update

Dear Family Members,

As we near the end of the year, we are asking you to consider making a contribution to The Greater Baltimore Chapter of Compassionate Friends. Our newsletter, phone line, website, outreach efforts and monthly sharing meetings are made possible by your generosity. TCF is a non-profit organization and your donations are tax-deductible. More importantly, they are vital to the continued operation of your group. If you choose to make a donation, please include the completed form below. Please help in whatever way you can. We are deeply grateful for your kindness. If you prefer to not make a donation, please fill out the rest of this form so we can update our contact information. This will assist us in keeping you updated to Chapter events and activities.

Your Chapter Leadership

*****Holiday Donation*****

Yes, I wish to support the work of The Greater Baltimore Chapter of The Compassionate Friends and help grieving parents and their families by contributing the donation below:

___\$5 ___\$10 ___\$15 ___\$20 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___Other

(Please make checks payable to: The Greater Baltimore Chapter of The Compassionate Friends)

Given By: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____ Month: _____

___ I / We would like to volunteer my/our time.

___ I / We are making this donation in memory of my/our child(ren) or loved one.

___ I / We do not want the donation acknowledged.

(No donation is required to have your loved one acknowledged in the newsletter for life dates)

If you haven't already given us written permission and you wish to have your children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters name included in our **"Lifedates"** section, please fill out this form and mail it to us. We are required to have your written permission to print it.

*****Member Update*****

(Please print and complete the information below so we can update your information.
To keep costs down select US Mail **only** if no email address is available.)

Member Name: _____

Other Parent: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Loved One(s): _____

Relationship to Loved One(s): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Passing: _____

List Parent(s) as: _____ Names of Siblings: _____

Receive Newsletter: Yes/No

Deliver By: Email/US Mail

Mention Loved One: Yes/No

Mail Completed Information to:

**Garrett Tollenger
520 Priestford Rd.
Churchville, MD 21028-1010**