
Educational Support

RSVP is appreciated, but not mandatory. RSVP to the WPS office (616) 538-0101 or director@wpsgr.org

“The Perfect Storm: Dealing with all the Emotions of Grief..”

Evening Zoom Support Group
Next Meeting
Tuesday, August 1st at
7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

People who have not experienced the death of someone they loved and were deeply attached to tend to think of “grief” mostly as an incredible pain and sadness. Obviously, that is a prevailing feeling, however, you are most likely experiencing a myriad of emotions (like anger, guilt, regret, relief, loneliness, etc.) churning inside of you which can crash into each other, fighting one another for your attention, and you likely have to deal with some emotions you never knew could accompany grief! You are invited to join us in discussing strategies and interventions to better help you deal with all these emotions at the next meeting of the WPS Online Educational Support Group on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:15 led by Dr. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge (Psychologist) and Dr. Bob DeVries (Pastor and Professor). We’d very much like to see you there for this most necessary conversation. If you have questions about this particular meeting, please call Susan at 616-780-1082. Meeting ID 861 3697 3690 Passcode: 083243 Or call / email the WPS office at (616) 538-0101, director@wpsgr.org.

Facilitators: Bob DeVries (pastor) and Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge (psychologist) **Location:** The convenience of your own home.

“Who Am I Now? Widowed or Single? Increasing My Self-Esteem”

Evening Support Group
Friday August 11th at
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Facilitators: Beverly and Bob Vander Heide
Location: Del-Mar Farm Recreation Association Clubhouse
5751 Del-Mar View Dr. SW Grandville, MI 49418

“Widowed to Widowed – Sharing Our Stories”

Daytime Support Group
Wednesday August 16th at 1:00 pm
NOTE: NEW LOCATION!!

We will be meeting at Oriole Park under the big tree by the basketball court. Please bring your own chair. In case of rain, we will meet at the WPS office at 4211 Clyde Park, SW (Unit C) Wyoming

Hosts: Peggy Hayes
NEW Location: Oriole Park 1380 – 42nd St. SW Wyoming, MI

“Dealing With Children, Whether Dependent or Adult, On Your Grief Journey”

Evening Support Group
Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00 pm

Facilitators: Kim Slupe & Michelle Cole
Location: Knapp Reformed Church
4025 Knapp St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525

August Social Support: Newly Widowed

THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SUPPORT LUNCH/DINNER

**Wednesday August 9th @
1:00 PM**

Location: Chubby's
5751 Byron Center Ave. SW Wyoming

Sunday August 20th @ 1:00 PM

Location: Picnic at Whistlestop Park Pavilion
2120 – 76th St. Byron Center

Monthly social activities are coordinated by WPS volunteers who have been widowed. Social activities sponsored by WPS are intended for those who are current support group participants and still actively grieving. Our goal is that by attending social events, an important component to your grief journey, you begin to gain confidence in life as a single person and you expand your horizons beyond WPS. WPS holds the view that once a person is dating or remarried, they are through their grief journey and therefore no longer need the support of social activity (primary) services of WPS.

Join this friendly group for an afternoon of fun and friendship. WPS encourages you to take this opportunity to make new friends who are going through the same loss you are, to help you through the grief process. This event is for those who have been widowed in the last two years or are actively attending support group meetings.

August Social Support: Independent Social Opportunities

The following activities are being held independent of WPS programs. WPS encourages the maintenance of friendships gained through participation in our services. If you find Widowed Persons Services helpful, these opportunities may be of some interest to you as you integrate and adapt into your life as a single person. Please call or email contacts listed below to RSVP and for further information. As a non-profit organization, your \$25.00 contribution to the newsletter renewal enables WPS to inform all current and past participants of support and social opportunities and helps provide the newsletter to those who have become recently widowed.

Marge's Donuts

Come join us for coffee, a donut and conversation. We will meet in the back room at Marge's on the last Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. This month it will be August 25th. Hope to see you there!!

Golf Scramble!!

Tuesday August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29th.

Location: Briarwood Golf Course
2900 92nd St Caledonia, 49316

Join us each Tuesday morning for a fun golf scramble. Please be there no later than 9:30 for team draw. Golf starts promptly at 10:00.

We will be going off on two 9's, this should help move us along.

Optional \$2.00 drawing. RSVP: litzj@charter.net

Picnic at Whistlestop Park Pavilion!!

