
Widow Might February Newsletter

From Widow Might <info-widowmight.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

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February Newsletter

Thoughts From Kathy Scheffler, Widow Might Executive Director

Ah February, the month of love, can we just skip over this month please? I know it's the shortest month of the year, but that day smack dab in the middle fills the first half of the month with an extra dose of loneliness now that I am no longer half of a couple. Red and pink hearts fill the shelves from top to bottom with every gift of love imaginable in every store. Do I really need this constant unavoidable reminder of the love that I have lost?

I remember the days of young new love that were marked with boxes of chocolates, flowers, and perhaps even jewelry as the relationship became more serious. Early on in my marriage, my husband Russ presented me with 25 roses smashed together in a cellophane sleeve purchased from Costco. This gigantic bunch of flowers was his way of saying the more the better; why would you settle for a dozen when you can get 25 at an even better price. He then left me to figure out how to arrange them in anything resembling vases pulled from dark, dusty, back corners of cabinets and closets from throughout the house. A florist I am not, so they resembled the fistful of dandelions I plucked from the front yard as a child and shoved in a dixie-cup, rather than any sort of carefully curated compositions.

How I longed for Russ to be impractical and just call a florist and have a beautiful arrangement delivered to my office. I wanted to get that phone call from the front desk that there was something left for me that I needed to come and retrieve. To make that trek down to the first floor, to see the parcel for me containing flowers carefully arranged with baby's-breath, and then to carry it close to my chest all the way back to my cubical while inhaling deeply of their sweet scent. I would then display them prominently on my desk, and wait for everyone to ooh and aah over them. I imagined that the love I felt for my

husband would be evident for all to see in my radiating smile. If I'm being honest, I think I secretly wanted my co-workers to be a little jealous as I had been so many times when they had received such a delivery. I wanted the world, or at least everyone within the scent of the blooms, to know I had the best husband in the world. I wanted there to be no question in their minds, or mine, of how special I was, of how much I was loved.

Now don't get me wrong, I truly appreciated and felt Russ' love in every one of those 25 Costco roses, especially knowing that many wives would receive none from their husbands. Russ was always great at remembering special days with cards and presents; the bigger the better was often his motto. But I am not sure he ever realized that a small, meaningfully chosen gift might mean more to me than several large ones grabbed off a store shelf at the last moment. Such a gift might have given me what I needed most, confirmation that he was choosing to love me especially when I didn't feel particularly lovable.

Today as I think about Valentine's Day approaching, I would be overjoyed to receive any token of love from Russ. But more than any gift, a great big bear hug, signifying that I am the chosen recipient of his love, would mean the world to me. I treasured being the one that he wanted to love in sickness and health until death did us part. The blessing of being able to fulfill our marriage vows is not lost on me, but when his life ended, that created a void. I needed to mourn the loss of the cherished love of a husband, but I also needed to remember I was still loved deeply. There is One who always has and forever will love me with an unconditional love unlike anything I can comprehend.

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." –
Jeremiah 31:3*

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." – **Romans 8:38-39***

I will always long for imperfect love, like what I knew with Russ, but I must never forget that I will always and forever know an even greater love. As we go into this month of February, I pray that you know how deeply you are loved by God. He not only loves you in the most perfect way, but He also blessed you for a time with the love of your husband.

Valentine's Gatherings

We have a dozen widow connect groups (small groups of widows who live near each other) that meet throughout the Twin Cities area in Minnesota and beyond. Many of these groups will be holding special gatherings to celebrate Valentine's Day. If you would like to participate, contact the leader of the group that meets near you. You can find a list of all our groups and their upcoming gatherings here:

<https://www.widowmight.org/widowconnect/>

RESET Event

Registration is now open for RESET. This event is taking place on Saturday February 7th from 10am to Noon Central Time. It is a free virtual event and here is our lineup of speakers:

- Jamie Bollinger (Worship Leader & Songwriter) "Resting in Peace"
- Dan Moro (Financial Advisor) "When Love Becomes Legacy: Protecting What Matters When Life Changes Forever"

- Rachel Powell (Christian Widow Coach) "Getting Unstuck: Moving Forward with HOPE"

Register here by February 5th: <https://www.widowmight.org/event/reset-2026/>. Everyone who registers will receive a link to the recording after the event along with all the slides presented. Register even if you can't attend live, and let us know on the registration form that you will watch it later.

Books

In January over a dozen new books were added to the Widow Might website. You can see them all here: <https://www.widowmight.org/books/>.

One of my favorite books in this list is by Lisa Appelo who spoke at our Novembering event in 2023. Therefore, I am excited to announce that she has a second book, *God of All Comfort*, coming out this summer. Lisa shares about this book, "The way through grief isn't a method or a prescription. The way through grief is a person: God of all comfort. This book is designed with an inscription page for gifting, beautifully inked pages, guided prayers, journaling space, and fifty devotions to fix our eyes on the unfailing compassion of God. We've also included some of my original poems!" This book is now available for pre-order (pre-orders are a big thing in the publishing world). So, if you loved Lisa's first book, you'll want to snag a copy of this new book now at the lowest price it will be on [Amazon](#) or, better yet, at 40% off + free shipping through the [publisher](#).

If you read a book on widowhood or grief that is meaningful to you, please drop us an email with the name of the book and the author at info@widowmight.org so we can consider it for the books page of our website!

We are on Instagram

If Instagram is your preferred social media platform, we are now on IG. We share many of the links in this newsletter on Facebook and Instagram. So, if you want to know what's happening at Widow Might in real time, follow us on the socials!

Thank You for Your Gifts to Widow Might

The fees we charge to attend our in-person events do not cover our costs, so our generous donors make up for the shortfall. This allows us to bless widows at our events with great speakers in beautiful venues, within our local Widow Connect groups, and world-wide through the content on our website. Widow Might does not ask for anything in return from the widows we serve, but if you would like to help us in our efforts to make sure all widows are connected with the community and resources needed, there are multiple ways to give at: <https://www.widowmight.org/donation/>

We also accept gifts through United Way and Thrivent Choice dollars, as well as matching gifts from employers.

Widow Might is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization: EIN# 45-3641480



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