



Thank you to all of our supporters and donors. Through your generosity we are putting our mission into action. It is a powerful way of touching people’s lives; helping widowed adults move forward after the loss of a partner.

Grief Support Meetings

Seven Month Series:

“The Things You Need to Understand and Implement in Order to Navigate Your Journey Through Grief”.

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, April 1st (No Joke!)
from 7:00 – 8:15 pm

The meeting ID is 861 3697 3690
and the Passcode is 083243.

If you have not read the book “Getting to the Other Side of Grief”, contact the WPS office for a copy.

WPS invites you to participate in its monthly ONLINE educational grief support group. You are very welcome to attend this session whether you have met with us before or not. In this monthly meeting, we will be:

- Summarizing the 5 goals to “get to the other side of grieving.”
- Discussion on what it looks like at the end of your time grieving.
- What is involved in saying “good-bye” to your deceased spouse.
- And do you understand what that means?
- If you can possibly attend, it would be very helpful.

The WPS Online Educational Grief Support Group will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge, Psychologist, and Dr. Bob DeVries, Pastor and Seminary Prof (emeritus) They are co-authors of Getting to the Other Side of Grief: Overcoming the Loss of Your Spouse; The Empty Chair; Handling Grief on Holidays and Special Occasions; Traveling Through Grief: Learning to Live Again After the Death of a Loved One; and From We to Me; If you have any questions, you can email at szsrdv@gmail.com or phone Susan at 616-780-1082 and/or Bob 616-780-5433.

“Spring is here and I am still Grieving”

Tuesday, April 1st at 1:00 pm

Location: The Grandville Library – Babcock Room,
(Enter off of Washington Ave.)

4055 Maple St., SW, Grandville, MI 49418

Facilitator: Mike and Sue Barnes

“Looking at the Factors that Make Your Grief Journey Uniquely Yours”

Monday, April 14th at 1:00 pm

Location: StoryPoint Community Room,
3121 Lake Michigan Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Room change to Activity Rm in Main Entrance due to renovations.

Facilitators: David Morgenstern & Maureen Bawden

“How Do I manage the Desire to be Physically Close Now that I am Widowed?”

Tuesday, April 29th at 7:00 pm

Location Update: Knapp Valley Church, 4025 Knapp St NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49525 – Renovations are almost done!!!!

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole

Social Support for the Newly Widowed

This Month’s Newly Widowed Social Support Lunch/Dinner

Thursday, April 10th @ 1:00 pm

Location: Chubby’s
5751 Byron Ctr., SW, Wyoming, MI

Sunday, April 27th @ 4:30 pm

Location: Alfano’s Pub & Ristorante
1389 Walker Village Dr NW, Walker, MI 49534

Join this friendly group of widowed for a meal with fun and friendship. WPS encourages you to take this opportunity to make new friends who are going through the same loss as you are, to help you through the grief process. By attending a social event, you begin to gain confidence in life as a single person, an important component to your grief journey. Monthly social opportunities are coordinated and sponsored by WPS volunteers and alumni who have been widowed. You are invited to attend any and all activities listed in this newsletter. Updates are found on our homepage at www.wpsgr.org or facebook page at “Widowed Persons Grand Rapids”.

WPS encourages the maintenance of friendships gained through participation in services. If you find Widowed Persons Services helpful, these opportunities may be of interest to you as you adapt into your life as a single person. For further information or questions, feel free to contact the WPS Office (616) 538-0101. As a non-profit organization, your yearly \$25.00 contribution to the newsletter renewal enables WPS to inform all current and past participants of support/social opportunities and helps provide the newsletter to those who have become recently widowed. Cancellations will be posted our fb page; "Widowed Persons Grand Rapids"

**Kindness
Krew**



"Percussion Discussion"

Wednesday, April 30th

Time: 9am to 2pm

Location: 889 Broadway NW
Grand Rapids, MI

Topic; "Bus Unloading, Seat & Great, Wayfinding for 2nd and 3rd grade students". Will need your email address, please contact Michele 616-901-2839 or Maureen 616-550-3515.

