

Thank you to all our supporters and donors. Our work isn't possible without you. Your support allows WPS to provide resources for adults as they adapt to the immediate loss of a spouse/partner as well as the adjustments that follow in months and years ahead. Funded entirely by donations, **(at no charge for participants)**, WPS offers educational support groups facilitated grief workshops, outreach volunteer opportunities, varied forms of social support and guidance from experienced volunteer group leaders as well as peers. Thank you for your support that restores lives across our community.

Grief Support Meetings

***"Fall is Fast Approaching!
Effective Way to use This Season
to Move Forward on Your Grief
Journey!"***

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 pm

The meeting ID is 844 8845 3114 and
the Passcode is 744598.

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

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.

WPS invites you to participate in its monthly ONLINE educational
grief support group. Come and join us for this important
discussion on ways to make progress on your journey through
grief season by season. Reflect on how you and your now
deceased spouse used each season for different activities that
were enjoyable. What about your attitude toward this
approaching fall season? How can you use this time period to
feel more confident in yourself and decipher what you can still do
and appreciate as you also store memories and gratitude for your
past with your deceased spouse.

We realize that there have been technological challenges with the
online groups ever since Zoom changed the way it was formatted
trying to use the WPS Zoom program. We hope that the "bugs" in
the system are now ironed out – so please give us another try. If
you have difficulty getting on, please call Bob (616-780-5433)
well before the meeting so he can try to help you get on.
We hope to see you on September 1. Our Best, Susan and Bob.

***"Looking at How Friendships
may Change after the Death of
your Spouse"***

Tuesday, September 1st at 1:00 pm

Location: The pavilion at The Hope and Healing Garden
(Behind Covenant Church, see the sign.)
4276 Baldwin St., Hudsonville, MI
Facilitator: Sue and Mike Barnes

***"Becoming Single Again;
Balancing Solitude and Activity"***
Monday, September 14th at 1:00 pm

Location: StoryPoint Community Room,
3121 Lake Michigan Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI
Facilitators: Maureen Bawden & David Morgenstern

***"What Can I Do About All the
Emotions I am Experiencing?"***
Tuesday, September 15th at 12:00 pm

Location: Maggie's Be Café
6490 28th Ave., Hudsonville, MI
Facilitator: Sue and Mike Barnes

Social Support for the Newly Widowed This Month's Newly Widowed Social Support Luncheon

Wednesday September 9th @ 1:00 pm
Location: Carrabba's Italian Grill
3441 Century Center St SW, Grandville

Join this friendly group **of newly widowed** men and women
for a luncheon with fun and friendship. WPS encourages you to take
this opportunity to make new friends who are going through the same
sense of loss as you are, and 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 of your grief journey. Monthly social opportunities are coordinated and
sponsored by WPS volunteers and alums 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 on our Facebook page at "Widowed Persons Grand Rapids"



Thursday, November 5, 2026

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Tickets - \$55.00 per person

(\$50 if purchased by October 1, 2026)

Donnelly Center at Aquinas College

157 Woodward Lane SE, Grand Rapids

Get your Holiday shopping done early!

GROWTH THROUGH LOSS SEMINAR

Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Grandville Public Library, 4055 Maple St., S.W., Grandville, 49418

Please take note of the date, we have updated to accommodate schedules. If you are planning on attending the seminar and have not read the book "Getting to the Other Side of Grief", contact the WPS office for a copy. Facilitators: Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge and Rev. Robert DeVries will present this seminar.

WPS Office is seeking help with:

Scheduling/Greeting at Events, Answering Phones, Research, Assisting callers and office guests. If you can consistently do a couple of hours every week or every other week, please contact the WPS office at 616-538-0101 or email liz.kempker@wpsgr.org for an interview.



Pickleball

Monday,
**September 1st, 8th,
15th, 22nd, and 29th**

Time: 9:00 am to
11:30 am
Sign-in: 8:45am

Location:

Del Mar Farms
Clubhouse
5761 Del Mar
Grandville

Weather Permitting!!!
Dave H. at 616-808-
1773 will be our
greeter, be sure to
say Hello. **Moving
indoors for
November at Pickle
& Pin.**

GOLF CLASSIC!

Tuesday,
**September 1st, 8th,
15th, 22nd, and 29th**

Tee off Time: 10:00 am
Sign-in: 9:45 am

Location:

Gracewil Country Club
2597 4 Mile Rd NW
Walker

Weather Permitting!!

