

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 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 and peers. Thank you for your support that restores lives across our community.

Grief Support Meetings

"How am I Going to Get Through the Holidays While Grieving?"

Evening Zoom Support Group
Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm

The meeting ID is 869 3871 7675 and the Passcode is 568384.

If you have not read the book "Getting to the Other Side of Grief", contact the WPS office for a free copy. Also in the office is "The Empty Chair" Handling Grief on Holidays and Special Occasions.

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. We hope you will join us as we discuss together some healthy ways to get through the holidays that may, in fact, be helpful to move forward while grieving versus paralyzing you.

A very good question on the lips of most individuals who have experienced the death of their spouse! There may be a sense of dread or a thought of "leaving Dodge" and trying to escape them altogether.

Join us from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. ONLINE. [See I.D. and passcode.] Share your thoughts and feelings and ways you've tried to fill some of those important missing parts!

The group is facilitated by Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge, clinical psychologist and Dr. Bob DeVries, pastor/professor (emeritus). We hope to see you online that evening!

"Effective Ways to Manage The Holidays"

Tuesday November 3rd at 1:00 pm

Location: The WPS Office
(The Grandville Library has elections on this day.)
4211 Clyde Park, Wyoming, MI
Facilitator: Sue and Mike Barnes

"Hope for The Holidays: Grief & Remembering"

Monday, November 9th at 1:00 pm

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

"Facing Christmas, New Year's: A Backward Glance & a Forward Look"

Tuesday, November 17th at 12:00 pm

Location: Maggie's Place
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 November 11th @ 1:00 pm
Location: Uccello's
3940 Rivertown Pkwy, 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
Donnelly Center at Aquinas College
157 Woodward Lane SE, Grand Rapids
Get your Holiday shopping done early

"Thank you for supporting the WPS vision that is to provide actively grieving widowed adults with a respectful, safe, and healthy environment in which to process their grief. Newly widowed men & women are not looking to "date" others with the *intent* of finding a new "life partner". They are on a journey like no other journey they've ever encountered. They are looking for the **support** and **understanding** of their peers. The display of someone "coming on" to another newly widowed person can be hurtful and is inappropriate in our group settings. You were there once - so you understand. **"Respect" is expected.**"



Pickleball

Monday,
**November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd,
and 30th**

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 am
Sign-in: 9:55am

New Location:

Pickle and Pin
662 Leonard St NW
Grand Rapids

The staff is friendly and helpful. The courts have low ceilings, and the walls are close so will need to adapt your play. Dave H. at 616-808-1773 will be our greeter. Be sure to say Hello.

GOLF CLASSIC!

Tuesday,
**November 3rd, 10th, 17th,
and 24th**
Tee off Time: 10:00 am
Sign-in: 9:45 am

Location:

The Pines
5050 Byron Center Rd
Wyoming

Weather Permitting!!
And, if the course is open

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



Going Bowling!~

Thursday,
November 5th, 12th, and 19th

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. Bowling, that's how we roll, Livin' on a Spare! Mike C. at 781-572-8861 will be your Greeter. Be sure to say Hello.

The WPS Board of Directors has authorized a paid part-time position for "Office Manager". Responsibilities will include planning and overseeing grief support and social event planning as well as managing volunteer staffing. Please submit your résumé to Liz.Kempker@wpsgr.org for The WPS Boards consideration.



Thank you to all those who attended our Dinner Fundraiser at Licari's Pizza Kitchen. What a great evening with lots of laughs, lots of friends and lots of leftovers

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 Together at The Broadway Bar



Sunday,
November 8th

Time: 4:30 pm

Location:
740 Broadway Ave NW
Grand Rapids

Are you ready for Christmas? It's coming fast and the Broadway Bar is ready all year long. WPS has 30 seats reserved for dinner. Contact Maureen at 616-550-3515 to save your seat.

WPS Games



Thursday,
November 19th

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location:
The Gaming Grotto
(aka Community Rm).
Storypoint
3121 Lk Mich. Dr NW
Grand Rapids

Trivia is the game of the evening. Our Host is trivia expert Michael C. Be ready for some very interesting trivia! Bring your own beverage/snack /etc. Prizes for the winners.

