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**The Compassionate Friends**  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies  
Oscoda Area Chapter

The Compassionate Friends of  
Oscoda Area  
4087 Forest Rd.  
Oscoda, MI 48750  
989-254-5888  
Email: [tcfoscodagmail.com](mailto:tcfoscodagmail.com)  
[www.tcf-oscoda.org](http://www.tcf-oscoda.org)

**ISSUE 52 JULY 2020**

***A Note from our Chapter Steering Committee.....***

Sacred Heart has developed a plan for groups to meet in the Family Center where we usually meet. June's meeting outside was so nice we are planning a lawn meeting again—depending on weather. Please take note of the instructions attached about meeting inside the church. Thanks!

During these trying times please know that TCF is here for you! If you need some support, please contact



*The Compassionate Friends of Oscoda Area*

*Our phone number--989-254-5888*

*Our email—[tcfoscodagmail.com](mailto:tcfoscodagmail.com)*

*Our Chapter Website [www.tcf-oscoda.org](http://www.tcf-oscoda.org)*

*TCF National Website [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)*

Please take good care of yourselves.....we want you all to be safe. We are all in this together. Remember: We need not walk alone, we are the Compassionate Friends.



**Sun** by Melissa Anne Schroeter

*TCF Rockland County NY*

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After all the pain  
we still can feel the sun.  
Now without pain though,  
not without recrimination.

After all the sorrow  
the sun still shines.  
Not without sorrow though,  
not without repercussions.

For nothing is the same  
and everything is different. After.

My eyes open each morning  
but not to you.  
Sun shines,  
rain falls,  
the earth revolves,  
the moon shines full each month.  
But you're still gone. After.

The years go by,  
on and on,  
Milestones pass, but I can't share with you. After.

When death happens  
There is an illusion of time stopping  
Just an illusion  
For the living go on  
After all.

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**July 14**

***Sacred Heart Lawn (depending on weather) or Sacred Heart Family Center***

**If Oscoda Area Schools is closed due to weather our meeting is canceled—per Sacred Heart Policy**

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Mail: TCF-Oscoda Area Chapter  
4087 Forest Rd., Oscoda, MI 48750  
Phone: 989-254-5888

Email: [tcfoscodagmail.com](mailto:tcfoscodagmail.com)

Web: [www.tcf-oscoda.org](http://www.tcf-oscoda.org)

***The Compassionate Friends Oscoda***



**Area**

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## Summer Delight

Where is the child who skipped through the sprays of summer rain and laughed his way into my heart? Where is the boy who climbed my trees and spied on me from behind the leaves? Where is the child with the suntanned legs who ran Fourth of July races in green parks? Where is the sleepy child who wrapped his arms around my neck and said “When I grow up, I gonna marry you, Mom?” He’s here.

He twines around our past, around my future  
e, and takes me back home, and makes me young again as sure as summer comes. A suntanned spirit with an impish grin still whispers in my ear that stars are not stars at all but lightening bugs he’s captured in a jar. In his youth he’s my summer’s glow, the sunshine in my garden, my comfort on long, hot summer nights of remembering.

Where is the child that once played among my summer flowers? He darts and runs away as I idly dream of yesterday, at once elusive yet so near. Oh, I’m sure he’s here. I’m sure I saw him just a minute ago. Or was it just a touch of summer madness that made me think I’d greeted him?

Oh, where is that child of summer gladness? His laughter slides down summer rainbows and captures me with unbound glee. His summer brownness runs barefoot on my heart. With sun-bleached hair, he smiles at me from photos from summers past, and I remember love.

*Fay Harden  
TCF National Website  
May 31, 2019*



### TCF NATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

*July 31-August 2, 2020*

Due to COVID-19 this year’s conference will provide a safer environment for all and also offers the opportunity for many to attend who may not have been able to do so in the past. The three day conference will include keynote speakers, 70 plus workshop choices, sharing circles, silent auction and much more.

The conference will take place on a zoom platform with an online registration system. Registration fees for this 3 day event will be \$65.00 per person (early bird registration) and \$85.00 after July 17.

Registration will open soon, as well as more information about the TCF Walk to Remember and offers of training for those attendees who may need some extra technology support.

For now, save the date and look to the national website or Facebook site for further details, and a link for registration.  
[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org).