Not a guarantee, but **IF**
the Golf Course has an
earlier tee-off, we may
have an earlier tee-off.
We will be golfing
unless the course is
closed. Maureen at
616-550-3515 will be
our greeter, be sure to
say hello.



Going Bowling!~

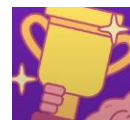
Thursday,
**September 3rd, 10th,
17th and 24th**

Time: 10:00 am
Sign-in: 9:30 am

Location:

Park Center Lanes
2222 28th St SW
Wyoming

Cost is \$8.00 and
includes shoe rental.
Remember, you're a
bad bowler if you
don't have fun!. Mike
C. at 781-572-8861
will be your Greeter,
be sure to say Hello.



WPS Games

Stay Tuned

Location:

The Gaming Oasis
At Storypoint
3121 Lk Mich. Dr NW
Grand Rapids

First Game of the
Season is coming in
October! Brush up
on your skills, bring
your own beverage. If
you are interested in
hosting a game night,
pick a game, card
game, Family Feud,
Pictionary, etc. for the
group and let the
office know at 616-
538-0101.

WPS encourages the maintenance of friendships gained through participation in our services. If you find Widowed Persons Services helpful, these opportunities may be of interest to you as you adapt to your life as a single person. For further information or questions, feel free to contact the WPS Office at (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 this newsletter to those who are recently widowed. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page; "Widowed Persons Grand Rapids."



Dinner Fundraiser at Culvers

Wednesday,
September 2nd

Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location:

330 Wilson Ave NW
Walker

WPS will be welcoming, bussing tables, serving and running out for the drive through. 2 shifts: 5 to 6:30pm and 6:30 to 8pm. Please contact the office 616-538-0101 to help or email

director@wpsgr.org



Kindness Krew

Wednesday
September 16th

Time: 10:00 am

Location:

StoryPoint's Activity Room
3121 Lk Mich. Dr. NW
Grand Rapids

Will be creating inspirational messages for "I Understand" hearts with the StoryPoint Residents. To help, please contact Maureen 616-550-3515



Kindness Krew at The Berlin Raceway

Friday
September 11th

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location:

2060 Berlin Fair Dr.
Marne

Volunteering at the Berlin Raceway for their 911 race. We will be helping in the concessions and with their raffle, contact Maureen at 616-550-3515 to help.

Stand Down Veterans

Thursday,
September 24th

Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location:

Millennium Park at
Secchia Garden's
Grant Pavilion
1415 Maynard Ave SW
Walker

We will be handing out clothes, bags, sleeping bags, etc. to the veterans. Serving Beverages, directing traffic, and veterans. Contact Maureen at 616-550-3515 to help



Dinner Together Vitale's

Sunday,
September 13th

Time: 4:30 pm

Location:

3868 West River Dr. NE
Comstock Park

Agostino & Kerri continue the family traditions founded by Sam Vitale in 1966. With an extensive menu there is something for everyone. Customers are their top priority!



Marge's Donuts

Friday,
September 25th

Time: 10:00 am

Location:

Marge's Donuts
1751 28th St SE
Wyoming

Come join us for coffee, donuts and conversation. All are invited to share in conversation in the private back room on the last Friday of each month. A WPS Board Member will be Greeting.

Culinary Sunrise at the Morning Belle



Wednesday
September 16th

Time: 8:30 am

Location:

355 Wilson Ave NW
Standale

With warm hospitality, a polished vibe, and a menu that's anything but ordinary turns your day vibrant and special.



Dinner Together at Chili's Grill & Bar

Sunday,
September 27th

Time: 4:30 pm

Location:

770 54th St SW
Wyoming

Chili's makes everyone feel special. Menu has happy hour specials, favorite burgers, fajitas, and so much more. Putting guests first and creating a memorable experience.

2026 Board Members

Maureen Bawden (Widow), Tom Braciak (Widower), Lindsey Chrystan, Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, Agnes Kempker-Cloyd, Diane Lobbestael (Widow), Susanne Miller-Schachinger, David Morgenstern (Widower), Julie Myers, Deb Nykamp (Widow), and Chris Wilks.

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509

Return Service Requested
Monthly Newsletter

September - 2026

Issue 205



Our Mission

Widowed Persons Service (WPS) is organized exclusively for the purpose of offering supportive services to those individuals in Kent and Ottawa Counties who have suffered the loss of a spouse 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