



## Rev. Dennis J. De Witt

August 29, 1941 - April 6, 2023

Rev. Dennis J. DeWitt passed away on April 6 surrounded by his loving family and welcomed into the loving arms of Jesus.

Dennis was born on August 29, 1941 in Muskegon Heights to Marvin and Martha DeWitt. He attended Muskegon Jr. College and transferred to Hope College. There he sang in Chapel Choir and pursued Education as a vocation. He married Janna South and lived in Holland while Dennis completed his senior year.

In the fall of 1963 Dennis began his career as a Spanish teacher at the new West Ottawa High School. He was a deeply revered educator, and many former students celebrate his teaching. He enjoyed making tacos for the Spanish Club and sponsoring student trips to Mexico and Spain.

Following the death of Janna in 1970, He continued teaching and caring for Mark, Jim, Karin, and Mary. In 1971 he married Mary Kuiper and ushered her children Marsha, Barb, and Peter into the blended family.

In 1974, Dennis earned a Masters of Arts from the University of Michigan and became a school social worker for West Ottawa and Holland Christian Schools. In the mid 1990s he studied at Western Theological Seminary. In 1996 he was called to ministry at Community Church of Douglas where he served for 20 years. There, he converged his gifts of Spanish, social work, and service and became Pastor of Congregational Care. This was a highlight of his life and career as he cared so lovingly for many parishioners.

Additionally, Dennis was an accomplished stained-glass artist and he helped to form the Black River Gallery on River Avenue. His works included windows, lamps, nativity scenes, blasted frosted glass, and commissioned works.

Dennis and Mary would have celebrated 52 years of marriage on April 30. He is survived by children Marsha (Jeff), Mark (Dawn), Jim (Kathy), Barb (Eric), Karin, Peter (Laura) and Mary (Jim) along with 19 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Also surviving include brother Tom (Becky) and brother-in-law Paul (Louise). His brother Larry (Ruth) is predeceased. His legacy lives on with his love and care for family and friends.

A memorial service will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Third Reformed Church, 111 W. 13th St. Holland with Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes officiating. To view livestream, please visit [www.trcholland.org](http://www.trcholland.org). Interment will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 14, at the church. Memorial contributions may be given to Resthaven Inc., Third Ref. Church and Hospice of Holland.

# Cemetery Details

## Pilgrim Home Cemetery

370 E. 16th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **14**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Third Reformed Church  
111 West 13th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

## Memorial Service

APR **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Reformed Church  
111 West 13th St.  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall

FL

“ Our histories go back far, and we have many fond memories of Dennis. Along with the De Witt’s, we raised our children while living in Waukazoo Woods. And one spring break when our children were grown, we were condo neighbors in a FL Panhandle resort. Dennis rode his unique bike all around the area, and with his light friendly spirit, stopped to greet neighbors. He loved people, always reaching out as a friend, neighbor, educator and minister.

Fred and Charlotte Leaske - April 16, 2023 at 06:07 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Dennis J. De Witt.



April 13, 2023 at 11:09 AM

JN

“ It was a pleasure to work with Dennis in 1994, when he designed and created a number of frosted glass windows for our new apartment above Borr’s Bootery. Always creative, always congenial, he enriched our lives. Jack and Lee Nyenhuis

Jacob Nyenhuis - April 13, 2023 at 10:40 AM

FF

“ From, your Lighthouse Title family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rev. Dennis J. De Witt.



From, your Lighthouse Title family - April 12, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Dennis J. De Witt.



April 06, 2023 at 07:09 PM

I TRIED TO SEE  
THINGS YOUR WAY  
BUT I COULDN'T GET  
**MY HEAD**  
= THAT FAR UP =  
SORRY ABOUT THAT

“ Thank you for being a friend to me, when nobody else would. You helped me more than you could have ever known. Rest in peace my friend.

Todd Brower - April 06, 2023 at 04:08 PM

BH

“ Benjamin's Hope purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Rev. Dennis J. De Witt.



Benjamin's Hope - April 06, 2023 at 02:34 PM