2120 – 76th St. Byron Center
Sunday August 20th at 1:00 p.m.
(Rain or Shine)

Bring your own table service, drinks (No Alcohol Allowed in Park) and a dish to pass (with something in it.) Karon will again be bringing her delicious pulled pork and buns. Donations will be accepted to cover cost of renting pavilion and pork. Any excess \$ will go to WPS. Please RSVP to Karon call/text: 616-885-4830. Please include your name.

Picnic is in place of eating out last Sunday in August.

Card and Game Night!!

Wednesday August 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Location: St Casimir/6th Street Hall
649 6th Street NW Grand Rapids

Burgers and Hot Dogs will be available to purchase for \$10. The ladies Auxiliary will furnish some sides but they welcome help with sides if you wish!!

Also, please bring a friend if you would like!!

Monthly Highlights

A Special Thank you to our Golf Volunteers and WPS Participants!

Our annual golf outing is an important way we fundraise to keep providing grief services to the newly widowed. We are 100% donor funded, so these types of events mean the world to us. We would not have been able to pull off this event without the 20+ volunteers who contributed their time. A special thanks to:

Kristen & Zac Woodward – Watermark Investment Services, WPS volunteers: Jim Stoddard, Donna Holtvluwer, Leslie Oscar, Karon Shepard, Deb Nycamp, Rita Burns, Michele Cole, Kim Slupe Deb Granger, Mary Brewer, Bobby Brewer, Sarah Meany, Tom Braciak, Kari Sherry, David Morgenstern, Julie Whitney. Ashleigh Duflo, as the “Little Kahauna”. Representatives from Northwest Mutual, Beene Garter, and Farmer’s Insurance.

Thank you to our many WPS Golf Participants as well. There were 44 of you on 11 teams – wow, what a turn out!

Thank you all for a wonderful event. We truly could not do it without you!

Whitecaps vs Lake County Captains

Thursday Aug. 3rd at 6:35 p.m.

Mark your calendar for a fun evening at the ballpark with our WPS family. It’s MI Rivalry night - This night is about two schools that have a heated rivalry coming together to help two outstanding foundations. Wear your green and white or maize and blue and be one of the first 1,000 through the gates to receive a Whitecaps Rivalry Night Baseball. It’s also MI Army National Guard Thrifty Thursday with \$3.00 20 oz. beers \$3.00 hot dogs and \$3.00 Pepsi products. Stick around after the game for a spectacular fireworks display, too! We have a block of box tickets on the third base side for \$16 each. Please contact Marggy Hanington at margoattsc@yahoo.com, to reserve your spot(s).

Growth Through Loss Seminar

Saturday August 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Registration, Coffee, and Donuts: 9:00 a.m.

Presentation: 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Lunch: 12:15 p.m – 1:00 p.m

Small Group Discussion: 1:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m

Location: Grandville Public Library 4055 Maple St. SW Grandville 49418

Topic: “8 Keys to Moving Forward on your Grief Journey” presented by Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge (Psychologist, who worked at Pine Rest Christian and now maintains a private practice), and Robert De Vries (Pastor and Professor Emeritus at Calvin Theological Seminary). Susan and Bob (both WPS Volunteers) are authors of several books pertaining to spousal grief. Please consider joining us for this most beneficial seminar.

Email director@wpsgr.org or call the WPS Office to RSVP at 616-538-0101.

WPS is Hiring!

WPS is seeking an Executive Director! Julie Whitney, our current Executive Director, is transitioning to a graduate program at Michigan State University, where she will pursue her masters in social work. Julie will remain a volunteer of WPS and focus her efforts on supporting WPS facilitators and programming. This leaves an opening for her position. The Executive Director is responsible for implementing objectives set by the WPS Board of Directors. The director will be responsible for financial and human resource management, income generation, and for representing WPS to its various stakeholders and to the public. Hours are flexible and estimated at 20-25 hours. Interested candidates should contact Aggie Kempker-Cloyd at aggcloyd@aol.com for more information.

2023 Board Members

Aggie Kempker-Cloyd – President, Mike Larabel – Vice President, Diane Lobbestael – Secretary (Widow), Roxanne Dudicz – Treasurer, Tom Braciak (Widower), Chris Wilks, Molly Black, Susanne Miller-Schachinger, Rev. Kenneth W. Hoskins, Tom Blower, April Hulst, Jim Stoddard (Widower) and Kari Sherry.



August

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

Monthly Newsletter
August 2023
Issue 168

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 spouse through death.

Our Vision

To provide actively grieving widowed men and women 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.com



Widowed Persons GR



Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please call for an appt.

Contact Us

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