Can-Can You Dance?

April in Paris

Saturday, April 12, 2025

5:00 pm – 10:00 pm \$45/person

Sunnybrook Country Club

Buffett Dinner & Silent Auction

Music by "The Big Dogs"

Purchase tickets at

www.wpsgr.org/tickets Or call:

Maureen Bawden: (616)

550-3515, Michele Cole: (616)

901-2839

**ATTENTION
VOLUNTEERS:**

**Friday, May 16 is
"WPS Volunteer's Day"**

For Our WPS Board of Directors, WPS Greeters, WPS Event Volunteers, WPS Office Staff, and WPS Facilitators, – This is Your WPS Day!! Please RSVP to Liz.kempker@wpsgr.org

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Maureen Bawden

Maureen is new to the WPS Board of Directors but not new to WPS. She has been widowed for 11 years and is remarried to her wonderful husband Tom Bawden. Maureen's role as a Home Health Care Scheduler was repositioned after 10 years in Spectrum Health Visiting Nurses. She transitioned to Trinity Health/Mercy Health Systems Home Health Care and retired after 10 more years in the same role. She is also retired after 30 years with Meijer, Inc. Maureen keeps busy with her three grandchildren; Tenley, Tripp and Quinn. She enjoys softball, pickleball, bowling, golf, and especially dance; she loves it all! Widowed Persons Service has helped Maureen move forward after her loss and she feels strongly about giving back. She is the co-creator of the "WPS Kindness Krew" and feels that in helping others, we helps ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.

**Growth
Through Loss
Seminar**

Saturday,
June 14
AND
Saturday,
September 6

Location:
Grandville
Library
More
Forthcoming

WPS Golf Outing

Tuesday, June 17
Time: 8:00 am
registration
9:30 am Shotgun Start
Tickets: \$100.00 per
person

Location:
Orchard Hills
714 124th Ave
Shelbyville, MI
Sponsorships available,
Call WPS Office (616)
538-0101

**Michigan
Whitecaps**

Sunday, July 13
Start time: 2:00pm

Location:
West Michigan
Whitecap Games

Tickets to include
Soda and Hotdog,
Paint the Park
Pink in honor of
Breast Cancer
Survivors.

**WPS Summer
Potluck Picnic**

Saturday, August 2,
Time: 10:30 am

Location:
8th Ave Park,
Georgetown
Charter Township,
Jenison

Contact WPS
Office for Potluck
Coordination (616)
538-0101.

**WPS FALL
AUCTION
FUNDRAISER**

**NOVEMBER 6
TIME: 5:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION:
AQUINAS COLLEGE
DONNELLY CENTER**

**TICKETS: \$55.00
PER PERSON**



Very fun glasses, great food, etc. was had with participants and staff at the "so over winter" Hawaiian Luau at Qdoba. Thank you to all those who attended and WPS will receive a check for \$92.68.



The Facts on Scuttlebutt: "We are kicked out of WPS after 2 years" – Not True!!!

The most critical thing to understand about grief is that it has no single timeline; not 6 months, not 2 years. There is no set timeline for when grieving ends. But the severity of grief does diminish over time.

The key is the support system around you as you grieve and to help manage emotions. WPS is that; positive support, acceptance, understanding, welcoming, educational and so much more

While we have some "newly widowed" support groups and meal events, the majority of our events are open to all, regardless of the number of years on your grief journey. Please join our community!



Pickleball!

Monday,
April 7, 14, 21, and
28th
Time: 9:30 am

Location:

Del-Mar Farms
Clubhouse
5761 Del MarDr.,
Grandville

Weather Permitting!!
Pickleball's famous
last words: "One
more game!" RSVP
only if you can
attend. Contact
Mary or Bobby
Brewer at 616-283-
3132.