*"Forever In Our Hearts"  
Our Children/Siblings Remembered*



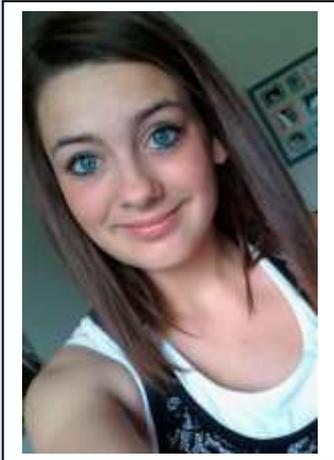
**Birthdays**



**Remembrances**



**July**  
Casey May Whitney



**July**  
Andrew Carroll



**July**  
Bradley Hilberg



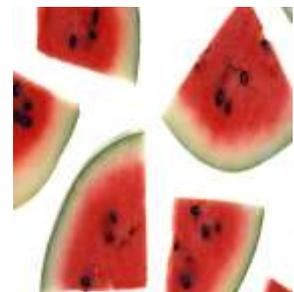
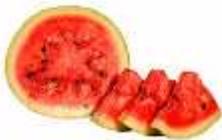
**Take Me where The Watermelon  
Grows**

Take me to where the watermelon grows  
Stretched out over years ago  
Take me to where memories live, and  
sorrow  
never casts its shadow  
Show me the grass where laughter  
thrives  
where little boys and girls dance  
Take me to those rich fields of yesterday  
ripe with the memories  
...basking in sunlight,  
waiting for me to smile  
as I remember my child.

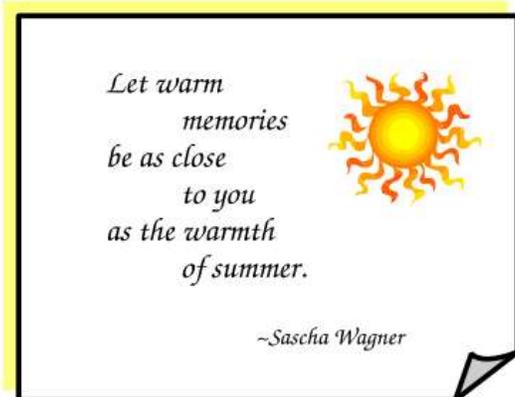
~Alice J. Wisler

When one has tasted watermelon,  
He knows what the angels eat.

~Mark Twain



The flier is information for meeting inside at Sacred Heart Family Center. They want to make sure that we all know they are planning for everyone's safety.



### For Grieving Grandparents

We are the grieving grandparents, the shepherds of our children's and grandchildren's lives. Our grief is two-fold and at times we feel powerless to help. We seek the comfort our children in the depths of their grief and yet we need the time and space to face our own broken hearts. We have been robbed of the special tender touch a grandparent shares with a grandchild, and we have lost a symbol of our immortality. As we walk by our child's side, we both give and draw strength. We reach into their hearts to comfort them, and when they reach out to us in their distress, we begin the journey to heal together. We continue to be their guardians. We allow traditions to change to accommodate their loss. We support the new ones, which symbolize the small steps of their journey. It is in their healing that our hearts find comfort.

~Susan Mackey TCF Rutland, VT

# LAKESHORE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES



Keeping each other safe  
Our shared response to Covid-19

## FACE COVERINGS

It is expected for people to wear face coverings/masks inside the church. Parents should consider health guidelines and then use their judgment regarding whether small children can or should wear them.



## THINGS TO REMEMBER

Bring your own hand sanitizer. No Food or Drink. Please sanitize all surfaces used after meetings using supplied cleaners

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Individuals or families from the same household must be seated in the church 6 feet from all others to maintain recommended social distancing



## HAND WASHING

Before coming to church please be sure to wash your hands. If possible bring your own hand sanitizer to use before and after receiving Holy Communion

## SYMPTON SELF-CHECK

Before arriving at church, be sure that no one in your household is experiencing symptoms of a fever above 100.4° F and/or an atypical running nose or cough. If so, please stay at home.



Remember that video recordings of Mass are available on our website: [www.hf-sh.org](http://www.hf-sh.org)

## Memory Garden @ Mark's Park

The Memory Garden @ Mark's Park is a perennial flower garden nurtured, maintained and supported by community volunteers and the Compassionate Friends of Oscoda Area. The Memory Garden is intended to be a place to enjoy nature and revisit positive memories of our children, grandchildren and siblings who died too soon.



In addition to the garden, we have a memory brick area.

Individual bricks may be purchased, engraved with the name of your child, grandchild, or sibling and placed in the designated area of the park. Proceeds from this project will be used to support TCF activities as well as to maintain and expand the Memory Garden @ Mark's Park.

We can only allow one brick per child, grandchild or sibling that has died in order to keep the area open for future bricks.

To order a Memory Brick, please mark which size brick, complete the form and return it to.....

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 x 8 bricks    \$35.00 with up to 3 lines of text with 13 characters per line.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 x 8 bricks    \$55.00 with up to 5 lines of text with 13 characters per line.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:** TCF of Oscoda Area

**Return completed form to:** TCF Oscoda Area  
4087 Forest Rd.  
Oscoda, MI 48750

For more information please contact us at [tcfoscodagmail.com](mailto:tcfoscodagmail.com)

**Please use grid below, allowing one space per character—a character is each letter, number, and/or space used.**