Sandy's

Sandy's Donuts

Wednesday,
November 11th

Time: 10:00 am

Location:
Sandy's Donuts
2040 Leonard St
NW
Grand Rapids

Great spot for coffee, donuts and conversation. All are invited to share in conversation on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Kindness Krew

Friday,
November 20th

Time: 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location:
Wine, Beer and Food
Festival
DeVos Place
303 Monroe NW
Grand Rapids

To Sign up, Contact Wanda at 616-885-2223 She will need your name, phone and email address. And if you would like a Saturday, (the 21st) shift (1 to 4:30pm or 3:30 to 7pm), please let her know. Spots are filling up fast!

Westsider Cafe

Culinary Sunrise at The Westsider Café

Wednesday
November 18th

Time: 8:30 am

Location:
1180 Walker NW
Grand Rapids

A place where the extraordinary comfort of a hearty breakfast feels like a small celebration in everyday life.



Kindness Krew and Veteran's Day

Wednesday,
November 11th

Time: 7:30 am to 11am

Location:
Moose Lodge
2630 Burlingame Ave
SW
Wyoming

We will be bringing donuts, muffins, coffee cups and creamers for the Veterans. Will need about 5 volunteers Contact Wanda at 616-885-2223 to bring something and/or help.



Marge's Donuts

Friday,
November 27th

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.

Save the Date: WPS Family Christmas Celebration

Thursday,
December 3rd

Time: 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Location:
StoryPoint
Community
Room
3121 Lk Mich. Dr
NW
Grand Rapids

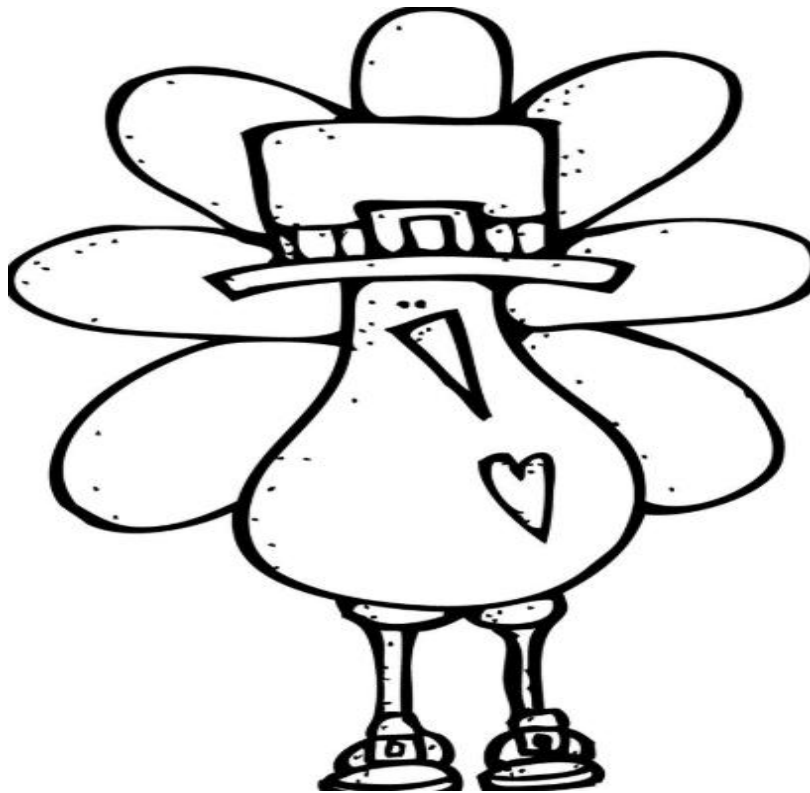
Traditional White Elephant Game and more. Stay tuned!



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), Deb Nykamp (Widow), and Chris Wilks.

4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C)
Wyoming, MI 49509
Return Service Requested
Monthly Newsletter
November - 2026
Issue 207



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

Office Hours

Monday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
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