**Beltline Bar
Dinner Fundraiser!**

Wednesday, April 16th
Time: 4pm to 8pm
Meet up: 5:00 pm

Location: 16 28th St
Grand Rapids, MI

Creator of the first ever
Wet Burrito to West
Michigan. Beltline Bar
has 25% of the check
donated to WPS.
Dave H. will be our
greeter, be sure to say
hello and sign-in.



**Golf
Classic!**

Tuesday, April 8, 15,
22, and 29th
Tee off: 10:00 a.m.

Location:

Gracewil Golf Course
2597 4 Mile Rd NW
Grand Rapids, MI

Weather Permitting!!
Not a guaranteed but
IF the Golf Course
has an earlier tee-off,
we may have an
earlier tee-off.
Maureen will be your
greeter. Be sure to
say hello and sign-in.

Arsulowicz

Brothers

Third Thursday,
April 17th
Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Location:

StoryPoint West
3121 Lk Mich. Dr.
Grand Rapids, MI
49504

Steve Arsulowicz will
be presenting on
Celebrating Life.
Potluck tonight, please
bring a dish to pass.
Jim W. will be our
greeter. Be sure to say
hello and sign-in.



Miniature Golf!

Thursday, April 3, 10,
17 and 24th

Location:

Double Dip Depot
3284 Remembrance
Rd NW
Walker, MI 49534

Weather Permitting!
This game of mini golf
is tee-rific! Mike C.
will be our Greeter, be
sure to say hello and
sign-in.



**Culinary Sunrise
at 76th St. Diner
Coopersville**

Tuesday, April 22nd
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location:

329 S 48th Ave
Coopersville, MI
49404

Everyone is invited
to start your
morning off with
people who make
you feel good about
being you. Be sure
to say hello & sign-
in



Bowling 2025!

On Thursday will
return in the Fall.

Location:

Park Center
Lanes
2222 28th St
Wyoming, MI
49519



Wednesday,
April 23rd
Time: 4 to 7 pm
Cost: \$5.00

Location:

House Rules
404 Ionia Ave
SW
Grand Rapids,
MI

Do you know
the puzzle
answer? If not,
buy a vowel or
spin the wheel.
Mark K will be
our greeter. Be
sure to say hello
and sign-in.

第一鍋
FIRST WOK

**Chinese Rest.
Let's Eat Together**

Sunday, April 6th
Time: 4:30pm meet
up

Location: First Wok
2207 44th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI
49508

Service is
exceptional,
generous portions
and wonderful friends
and family. Tom B
will be our greeter, be
sure to say hello and
sign-in.



Friday, April 25
Time: 10:00 am

Location: Marge's
Donuts
1751 28th St SE
Wyoming, MI

Come join us for coffee,
a donut and
conversation. All are
invited to share in
conversation in the
private back room at
Marge's Donut Den on
the last Friday of each
month. For questions
contact Michele at (616)
901-2839. Hope to see
you there!

2025 Board Members

Aggie Kempker-Cloyd – President, David Morgenstern (Widower) – Vice President, Diane Lobbestael – Secretary (Widow), Julie Myers – Treasurer, Maureen Bawden (Widow), Tom Braciak (Widower), Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, Susanne Miller-Schachinger, Deb Nykamp (Widow), and Chris Wilks.



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Wyoming, MI 49509
Return Service Requested

Monthly Newsletter

April, 2025

Issue 188

Our Mission

Widowed Persons Service (WPS) is organized exclusively for the purpose of offering supportive services to those individuals in the greater Grand Rapids area who have suffered the loss of a partner through death.

Our Vision

To provide actively grieving widowed adults a safe and healthy environment in which to process their grief, resulting in an enriching life as a single person.

Our Process

WPS offers each grieving individual peer-to-peer support based on the belief that a widowed person is best helped along his/her grief journey with the help of other widowed people who have had similar experiences.

WPS Updates

Stay updated with Widowed Persons Service online:



www.wpsgr.org



Widowed Persons Grand Rapids



Office Hours

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Please call for an appt. or feel free to stop in.

Contact Us

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
wpsgr.org | director@wpsgr.org
[\(616\) 538-0101](tel:6165380101)